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No. 176

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEUGEBAUER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 7, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY NEUGEBAUER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, 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, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

PROTECTING PENSIONS OF COAL MINERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, miners and their widows in West Virginia and across the country are asking us to protect their pensions and health care, families like Robin Workman of Boone County, who wrote to me about how she and her husband depend on these benefits. These are the benefits that they earned.

She said: "My husband put in 35 years underground, a promise made to

them shouldn't be broken. West Virginia helped keep the lights on back then as well as today. Please don't forget about us."

This promise dates back to 1946 when the Truman administration signed an agreement with coal miners, an agreement that guaranteed their pensions and health care would be there for them when they retired. Now that agreement—no, that promise—is in jeopardy.

In just a few weeks, tens of thousands of miners and widows will lose their health insurance. These miners have back problems, knee problems, and breathing problems, all from their work in the mines. They simply cannot go without insurance.

Kenny Meade's father is one of those retired miners. He lives in Chapmanville and reached out to me to share the story of his parents. Kenny wrote about his father. He said: "He worked 31 years in the mines and often for less than other miners so he could bargain for their right to health care and pensions."

This is an issue we can fix, but it is not an issue that arose overnight. The war on coal has decimated coal jobs in West Virginia and across the country. An onslaught of overreaching Federal regulations have made it harder to mine coal and harder to burn coal. Coal-fired power plants have shut down, making electricity more expensive and reducing the market for coal.

As demand has decreased and regulations have made it harder to mine coal, mines are closing and companies are filing for bankruptcy. A company in bankruptcy isn't going to have the resources to meet its pension obligations.

All of these market forces, regulations, and the war on coal have had devastating impacts on our miners and their families. It is time for Congress to act to keep the promise and protect the benefits the miners worked their entire life to earn.

The Coal Healthcare and Pensions Protection Act won't cost taxpayers anything. It uses existing funds paid for by mining companies to provide for retired miners. This is not a tax. Taxpayers won't be on the hook for these pensions. This is about ensuring a promise made is a promise kept.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the holiday season, I hope we will remember the retirees and widows worried about what the new year will bring. We must act now to pass a solution to this crisis to keep our word.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE STEVE ISRAEL

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about my friend and colleague, STEVE ISRAEL, who is retiring from Congress after 16 years. We came into Congress together and have been the best of friends and brothers ever since.

Now, the last time I mentioned STEVE ISRAEL on the House floor was after making a bet with STEVE over the Dodgers-Mets series, a bet that I lost, and I had to sing the "Meet the Mets" song on the House floor. I want to assure all my colleagues that is never going to happen again either on the playing field or on the House floor.

When we came to Congress together, we were given a book, like all incoming freshmen, called "Charting the Course." This is a book that basically says that there are three different models of being a Congressman. You can be the policy expert or you can be the political animal or you can be the pothole Congressman who is focused on district needs and excellent at meeting the needs of constituents, but the gist of the book is you can't be all three. You have to pick where you are going to make your specialization, and if you

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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try to do all three, you will end up not doing any one of them very well. STEVE ISRAEL proved the premise of that book wrong because he proved to be superlative at each and every aspect of being a Member of Congress.

On policy, STEVE developed an expertise in energy policy and became a leading champion of the development of renewable sources of energy. He became an expert on defense issues; and as one of the members of the Appropriations Committee, he helped eliminate wasteful expenditures on systems we didn't need and investment in defenses that would really protect the country.

He became an expert on Middle East policy and sorting out the difficulties of all the complicated relationships between the nations in the Middle East. He became an expert on the Syrian conflict.

He also became an expert on issues affecting the middle class and has always been a champion for what needs to be done to make sure that people in this country can enjoy a secure retirement, can get a good job, can raise their family, and that their kids will enjoy a quality of life at least as great as that of their parents, and hopefully even better.

He also founded and co-chairs the Center Aisle Caucus, doing something very difficult in this institution, and that is bringing people together of both parties—something we need to see a lot more of.

In addition to those policy strengths, he was also and has been one of our greatest political leaders. He served for many years as the DCCC chair and had an encyclopedic knowledge of each and every district in the country belonging to friend or foe alike. He was an extraordinary chair, not only in terms of raising resources, but recruiting some of the finest candidates, and a great many Members of this institution owe their very presence here to his incredible work.

He then became the chair of the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee and was a very effective Member at shaping our message and at helping us articulate what the Democratic Party was about and has been among the most effective surrogates the Democrats have.

In addition to his political expertise and policy expertise, having visited his district and having met his constituents, I know he was also so attuned to the needs of his constituents, particularly the veterans and the homeless, but also in championing the economy and bringing improvements to Long Island Sound. His casework was renowned within New York, and his staff was among the most superb anywhere on the Hill or in any district office.

In addition to all that—and that would be enough for any of us—he also wrote a fabulous novel on his iPhone, "The Global War on Morris." Who can do that? Who can write a book at all, let alone one on his iPhone, let alone it

gets published by a major publisher and does phenomenally well?

When STEVE retires, this Congress is going to lose another of its great Members, someone of genuine talent, intellect, and integrity, someone who has come to be relied upon by Presidents. We are also going to lose someone with a great sense of humor, who is a wonderful friend and a bit of a practical joker—like the time he convinced his chief of staff that one of his district staff had run over his dog. Yes, STEVE is a cruel man, but funny. We are going to miss him tremendously.

I want to wish him all the luck in the world in the exciting career that awaits him when he retires, and all his new endeavors. I look forward to finding him not in the center aisle necessarily, but in a different aisle in the bookstore near me with his latest work.

I want to join my colleagues in thanking STEVE ISRAEL for his tremendous years of service and for his wonderful friendship. We will all miss him as, indeed, will this entire institution.

TRAGIC LOSS OF AMERICAN LIFE IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am back on the floor again today to discuss the tragic loss of American life in Afghanistan. This past week, I was touched by George Stephanopoulos and ABC as they publicly listed the nine servicemembers that died in Iraq and Afghanistan during the month of November.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names of the nine American heroes.

Sergeant John W. Perry of Stockton, California; Private 1st Class Tyler R. Lubelt of Tamaroa, Illinois; Sergeant 1st Class Ryan A. Gloyer of Greenville, Pennsylvania; Captain Andrew D. Byers of Rolesville, North Carolina; Senior Chief Petty Officer Scott C. Dayton of Woodbridge, Virginia; Specialist Ronald L. Murray, Jr., of Bowie, Maryland; Staff Sergeant James F. Moriarty of Kerrville, Texas; Staff Sergeant Kevin J. McEnroe of Tucson, Arizona; Staff Sergeant Matthew C. Lewellen of Lawrence, Kansas.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I find it quite ironic that the last moment of silence for our men and women in uniform who have died serving this Nation during wartime by the House Chair took place on March 23, 2015, almost 2 years ago. I, frankly, do not understand how House leadership is not more concerned about those who have given their life serving this Nation.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I wrote to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter several weeks ago regarding an article that said that there are 200,000 Afghan soldiers who do not exist—they call them ghosts—who are on the payroll of the Department of Defense. I asked him in the letter: Why are we wasting this money, and can you identify where the money is going?

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD my letter to Secretary Ashton Carter.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 14, 2016.

Hon. ASHTON B. CARTER,
Secretary of Defense,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CARTER: I am responding to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acting) Jedidiah Royal's October 3, 2016, response to the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)'s letter to you (dated August 5, 2016) regarding "ghost soldiers" in Afghanistan.

I am appalled that the U.S. taxpayer has, and continues to pay, for "ghost soldiers" in Afghanistan. Moreover, I am also concerned about the risks that inadequacy of data concerning personnel levels of the Afghan National Security and Defense Forces (ANDSF) may pose to American forces in Afghanistan.

In Deputy Assistant Secretary Royal's response to SIGAR, he indicates the systems that U.S. Forces-Afghanistan are putting in place to try to verify Afghan personnel data will not be ready until at least July 2017. Given the estimate that there may be up to 200,000 "ghost soldiers," I would respectfully request an estimate of how much funding provided to the ANDSF for salaries in fiscal years 2016 and 2017 is expected to be wasted on "ghost soldiers."

Additionally, Deputy Assistant Secretary Royal indicates that a limited amount of funds has been withheld from the ANDSF for not adhering to the agreed-upon timeline for implementation of personnel verification systems. How much money was withheld, and what percentage does that number represent of the amount originally designated to be allocated?

Given that many Afghan military and police outposts have limited, if any, access to electricity and telecommunications systems, I would also ask whether there is a contingency plan to back-up the biometric database and personnel system given that units may not always have regular access to the technology needed to operate them? Further, under the current deployment arrangement ordered by President Obama, U.S. forces do not have the capability to witness firsthand, at the lowest levels of the ANDSF, whether there is fraudulent use of the biometric cards. With that in mind, does DOD expect there will be salary overpayments even after July 2017?

I am also concerned about the effect the "ghost soldier" problem is having on U.S. forces in Afghanistan. While the Afghan Minister of Defense was recently quoted as saying there is not a single "ghost soldier" in Afghanistan, the Deputy Assistant Secretary's letter makes clear that is not the case. We know the collapse of the 215th Corps in Helmand in 2015 was at least in part due to an overestimation of ANDSF personnel in Helmand based on inflated numbers reported to the Ministry of Defense. USFOR-A subsequently deployed additional personnel closer to the front lines in Helmand to assist with improving that corps. The "ghost soldier" issue clearly is affecting decision-making within the Defense Department that affects U.S. personnel. I would like to know how DOD plans to mitigate any further risk to U.S. military and civilian personnel that may result from the ongoing "ghost soldier" problem.

Finally, how confident is the Defense Department that the ANDSF and the Afghan government have the capability and the will to effectively implement the new systems, and when will that implementation be fully achieved? When implemented, does the Defense Department expect the "ghost soldier" problem to be eliminated, or merely reduced?

Mr. Secretary, the "ghost soldier" problem has clearly existed in Afghanistan since the

beginning of U.S. operations there. The Defense Department should have known that “ghost soldiers” represented a major risk to American personnel and American taxpayers no later than 2008, when a Government Accountability Office report raised the issue. But year after year, the administration—with far too little oversight from Congress—continues sending tens of millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars to pay the salaries of Afghan military and police, thousands of whom never show up for duty or may not even exist. And now, we are almost \$20 trillion in debt.

After 15 years of wounded and murdered Americans, it is time to bring this waste, fraud and abuse to an end. It is sickening, unaffordable, and it must stop. Many scholars have said that Afghanistan is a graveyard of empires—when this financial disaster finally brings us to our knees, maybe the ghost soldiers can visit the headstone that says United States of America.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. JONES,
Member of Congress.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the reason I mentioned these ghost soldiers is because Americans are still dying in this godforsaken country known as Afghanistan, all while our Nation is headed for an economic collapse as we soon will see the \$20 trillion debt number come forward. For the sake of our military, we need to end this madness in Afghanistan.

I have beside me a photograph of a flag-draped coffin being taken off of an airplane. This is a humble way that I can say to the nine Americans who also came home in a flag-draped coffin in the back of a plane thank you for your service.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to have a debate on the floor of the House as to whether we need to stay in Afghanistan for another 16 years. We have been there for 16 years now.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article that tells the story of Afghanistan better than I can today on the floor. The title of that article is “It’s Time for America to Get Out of Afghanistan.”

[Dec. 2, 2016]

IT’S TIME FOR AMERICA TO GET OUT OF
AFGHANISTAN

(By Mark Kryzer)

“Nation-building” hasn’t achieved lasting goals, Afghans continue to suffer casualties and be displaced, and the costs to the U.S. keep mounting.

After 15 years and \$115 billion of taxpayer dollars spent on failed “nation-building,” it’s time for the U.S. to let go of Afghanistan. (The actual “total cost of war and reconstruction” which includes all U.S. military spending, has been estimated at \$783 billion by the Cost of War project at Brown University.)

The situation in 2016 has been described by one senior U.S. government official as an “eroding stalemate.” That’s optimistic. We are losing whatever has been achieved there and the Afghan government is slowly collapsing under the Taliban onslaught and its own ineptitude driven by corruption.

The Taliban control more territory now than at any time since their overthrow by the U.S. in 2001 with the Afghan government controlling only two-thirds of the country—during daylight hours. Since January 2016, the Taliban have contested five provincial

capitals, carried out some of the largest terrorist attacks in the capital city of Kabul, and have pressed attacks in all 34 provinces of the country, with an average of 68 attacks a day.

As a result, the Afghan army and police forces have incurred about 15,000 casualties so far this year, with civilians suffering more than 5,000 casualties, the highest levels ever recorded. An estimated 1.2 million Afghans have been displaced because of the fighting and are living as refugees in their own country, with another 85,000 opting to leave the country in the first six months of 2016 alone for the migrant trail to Europe.

Adding to the Taliban threat, ISIS has now established itself in two eastern Afghan provinces and Al Qaida operatives are active in seven provinces, according to a recent report in “The Guardian.” With opium production also up by 43 percent in the country, there is no shortage of funds to fuel the insurgency and corruption.

According to a 2016 World Bank report, the social and economic gains achieved with international assistance over the last 15 years are also quickly eroding due to war and corruption.

The Obama administration has opted to leave 8,400 troops in Afghanistan in 2016 in a support role to the Afghan army, down from a high of 100,000 in 2010. And the U.S. completely pays for the Afghan army and police forces. On the civilian side of reconstruction, the U.S. continues to pour money into the country for “nation-building.” At the Brussels Afghanistan “Donors Conference” in early October, the international community pledged another \$15 billion in support; the U.S. is the largest contributor.

Given the abysmal results achieved so far, isn’t it time to re-evaluate U.S. foreign policy goals in Afghanistan? Recently, a group of U.S. generals and former U.S. ambassadors to Afghanistan announced that a “generational commitment” of assistance was still required of the American people toward Afghanistan to see it securely to the end goal of . . . what? Nobody can give a coherent answer to that question, indicating that we have seriously lost our way.

Most Americans have forgotten about Afghanistan (or no longer want to hear about it) and are not aware of the ongoing costs in American lives and resources. It’s time for the next American president to drastically change direction and explain it to the American people.

That direction should be to start the pull-out of Afghanistan after 15 years of failure to achieve any lasting policy objectives there. The U.S. should immediately stop the multitude of civilian “nation-building” programs that have been so costly and failed to achieve their unrealistic goals. U.S. funding for the Afghan army and police forces should be put on a diminishing schedule that would stop entirely after two years, forcing Afghanistan to finally stand or fall on its own.

It’s time to let go of Afghanistan and end the 15-year drain on American lives and resources.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I ask God to bless our men and women in uniform, and I ask God to continue to bless America.

PUTTING FLORIDA FIRST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am so very fortunate to have grown up in a family dedicated to public service. I watched and learned from my father as

he served as a State legislator, Florida’s Governor, and as a United States Senator, and from my mother who worked tirelessly as an advocate for students and seniors. Together, they were a team that always put Florida first.

Following in their footsteps, I served my community as a PTA volunteer, and I worked for my local school district. While I was happy to serve, I never planned to follow in my father’s footsteps into politics. But as our country became more divided, my thoughts began to change. Like so many Americans, I was disappointed to see our Nation’s civil discourse deteriorate to shouting matches on cable news and gridlock in government.

In 2013, I decided to run for office with my own message and my own mission: to bring back civility, to work with both parties to actually get things done, and to always put the people of Florida first.

□ 1015

I ran for office to bring the north Florida way to Washington. Almost 4 years after making that decision, I am proud to say we have had many successes in our own mission.

After winning my election, I immediately began reaching out to my Florida colleagues, Republicans and Democrats. I am proud to say that those friendships have paid off to the benefit of Florida.

We were able to recruit almost the entire State delegation to support our Apalachicola Bay Restoration Act. I cosponsored legislation with Congressman PATRICK MURPHY to protect the Everglades and with Congressman DAVID JOLLY to ban oil drilling off the coast of Florida.

I asked to serve on the committees that were most important to my district—the Armed Services Committee and the Agriculture Committee.

On the Armed Services Committee we were able to make substantial legislative gains. We were able to amend the National Defense Authorization Act with initiatives to protect programs that helped Florida’s economy, create jobs, and strengthen our national security, as well as the work we have done to improve our relationship with Israel, including authorizing a joint anti-tunneling program to fight terrorism and to protect both of our countries’ borders.

On the House Agriculture Committee, I work closely with farmers across the State. I will never forget our 14-county north Florida farm tour, where I tried my own hand at planting peanuts and even pregnancy checked a cow. I am so proud of the work we did to bring the U.S. Department of Agriculture Strike Force program to Florida, which will help rural counties to protect their communities, to grow their economies, and to create jobs.

While we have had many successes in Washington, I am even more proud of the work we have accomplished in

Florida. Our focus on constituent services and cutting through bureaucratic redtape has paid off. We have helped return almost \$2 million in benefits owed to Florida seniors and families, including more than half-a-million dollars to veterans.

While the numbers are impressive, the stories behind them are what really count. Stories like Kenneth McCray, a Vietnam veteran who was denied benefits by the VA until our office stepped in to help. In every vote and in every way, we always put the people of Florida first.

While working in Congress, the people of north Florida have never let me down. I have felt their love and support in each hug, whether at a press conference or along a parade route. I have witnessed their compassion after Hurricane Hermine, when neighbors helped neighbors clear debris and sheltered those in need. I have seen local leaders put partisanship aside to fight for our communities.

We call this the north Florida way, but we don't have a monopoly on that spirit. It is the essence of the American spirit. I have witnessed a bit of it here in Washington. Between campaigns and commercial breaks, I have seen that Republicans and Democrats can actually like one another. If we can begin talking to each other again instead of shouting at each other, we can move our country forward in a way that helps every American.

So, as I prepare to leave Congress, I offer up this parting advice to new and veteran Members. Take the time to form friendships, put partisanship aside, and always put the people you represent first.

Now that I have shared this advice, I would like to end my speech by saying thank you. Thank you to my committed staff, my family, and, most importantly, I want to thank the people of north Florida's Second Congressional District. I am so thankful to them for giving me the opportunity to serve. Running for Congress and serving in the House has been an enriching experience with many workdays, possum festivals, and parades along the way.

I am sad it is coming to an end, but this moment is bittersweet. I will always treasure the friendships and experience I have gained in Congress. I know that as this chapter closes, another opens, and I will continue to serve my community and the people of Florida for as long as I am able.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, as I think all of us know, today marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor; a devastating event that took the lives of more than 2,300 Americans and ultimately led, of course, to the

United States' entrance into World War II.

Though it is painful to think of all the brave men and women we lost that day, I am grateful for this heroic generation of soldiers, including my own father, who served in defense of the freedoms of our country during World War II. I wear my father's wings. I have them on today. I wear them every day. My mom and dad love their country and they, like so many others, sacrificed so much. It was examples of heroes such as these that led me to make the decision when I was a young man to become a pilot in the Air Force.

I would like to take a moment and share the story of one brave Utahn, Mervyn Bennion, who was stationed at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attack. After graduating from high school in Salt Lake City, Bennion accepted his appointment to the United States Naval Academy, where he graduated near the top of his class. He later assumed command of the USS *West Virginia* in July of 1941.

The ship was moored with other vessels on Battleship Row on that Sunday morning. Just shy of 8 a.m., Japanese forces struck the USS *West Virginia* with at least six torpedoes and two bombs.

Under attack and struggling to organize a defense from the bridge, Captain Bennion was struck with shrapnel from one of these bombs; but, still, he continued to direct the ship's battle while using one of his hands to hold his own wounds closed. Several sailors attempted to convince him to go to the first-aid station and seek medical attention, but he refused to leave his post. Sadly, he later died from a loss of blood.

Captain Bennion was recognized with the Medal of Honor—our Nation's highest military honor—for his "conspicuous devotion to duty, extraordinary courage, and complete disregard for his own life."

Today, on the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, let us remember not only the brave men and women who lost their lives in that attack, but also those who have continued to fight for our freedoms for the last 75 years.

In dark and dangerous places all around the globe, American soldiers, sailors, and airmen are doing what they can to bring stability and safety to many parts of the world. We should remember them. We should thank them. We should keep them and their families in our prayers. What we have asked them to do is not easy. They deserve our gratitude and our respect.

CONGRATULATING COMPLETION OF THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS PROJECT

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to congratulate the completion of the Freedmen's Bureau Records Project.

The Freedmen's Bureau was organized by Congress in 1865 at the conclusion of the Civil War. It offered assistance to freed slaves in a variety of ways. The Bureau opened schools to

educate the illiterate. It managed hospitals, it rationed food and clothing for the destitute, and it even solemnized marriages. In the process, it gathered priceless handwritten personal information on potentially 4 million African Americans.

Due to the work and commitment of over 25,000 volunteers, with the help of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and FamilySearch International, they have been able to uncover the names and stories of over 1.9 million freed slaves. In some cases, for the very first time, African Americans are able to discover their Civil War-era families through an online and searchable database.

I was especially pleased to attend an event yesterday where the newly indexed database of the Freedmen's Bureau Records was delivered to the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

If I could just divert for a moment, I would like to share a story from this experience from one of the leaders of the museum, and I hope he will forgive me for stealing his story and repeating it to you. This gentleman told of how his grandparents passed away when he was very young. He had no memory of his grandparents, except for going to his grandmother's house and watching her cook on some old tin cookie sheets.

But as he was able to, for the first time, research his own family records, he found the records of one of his ancestors who was a slave; and part of those records was an accounting of money that was paid to her and some of the things that she was able to purchase. One of them was a line which recorded that she paid 22 cents for a set of tin cookie sheets. What an emotional moment it was for him to have that connection now with his ancestors that he would not have been able to otherwise.

The Freedmen's Bureau Records Project allows families to discover their ancestors. It allows them to connect with them. It allows them to see the heroes among their ancestors that so many of them have.

I would like to congratulate and thank the thousands of volunteers who sacrificed their time in this wonderful project.

HONORING REID RIBBLE AND RICHARD HANNA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have been privileged to serve with many exceptional people during my tenure in Congress. This year, there are a number of my Democratic colleagues who are leaving who will be sorely missed. We just heard from one—GWEN GRAHAM. And LOIS CAPPS is in a chair in front of me and will be speaking soon.

Today I would like to take a moment to recognize two exceptional friends of mine on the other side of the aisle, Republicans who enriched my time in Congress and brought honor to this body. I rise today to speak of the service of RICHARD HANNA and REID RIBBLE. These two gentlemen represent small town America—rural Upstate New York, in the case of RICHARD; and Green Bay, Wisconsin, and surrounding environments in the case of REID.

They have a number of similarities. They are both hardworking, dedicated Members of this Chamber, who leave after only three terms. They are fiercely dedicated to their family, and family concerns figured heavily into their decision not to seek reelection.

They have both been very successful businesspeople, building their own enterprises; taking pride, in the case of REID, in the employment and terrific service from a roofing company; and RICHARD, founding and growing a construction enterprise.

Both are accomplished in a broad range of other areas. RICHARD is a pilot who travels across the country piloting his own plane. REID recently completed a motorcycle trip from Alaska, all the way across North America to the Florida Keys; most of it with his wife riding along with him.

They are both what normally would have been regarded as conservative Republicans. That description really belies their approach and their value to the institution. In some respects, they may actually entertain some libertarian leanings. But they believe in less interference, whether it is liberal overreach or zealotry of the other extreme. RICHARD is equally disdainful of government telling women what they and their doctors should do with women's bodies.

They are both deeply concerned about budgets and the economy—core Republican values in the past—with REID famously, in an exchange with some of his Tea Party constituents, indicating that they weren't fair to their grandchildren by refusing to even consider raising the gas tax to meet our transportation needs, and he made an eloquent case.

RICHARD has been a partner with me for the last two Congresses as we work with transportation stakeholders to try to inform one another and find common ground, working forward on solutions to common problems of rebuilding and renewing America.

I fully respect the decision of both gentlemen to follow their instincts and their families to the next phase of their careers, but their decision to end congressional service weakens this institution. The fact that we could not find enough incentive to keep them here, being productive and adding their wisdom and energy, says something about the challenges that this Congress faces in the years ahead.

Serving with them has been a remarkable pleasure. They have helped both Republicans and Democrats func-

tion a little better in a largely dysfunctional climate. They have both given good advice to their Republican colleagues, which I hope, as they leave, will find greater resonance with those who are left.

We are going through a great period of a national civics lesson, where Americans discover that elections have consequences, that facts really should matter, and voters need to be very discerning about the decisions they make.

RICHARD HANNA and REID RIBBLE have helped, through their service, to advance that civics lesson. I will be grateful to them for as long as I am a citizen, and I look forward to years of friendship in the future and maybe ways to advance that national civics lesson that they speak to so eloquently by their service.

□ 1030

WRDA CONFERENCE REPORT:
WATER FOR CALIFORNIA; FIRE
PROTECTION FOR TAHOE

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the conference report on the Water Resources Development Act is the product of many hours of good faith negotiations between the House and the Senate and between Republicans and Democrats. Like any compromise, I don't like everything that is in it, but the net effect is an important step forward in protecting against the devastation of future droughts in California and catastrophic wildfire that threatens Lake Tahoe.

It provides \$335 million for desperately needed surface water storage. It opens a new era of hatcheries to provide for burgeoning populations of endangered fish species. It adds flexibility to the management of New Melones Reservoir and enables water transfers to assure that water can be more efficiently moved to where it is the most needed. It adds strong protection to northern California area of origin water rights. It expedites the review and approval of new projects. It updates flood control management criteria to make better use of our existing reservoirs.

I particularly want to highlight the provisions related to Lake Tahoe. For many years, we have spent enormous resources to adjust drainage in the basin to improve water clarity at the lake. The Senate version of the measure, which was introduced this session by Senators HELLER and FEINSTEIN, continued this effort; but the Heller-Feinstein bill neglected the most immediate environmental threat to Lake Tahoe, and that is catastrophic wildfire. The Senate bill had no provision for forest management, specifically for fire prevention.

The number of acres burned by wildfire in the Lake Tahoe Basin has in-

creased each decade since 1973, including a tenfold increase over the past decade. Eighty percent of the Tahoe Basin forests are now densely and dangerously overgrown. They are dying. At lower elevations, there are now four times as many trees as the land can support. Modeling by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit warns that, in two-thirds of the forest, conditions now exist for flame size and intensity that are literally explosive. If a super fire of the size we have seen in other parts of the Sierra were to strike the Tahoe Basin, it could decimate this lake and its surroundings for a generation to come.

For this reason, Congressman AMODEI and I introduced a bill focused on fire prevention. This measure was specifically designed, after extensive input from fire districts throughout the Tahoe region, to reduce excess fuel before it burns. It provides for expediting collaborative fuel reduction projects consistent with the Lake Tahoe Land and Resource Management Plan, and it calls for funds generated by timber sales and other fee-based revenues to stay in the Tahoe Basin to provide for further fuels management and other improvements.

This was falsely portrayed by left-wing activists in the region as a substitute for the Senate bill. As Congressman AMODEI and I made clear repeatedly, it was designed to supplement that bill and fill a glaring deficiency that ignored the single greatest environmental hazard to the lake.

I am very pleased to note that the critical provisions of both bills—for lake clarity and fire prevention—are now in the conference report, thanks to bipartisan negotiations between House and Senate negotiators, most notably by Senator FEINSTEIN and House Majority Leader McCARTHY.

Unfortunately, in the last 48 hours, Senator BOXER has threatened to blindside this effort and destroy the fruit of these years of labor and endless hours of negotiation. She has threatened to assemble enough votes, not to put forward a positive and credible plan of her own to address these critical needs but, rather, to ruin the painstaking negotiations of many others just as they are coming to fruition.

In the last 4 years, the King Fire, the Butte Fire, the Rough Fire, and the Rim Fire have destroyed more than 1,000 square miles of forest in the Sierra Nevada. If we don't restore sound forest management for fire prevention in the Tahoe Basin now, the next fire could reduce its magnificent forests to cinders and clog the lake with ash and debris for decades to come. We can only pray that wiser heads prevail in the Senate and that this conference report is speedily adopted by both Houses and signed into law by the President.

MY TENURE AS RESIDENT
COMMISSIONER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, after 8 years, this will be my last floor speech as the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Congress. I want to thank my constituents for giving me the opportunity to serve as their voice in Washington. They are enduring difficult times, but they never lose their hope, dignity, or appreciation for life's blessings.

I also want to thank my colleagues in the House and the Senate. I respect your dedication to public service, energy, and commitment to the causes you champion. In addition, I want to thank my staff, which has served me and the people of Puerto Rico with skill, passion, and loyalty.

Most importantly, I want to thank my wife, Maria-Elena; my four children; and the rest of my family. They have walked alongside me on this journey through the peaks and valleys, and my love for them cannot be captured with words.

It is impossible to condense 8 action-packed years into 5 minutes. However, if there is a central theme to my tenure as Resident Commissioner, it has been "fighting the good fight" on behalf of the 3.4 million American citizens in Puerto Rico, who have been treated unfairly for too long.

In an example of baptism by fire, the battle began almost as soon as I assumed office in 2009, when Congress was debating the stimulus bill known as ARRA. Even as I was still learning to navigate my way through the Capitol, we managed to secure virtually State-like treatment for Puerto Rico, injecting almost \$7 billion into the island's economy when we needed it most.

The fight continued the following year with the Affordable Care Act, which resulted in the largest funding increase in history for Puerto Rico's Medicaid program. Separately, we secured legislative and administrative action that eliminated many of the disparities that Puerto Rico faced under the Medicare program.

I am also proud of our work to combat drug-related violence in Puerto Rico, requiring the Federal Government to prepare the Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy and persuading Federal lawsuit agencies to increase their resources in Puerto Rico. The number of homicides on the island was cut in half between 2011 and 2015. But this is not about statistics. It is about preserving human life.

Moreover, I have tried my best to serve those who have served us. Residents of Puerto Rico have a rich military tradition, and no unit exemplifies their courage and character better than the 65th Infantry Regiment, which fought the enemy on the battlefield and discrimination in the barracks. After we enacted legislation to award them the Congressional Gold Medal, these warriors—now in the twilight of their lives—stood beside Presi-

dent Obama as he signed the bill into law and were honored at a ceremony in the Capitol, one that I will never forget.

The toughest fight of my tenure came earlier this year when Congress and the White House worked together to enact legislation, called PROMESA, to prevent the Government of Puerto Rico from collapsing. Nobody was pleased that such legislation was necessary, and nobody liked every provision in the bill, but I firmly believe that PROMESA, if properly implemented, provides a path to a better future for Puerto Rico.

I close with this thought: Puerto Rico's current territory status, which gives Congress license to treat my constituents like second class citizens, is undignified and unsustainable.

Following a 2012 local referendum in which island residents expressed their opposition to the current status and their support for statehood, Congress enacted legislation that provided funding for the first federally sponsored referendum in Puerto Rico's history. The significance of this achievement has yet to be sufficiently appreciated. Puerto Rico should use this authority to conduct a vote on whether the territories should become a State. If the people of Puerto Rico ratify their support for statehood, as I expect they will, it will be incumbent upon Congress to implement that result. This country, which was founded on the principles of equality and justice, must live up to its creed.

May God bless Puerto Rico and the United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSE ABEYTA

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Jose Abeyta of Montrose, Colorado, who passed away on November 14, 2016. Jose is survived by his wife, Loretta, whom he married 40 years ago, and they have two sons, Lenny and Juan.

Jose was a personal friend of mine and was a beloved member of his community. He served our country proudly during the Vietnam war from 1969 to 1971, as a fixed wing mechanic for the Army's 358th Aviation Detachment. He received an honorable discharge after serving for 2 years. Mr. Abeyta was a hero for the time he spent in the Army, but the life he lived after his service showed us what an honorable man and model citizen he truly was.

Jose married Loretta 1 month after returning home from Vietnam, and they moved to Colorado Springs, where he went to school and earned a degree in sociology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Mr. Abeyta paid his own way through school. He and Loretta then moved back to Montrose, where he began his career as a probation officer. He later ran suc-

cessfully for the city council in 2006 and served as the mayor of Montrose in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, it was not just his work that defined who Mr. Abeyta was. It was the devotion to serving others. As a husband, a father, a war veteran, a little league coach, and a public servant, he lived a life full of selfless service and stood as an example for all Americans to live by. He started out as the new guy in Montrose, and he ended up serving as the mayor, which speaks volumes about the impact he had on his community.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by Jose's passing because he was an irreplaceable figure in Montrose, but I am grateful that I had the opportunity to know him. His family is in my thoughts and prayers, and I hope that the community of Montrose will continue to celebrate his tremendous accomplishments in the weeks and months to come. Jose Abeyta will be missed.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, back in Massachusetts, I participated in the seventh annual Monte's March, which is a 43-mile walk to raise awareness about hunger in our community and to raise money for The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

The leader of this remarkable event is Monte Belmonte, a well-known local radio personality with WRSL, the River, and a committed activist on behalf of those who are most vulnerable. This year, the march raised a record \$211,213. This translates into over a half a million meals for individuals and families who struggle with food insecurity. I was impressed by the stamina of all of those who walked and by the incredible generosity of the community.

The sad reality is that there is no congressional district in the United States that is hunger free, and those who battle hunger defy stereotypes. Some are homeless; some are jobless; but there are many who work but who earn so little that they can't afford to put food on the table on a regular basis for their families.

While food banks and food pantries and charitable organizations are vital in our efforts to combat hunger, they cannot do it alone. We need a strong commitment by our government to do its part. Indeed, I would argue that we have fallen way short of doing what is needed to ensure that no one goes hungry. Those whom I marched alongside during Monte's March are good people who understand what it means to truly be part of a community.

I want to thank, first and foremost, the incredible Monte Belmonte and all of the people at the River, including Mark Lattanzi, Joan Holliday, Michael Sokol, Kaliis Smith, Dave Musante,

and Matt Peterson. They are amazing people who worked overtime to make this march a success.

I am grateful to Andrew Morehouse, the executive director of The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, and to everyone at the food bank. They do incredible work.

Thanks to all of the elected officials who joined part of the march, including my colleagues, Congressmen RICHIE NEAL and JOE KENNEDY. We were also joined by State Representatives Steve Kulik and Aaron Vega, State Representative-elect Solomon Goldstein-Rose, as well as by Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz and District Attorney Dave Sullivan.

We kicked off the march at Friends of the Homeless in Springfield, and I am grateful for all that they do. The Sheriff's Departments in Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties, as well as the Deerfield Police, helped provide escorts for us during all 43 miles.

A special thanks to the students who joined the march from Greenfield Center School, HEC Academy, Conway Grammar School, and Erving Elementary. We were joined by a contingent from Greenfield Community College, which included its president, Bob Pura. We also had a group of farmers from The Kitchen Garden in Sunderland who joined the effort.

Sean Barry, from Four Seasons Liquors in Hadley, was, as usual, Monte's right-hand man and always at the front of the line. We had a large group of individuals who marched and raised a lot of money. Thanks to all of them. My friend Chia Collins of Northampton deserves special credit for raising the most.

Thanks to all of the people who greeted us along the way, including Karen Blanchard of Kate's Kitchen, Andrea Marion at Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry, Mindy Domb at the Amherst Survival Center, Lori Divine and Vitek Kruta at Gateway City Arts, Chancellor Subbaswamy at UMass Amherst and his top aide Natalie Blais, who marched 27 miles with us.

□ 1045

We are grateful to Northampton Brewery for a wonderful dinner on Monday, Chandler's in Deerfield for a great lunch on Tuesday, Richardson's Candy Kitchen in Deerfield for the indulgent chocolates that gave us energy, and all the folks at Seymour's in Greenfield for the magnificent celebration at the end of the march. Also, a special thanks to Tea Guys for their wonderful tea in honor of the march and for their generosity.

Thanks to Ben Clark from Clarkdale Fruit Farm in Deerfield for the apples and for keeping us in line. Thanks to Erika Connell Cooper's mother for the delicious apple pies. And thank you to Mr. Michael Brooks and the students at the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton for

making the shopping carts we used during the march.

Mr. Speaker, I was glad to be part of this, but I want to close by expressing my deep concern about the future. I remain worried about rumors of more cuts to SNAP or separating SNAP from the farm bill or weakening child nutrition. With so many relying on these programs to help put food on the table, these cuts would be devastating for families across the country. We must protect and strengthen these programs.

I believe food ought to be a right for every single individual in this country and on the planet, but the sad reality is that it isn't. All of us need to do better. All of us need to care more. All of us need to recognize our moral failings in not addressing this issue sooner.

So on behalf of the dedicated crew that took part in Monte's March, I urge all of us in Congress to act and end hunger now.

IN HONOR OF DAVID HOWLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Howle.

For the past 29 years, Coach Howle has served as the head football coach for the Bunn High School Wildcats in Franklin County. During that time, Coach Howle had unprecedented success, amassing 214 wins and just 90 losses. He has had 45 players go on to play at the collegiate level, a nearly unheard of number for an AA high school.

While Coach Howle built the Bunn football program into a regional powerhouse, it is more important to recognize the impact he has had on thousands of students, parents, and staff in the Bunn community. His expectation of his players to work hard, not just on the field, Mr. Speaker, but also in the classroom, translated into a 99 percent graduation rate for his student athletes.

Coach Howle has famously told his team, "show me your friends and I'll show you your future," encouraging his players not just to be good citizens, but also to be productive members of society.

And no matter the outcome of any game—win, loss, or draw—Coach Howle was always there to encourage his players to keep their heads up and to look to the future as the team ended every game with the Bunn High School fight song followed by the Lord's prayer.

David Howle exemplifies what the thousands of dedicated educators in North Carolina do every day. The lessons Coach Howle taught and the difference he made in thousands of lives will be remembered in his community for years to come.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPP) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House one last time as a Member of Congress. Over 18 years ago, I was honored and humbled to be elected to this House. It has been the job and the responsibility of a lifetime.

After a career spent as a nurse and in our public schools as a school nurse, it was the start of a life I never expected, but I was eager to answer the call to public service on behalf of the citizens of the central coast of California. It was the same call that had beckoned my husband, Walter, before me. He was a religious studies professor who felt compelled to serve. Like Walter, I sought to help restore the bonds of trust between the people and their government.

While the circumstances of my joining Congress were unexpected, it has been a tremendous honor to serve with all of you over these years. Together with our colleagues, our dedicated staff, and our constituents, I have been proud to work on behalf of issues so important to our congressional district on the central coast of California, issues important also to our entire Nation.

We have worked hard to ensure that everyone has the chance to fulfill their American Dream, while moving our economy and our country forward. We have fought to protect women's rights, strengthen families, and push for equality. We have made great strides in making health care more accessible and affordable so that no one has to go bankrupt just because they get sick. And we have championed a clean energy future while protecting our beautiful landscapes, our coastlines, and our precious natural resources for future generations.

In recent months, I have often been asked what I will miss most about serving in Congress. While there is much to miss, the answer is easy: it is the people. To me, this job has always been and always will be about the people: the people we represent, the people who work so hard to keep this place going, the people on my staff over the years who have been so dedicated to making our community and our country just a little bit better—and the people I serve with here, you, my colleagues.

It has been such a privilege and pleasure to get to know you and work alongside many of you over the years, learning more about your districts, your backgrounds, and your families. After all, isn't this what Congress was meant to be? You, my colleagues, coming from all over the country, from all walks of life, to represent your neighbors and communities in this place, this Congress, to work together for the good of our Nation.

During my time in Congress, I have been so proud of those laws we have

passed that have made a real difference in people's lives. When I am home, I often hear about the positive impact of our work, the role our office has played in the district, the difference our efforts have made in individual lives.

I am proud of the progress we have made as a country, but we need to keep this momentum going. As we all know, cooperation and progress is not always easy, but it is what we are sent here to do and it is what we must do, regardless of partisanship. We are here, each one, because we believe in the role of government to make the lives of everyday Americans better, and that has been my guiding light both as a Member of Congress and as a nurse before.

As I have said, I may be retiring, but I do not want to consider myself retired. I prefer to say I am graduating to continue working locally on issues that have defined my time in Congress.

Our work is cut out for us, but I am deeply optimistic about what the future holds. I trust that the next Congress will hold healthy debates about how to build a better country for our children. I urge my colleagues to remember that, even during the most trying times, as my husband Walter often said: There is much more that unites us as a people than that which divides us.

Now I want to take one last opportunity to thank my staff, the people who have become family to me both here in D.C. and in the district. And I want to thank you, my colleagues, for your camaraderie, your hard work, and the friendship that has lasted over 18 years. It has meant the world to me.

And finally, thank you. Thank you, truly, to the people of the central coast for trusting me as your Representative, for inspiring me every single day with your passion and your dedication for our Nation and for California's 24th District. You make our community a place in which I have been proud to raise my children and my grandchildren now, one I am proud to call home.

8-YEAR ASSAULT ON AMERICA'S COAL INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mark the end of a long, harsh, partisan, politicized campaign, unprecedented in American history. I am not talking about the recent election. No. We are finally at the end of the Obama administration's 8-year assault on Kentucky's and America's coal industry.

In two terms, President Obama's policies have successfully put thousands of coal miners and utility workers into the unemployment line. In 2008, then-candidate Obama pledged that any company looking to build a coal-powered electric plant would be bankrupted. The combined regulations of the EPA, the Army Corps of Engi-

neers, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and several other bureaucracies have turned that pledge into a reality, choking off investment in new state-of-the-art, clean-burning, coal-fired electric generation; and it led to the premature closing of existing plants.

If we continue on this path, the other promise made by candidate Obama will also come to pass: electricity rates will necessarily skyrocket. And that would be a disaster for consumers, for whom energy prices are often the second or third largest line item in the family budget.

I also think about industrial consumers and the many manufacturers in my district and around the Nation who depend on affordable, reliable energy that will face skyrocketing costs if we fail to act and reverse these administration policies. However, it is a new day; and voters—particularly in the Rust Belt and Appalachia—turned out in November to close the book on this legacy of job-killing regulation and to seek a new path forward.

President Obama said that elections have consequences, and this is true; but his administration ignored every electoral outcome since 2010, doubling down on failed policies while the American people called for a different approach.

The inverse is also true: consequences drive elections. The consequences of the Obama administration's unilateral decisions decided last November's election, and no place in this country felt those consequences as acutely as coal country.

National coal production is at its lowest level in 35 years. Pike County, the long leading coal producer in Kentucky, until losing that title in 2012, is down 89 percent since its peak in 1996. Nationwide, consumption of coal has dropped nearly a third since 2007.

In Kentucky, coal employment hit its lowest level in 118 years. To repeat, coal employment in Kentucky is now at its lowest level since 1898. In 2009, 18,850 people were employed by coal. About 73,000 jobs were indirectly supported by that economic activity. Today, only about 6,500 Kentuckians now work in the coalfields, and those losses have rippled throughout the economy. Yet this is the legacy that this administration will earn as it leaves office.

Never in the history of our country has an administration singled out and targeted a lawful industry—in this case, an industry that has provided jobs and opportunities for American workers for generations, an industry that has literally powered America, and, through that overregulation, crushed an entire sector of our economy.

Now, Obama administration apologists will say that depletion in Appalachian coalfields and new competition from natural gas are the primary factors in those job losses, but they don't give the regulators enough credit. The

turnaround in natural gas production on State and private lands has been dramatic, to be sure, but relative price parity with coal does not explain two-thirds of mining jobs in Kentucky disappearing in 7 years.

The administration has targeted coal supply and demand, prohibiting production leases, rejecting mining permit applications, stretching the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts against congressional intent, prohibiting new and existing plants from using coal—the list goes on and on.

Many of these rules have been halted or overturned by the courts, and several more remain subject to challenge by the States and industry; but since the President could not get Congress' support for his agenda of banning the production and use of coal, most of these regulations can be unwound by the courts or the next administration.

I urge the incoming Trump administration to do just that and to engage with Congress in a bipartisan fashion on our Nation's energy and environmental policies. The livelihoods of people in the coalfields, of those working in the manufacturing and rail industries, of families trying to keep their homes warm and their lights on must never again be the collateral damage in partisan warfare.

I must address the issue of climate change. Let the last 8 years serve as a lesson to all of us. Let's never again attempt to solve problems through central planning by punishing innocent Americans whose paychecks put food on their table. Instead, let's address problems like climate change the American way: not through central planning or government, but through innovation, science, technology.

While it will be a tough road back for coal country and it may never be the same after 8 years of regulatory attack, I do look forward to a new day dawning in the coalfields.

ROBERT LEVINSON STILL MISSING IN IRAN

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the holiday season is upon us. We are getting ready to head home to spend time with family and friends, yet I rise today with a heavy heart.

For the family of my constituent Robert Levinson of Coral Springs, Florida, these weeks are a painful reminder of another Thanksgiving, another Christmas—their 10th, in fact—without their father, grandfather, and husband.

□ 1100

Bob has been missing in Iran for 3,561 days. He disappeared from Kish Island, Iran, on March 9, 2007. Late that year, Bob's wife, Christine, and his oldest son Dan traveled to Iran to learn as much as they could about his whereabouts.

It was a brutal 3-year wait for the first proof of life, a video of Bob

dressed in an orange jumpsuit, pleading for help. A year later, in 2011, another proof of life, pictures of Bob, his beard long, his face thin, his gregarious smile gone, a shadow of the exuberant family man in this photograph.

In March, marking the ninth anniversary of Bob's disappearance, south Florida came together in support of Bob's return with a rally. Each of Bob's children spoke so beautifully about the special relationship that they share with their father, his commitment to his family, his words of wisdom, his ability to touch the lives of everyone that he meets.

Bob Levinson served this country for nearly 30 years, first as a DEA agent, and then as an FBI agent. He is the definition of a patriot. He loves this country. He dedicated his life to public service. Now we must do whatever we can to bring Bob home; home to Christine, his wife of over 40 years; home to his daughters Susan, Stephanie, Sarah, and Samantha; home to his three sons, Dan, David, and Doug, and son-in-law Randy; home to meet, for the first time, the newest members of his growing family, his sons-in-law and daughter-in-law, Ralph, Ryan, and Sophia, and his six beautiful grandchildren, Ryan, Grace, Caroline, Harry, Sean, and Bobby; home in time for the birth of two new grandchildren; and home in time to hold 2-year-old Bobby as he begins treatment for lymphoma.

Bobby was named after Grandpa Bob. Bob's daughter Susan said: I always wanted to name my son after my dad not because he has been taken, but because growing up I always knew how special my dad is.

The family needs Bob home. We can't wait any longer. Whether you support engagement with Iran or not doesn't matter. The fact is, for the first time since Bob went missing, the United States Government sits directly across the table from their Iranian counterparts.

The future of our relationship with Iran is uncertain. That is why we can't wait. The Iranians have spent the last 2 years seeking acceptance from the international community, but to be treated as a responsible nation, they must act as a responsible nation. After Iran released other Americans this year, the U.S. Government announced Iran's commitment to use newly established channels to move us closer to Bob's return, but, 11 months later, Iran has not fulfilled that commitment.

Our allies are looking to invest in Iran. U.S. businesses are seeking new economic opportunities, and Iran is seeking to change its standing in the world. I am not here today to debate U.S. policy. I am only here to remind Iran and to remind the world that an American is still not home.

I am grateful to this Congress for the unanimous passage of a resolution earlier this year calling on the Government of Iran to find Bob and bring him home and for the deep, deep support so many of my colleagues have offered the

Levinson family. I don't want to have to introduce that legislation again next year. I don't want to come back to the House floor in 2017 to plead for Bob's return. This is the moment for action. This is the time to bring Bob home.

When the Levinson children were growing up, they would pile into the family Suburban before Christmas in search of the best holiday decoration displays. The kids would sit back singing Christmas songs, and Bob would hold Christine's hand while he drove. Even though the family has grown too large to fit in one Suburban now, Bob and his family deserve to see the lights together this year. They deserve to sing together. This must be the last season that Bob spends away from his family.

CELEBRATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, this year my parish, Holy Cross Catholic Church in Hutchinson, Kansas, is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Sixty years ago, then-Bishop of Wichita, Most Reverend Mark K. Carroll, proclaimed Holy Cross Parish to be the third parish in Hutchinson. On June 23, 1957, the church celebrated their first mass in a 4-H building.

Holy Cross Parish has come a long way from that first mass held on the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Now a beautiful church adorned with holy images, the parish serves Christ's people from the moment they are born with the Sacrament of Baptism, to feeding them with the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist, to couples exchanging marriage vows, to those seeking forgiveness in the confessional, and, finally, to when we prepare to meet our Lord at the end of our earthly lives. At each milestone of a Catholic's life, Holy Cross Catholic Church is there to guide us toward the truth: to know, love, and serve the Lord in this life so as to be with Him in the next.

The work of the Holy Cross community certainly extends outside the church walls. The parish is present in the community, serving meals to the needy, visiting inmates in prison, working to save the lives of the precious unborn children, and comforting those who grieve.

Additionally, education has always been a high priority for the Holy Cross Parish. Hundreds upon hundreds of boys and girls, young men and women, have received a superb Catholic education at Holy Cross Catholic School and Trinity Catholic High School. Dedicated teachers, administrators, coaches, committed families, holy priests and nuns, and supportive parishioners have worked together to prepare each of these students to serve as Christ's light to the world. The fami-

lies that make up Holy Cross Catholic Church are a living example of individuals who live out their faith in their work and their daily lives.

Our country was founded on Judeo-Christian principles. The First Amendment guarantees the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of conscience. It is my sincere hope that, as America moves forward, our leaders will place the issue of religious liberty at the forefront of their political and legislative agendas.

On this 60th anniversary of Holy Cross Catholic Church, it is my prayer that the parish will continue to grow and thrive, welcome new members, and share the Gospel with the world.

THE WAR ON SCIENCE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the growing antiscience attitude in Washington. This attitude has manifested itself even on the cover of the respected National Geographic magazine, titled "The War on Science." The war on science is being conducted in two ways. First, by rejecting or trying to discredit legitimate science. Second, by reducing Federal science funding.

Skepticism of science is hardly new and is sometimes well founded, but what is happening today is different and is part of a trend in the United States to discount or disbelieve experts in any field. I hear from scientists who are very worried that the quality and quantity of science produced in this country will decline as a result.

American inventors and innovators have improved our lives and have given our country an economic edge, helping make us the strongest country in the world. Let me share a partial list of revolutionary achievements by American scientists: airplanes, phonographs, practical incandescent lamps, wireless communications, microwave ovens, lasers, personal computers, washing machines, cyclotrons, 3D printing machines, polio vaccinations, the nuclear bomb, light-emitting diodes or LEDs, fiber optic cables, mobile telephones, computer mouse, public key cryptography, global positioning systems or GPS, and social media.

Now let's recall an earlier battle against science that used the discredit tactic; namely, the tobacco companies' effort to dispute the science that smoking is addictive and causes deadly diseases. The tobacco industry tried to both discredit and threaten the scientists who were advancing the facts, and funded questionable scientists to create doubts about the actual scientific results. The tactic worked for a time while tobacco producers were able to continually hook millions of new people on their dangerous product. Eventually the science won out, but the cost was terrible.

Today a similar effort is underway with respect to climate change. The science is clear, with a vast majority of climate scientists agreeing that the climate is warming and that continuing to emit carbon into the atmosphere at current levels will bring significant and mostly detrimental change to our environment. Moreover, even though the evidence that climate change is already taking place and is overwhelming and increasingly obvious, there is widespread denial that climate change is even happening or that it would be possible to help combat it. But the things that need to be done to address climate change, such as taxing carbon emissions, can be done gradually, predictably, and in a way that helps the economy grow and puts people to work.

So why is there so much resistance? The resistance in America is caused by a well-funded campaign to create doubt about obvious scientific facts. The fossil fuel industry, in particular, has been paying its own scientists to go on talk shows, to publish in their own denial journals, and generally to create doubt whenever possible about climate change, suggesting that it would be better to wait for conclusive evidence before doing anything. But to wait for conclusive evidence is to wait for catastrophe.

While Republicans in Washington are trying to reduce or eliminate funding for climate change research, there also seems to be an effort by Republicans to reduce science funding across the board. This will result in fewer scientific advances in the U.S., which will likely cause us to fall behind our competitors. But this is part of a larger trend that denies there are real experts. Science denial has become a pop culture. This is dangerous because modern society is built upon the things that science got right.

I see the war on science in this country as shortsighted and very damaging to our economy. We need to change the tone and direction toward a positive process that acknowledges and supports the role science has played and will continue to play for our country. That means working with legislators and getting more scientists and other concerned citizens involved in the political process to ensure that our Nation can continue to benefit from new scientific discoveries and innovation and which will help create the jobs we need to continue to be a great economic power.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE
JOE PITTS

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in my hand is a book, "Congress: The Chester County Line" written by Wayne C. Woodward. A portion of the foreword reads as follows: "From

the very beginning of our great Nation and the first American Congress, Chester Countians have served their south-east Pennsylvania constituents in the United States House of Representatives. Not all have been nationally known leaders or internationally renowned legislators, but, by and large, Congressmen from Chester County have played a major role in American history." That was written by Richard T. Schulze, member of the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1975 to 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Congressman JOE PITTS, who has served Chester County, Lancaster County, and Berks County with tremendous distinction for the past two decades. Whether it was his legislative focus and advocacy involving religious liberty, life, health care, land conservation, or focusing on those issues at the most local level, JOE PITTS' legacy and achievements as a legislator will prove lasting in the history of Chester County and this Congress.

My predecessor, Jim Gerlach, serving in the neighboring Sixth Congressional District, commented: "I had the good fortune of working with JOE from my first years as a State legislator in the PA house all the way through my last year in Congress. During those 24 years, JOE PITTS was a steady and committed voice for conservative principles and policies that are the bedrock of our economy and society. He cared deeply about his constituents and country, and he always voted for what he believed was best for both. In short, he was a principled leader who worked hard every day to do the right thing, and his leadership will be missed."

JOE PITTS' predecessor in Congress, occupying what is commonly referred to as "the Pennsylvania Dutch seat," Congressman Bob Walker, commented: "JOE PITTS has distinguished himself and the district he represents with his congressional service. He has become an acknowledged leader in healthcare policy, and his human rights work has won worldwide claim. I have been proud to call him my congressman for the past 20 years, and wish JOE and Ginny the very best in the years ahead."

This book, "Congress: The Chester County Line," was written in 1992. There will be a day when a second book about the history of Congress and Chester County will be written. We don't know who will write it, but we do know there will be a chapter on the service of Jim Gerlach and on the service of Bob Walker; and there will also be a very long chapter, rich in content, on the contributions that JOE PITTS has played in American history for the betterment of this country, for the betterment of Chester County, Berks County, and Lancaster County.

Congressman PITTS, I wish you the very best as you retire, and a long and healthy retirement to you and your family. God bless you.

□ 1115

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE BOB DOLD

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress, as I suspect when most new Members come to Congress, you tend to look around for those Members who you can take a little something from to improve yourself and to see what they do and also what they don't do.

Congressman BOB DOLD is finishing his second term. I would like Mr. DOLD to know that I have taken a great deal from him. I find him to be a very honorable man and a friend who has served with purpose, a positive attitude, and is partisan-free. He is a great example of how to serve in this body effectively, with distinction, and with a great attitude.

I wish Congressman DOLD the very best in all his future endeavors.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE RICHARD HANNA

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, RICHARD HANNA, serving New York's 22nd Congressional District, is retiring. I want to commend Congressman HANNA on his thoughtfulness, independence, and courage of convictions. I find him to be a great example of how to serve in this body honorably, and I wish him and his family the very best in his retirement.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE MIKE
FITZPATRICK

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Congressman MIKE FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District is retiring. His brother, Brian, has big shoes to fill to serve in MIKE's place.

When I came to Congress, one thing that you would always hear in political circles is that MIKE FITZPATRICK, while serving in Congress, never stopped being a Bucks County Commissioner. What that really means is, while he came down here to focus on Washington and issues important to this country, he never stopped spending time in Bucks County, serving the district with distinction.

I wish MIKE FITZPATRICK the very best in retirement and thank him for his mentorship during my first year in Congress.

CONGRATULATING STAFF
SERGEANT AARON TOBLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler, an Albany native and La Salle Institute of Troy graduate who was recently selected for the Outstanding Airman of the Year award by the United States Air Force.

The Air Force provides this recognition to top enlisted Airmen for their unique individual achievements in leadership, job performance, significant self-improvement, and community involvement.

Sergeant Tobler is a fine example of the best the capital region, the Air

Force, and our Nation have to offer. In addition to his military service, he serves as a manager at the California Department of Social Services, mentors local youth, and is a regular blood donor.

I thank Staff Sergeant Tobler for his military and civilian service to our Nation. He and his colleagues are truly what has made, and continues to make, this country great.

109TH AIRLIFT BUZZ ALDRIN EVACUATION

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, last week, the National Science Foundation announced that the 109th Airlift Wing provided a humanitarian medical evacuation flight from Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station in Antarctica to astronaut Buzz Aldrin, one of the first men to walk on the Moon.

As the Representative for New York's 20th Congressional District, I am, indeed, honored that we are home to Stratton Air National Guard Base, which hosts the 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, New York. Their unit flies the world's only ski-equipped LC-130s, better known as Ski Birds.

The 109th continues a proud tradition of critical contributions that New York's capital region makes to our national security, our economy, and yes, our standing in the world. I am, indeed, proud of their unique service to this country and thank them for their continued support.

PEARL HARBOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, 75 years ago, the Imperial forces of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and other bases in Hawaii. This unforgivable act thrust our country into the war in the Pacific. On this day, 2,403 Americans died, 1,177 of them on the *Arizona*, and 1,178 were wounded.

Today, to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, there will be services here in D.C., throughout the Nation, and particularly at Pearl Harbor. This is where Pearl Harbor, the symbol of World War II and the attack, is found. That, of course, is the USS *Arizona* Memorial.

Designed by Alfred Preis, it was controversial when first unveiled because people could not understand the significance of it. They said it kind of looked like a squashed milk carton. But when you really understood what went behind it, it made sense.

The middle part that looks like it is sagging represented the defeat of December 7; however, the two proud, strong sides represented the victory that our country faced. Think about it. There is a portion of it that is open to the ocean. That is where leis like this were thrown in to honor those who were buried below.

In addition, there is a wall with the names of all those who perished. But there is another wall—and this is very significant—with the names of those

who survived the attack but chose to return to be buried with their colleagues. A Navy diver takes their ashes down and puts them on the USS *Arizona*. There are seven large windows on one side representing December 7. There are 21 windows altogether, representing a 21-gun salute.

When Mr. Preis designed it, he said he wanted the memorial to be everything to anybody as they looked at it, but, most importantly, he wanted it to be serene. You have to ask yourself: Why?

What very few know about Mr. Preis is, like the Japanese Americans, he was detained because he was Austrian. In Hawaii, there were internment camps, not only of Japanese Americans but of Germans of American descent, as well as Italians. Mr. Preis was one of them.

World War II created the Greatest Generation of all time, and we must never forget them. We must honor them. But we must always remember that ultimate sacrifice they made. They made it for all of us so we would appreciate and enjoy civil liberties.

Remember, in February of the following year is when President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 putting Japanese Americans, whose only crime was that they were Japanese Americans, into internment camps. This group fought the fight to prove their loyalty to this country.

Let us not forget them, the Filipino World War II veterans who also served, and everyone who served in World War II. Let us not forget why they served and why they did that ultimate sacrifice. It was so that we would be the greatest country on this Earth and we would provide people with civil liberties.

So let us not, as we move forward, forget that. Let us not forget what it means to be a country that welcomes all and has protected the civil liberties. As we look and hear about things like the Muslim registry or building walls, would those brave men of the Greatest Generation really think they fought for that? Is that what they want this country to become? I contend that they do not.

On this day, Mr. Speaker, as we honor those who gave that ultimate sacrifice, let us not forget why we are the greatest country on the face of this Earth and why they are the Greatest Generation.

DROUGHT: HUMAN IMPACT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the real human impact that the drought has had on families across California's San Joaquin Valley. This drought has lasted for 6 years.

Tomorrow, the House will have an opportunity to vote on legislation that will help address the impacts of the drought and begin to repair a broken

water system that we have in California today. I hope more than anything that we can get the legislation across the finish line, but it seems that some of my colleagues in the House and the Senate remain unconvinced that a solution is necessary. I tell you that a solution is necessary and we are working on borrowed time.

I would like to take the opportunity to dispel that misconception. The picture next to me here is Mr. and Mrs. Cabrera from Madera, California. I represent these constituents. As you will notice, they look happy. The reason they look happy is because, when I had the pleasure of meeting with them that day, they found out that they had received a Federal resource grant to dig a new well in their backyard. Two years prior to that day, their well had gone completely dry.

For my colleagues who do not represent the rural constituencies across this country or in California, that means for 2 years the Cabrera family could not turn their faucet on to get water to bathe or cook. Instead, they went outside to haul buckets of water into their house. A 2,500-gallon tank in their backyard was where they got the water from. Some families are even less fortunate and had to have water trucked into their neighborhoods.

Also, pictured next to them is Juana Garcia. Juana lives in East Porterville. She was featured in a Fresno Bee story last year. Her family and 700 households in East Porterville have no water. This photo illustrates the delivery of nonpotable water to Ms. Garcia and her family. They walk to the local church several times a week so they can take a shower.

The Cabrera and Garcia families represent the faces of thousands of families throughout the Valley who don't have water and don't have a long-term plan to get water. They have been impacted.

Farmers, farm workers, and farm communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley have been impacted as well. Without water, hundreds and thousands of acres of productive ag land have gone fallow. That means they are not planted. Without planting, that means no jobs and no water. Unemployment, in many of these Valley farming communities, is in the double digits and at an all-time high.

While a California drought relief bill will not resolve every single challenge we face in the Valley and in California's broken water system, it will provide some relief to help these suffering families.

To my colleagues in California and elsewhere who think that the language in the WRDA bill is a poison pill, I say it is not. This is important to help solve the problems of the people in this Valley to ensure that more Valley families do not become the victims of polluted water and dry wells. This is not a poison pill. You should not look at it that way. It is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate to support

this legislation and act swiftly, not only on the behalf of the people of the San Joaquin Valley but Flint, Michigan, and the others who will benefit in the very important WRDA bill that will be before us tomorrow.

Time is of the essence. The drought-stricken community in California, especially in the San Joaquin Valley, and others who are impacted by very important and needed efforts that Senator FEINSTEIN and others have put together as part of the WRDA bill, a bipartisan bill that Congressman MCCARTHY has worked on, should be passed tomorrow. Do the right thing before Christmas.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a strong recommendation that President-elect Trump address immediately and put to rest the overwhelming conflicts of interest that abound with his personal business affairs that threaten to undermine the public interest and destabilize his future administration.

When America's Founding Fathers wrote the Emoluments Clause in our Constitution, their firm intention was to insulate our new government from unethical foreign inducement to our elected officials and corruption attendant to the intertwining of Europe's politics with our own.

□ 1130

So reads our Constitution, Article I. Article I, right at the beginning, Section 9, clause 8: "No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States"—that means we don't coronate kings here—"And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever from any King, Prince, or foreign State."

No elected official in this country is above the Constitution, the law of the land. This is the strict, time-tested standard, ethical standard to which the President and Congress and all senior government appointees are held.

Unfortunately, American history has no shortage of examples of Presidents and senior officials who attempted to skirt this ethical standard outside of appropriate channels, and they paid the price: Ulysses S. Grant's Whiskey Ring, or Warren G. Harding's Teapot Dome, or Richard Nixon's Jewel Scandal or Watergate, to name a few. Each represents an instance of improper gifting, self-dealing, and an array of clandestine and illegal activities, of which President-elect Trump would be wise to reflect upon their consequences.

There have been many suggestions offered to the President-elect on what

he should do to clear up such potential conflicts about his foreign investments, contacts, and his vast private wealth that could compromise his position as President; yet President-elect Trump's advisers keep us waiting and dodging the main question.

He, himself, has said that action is not legally required. He is wrong. He also incorrectly asserts there can be no conflict of interest for a President. History shows that is false.

Without separation of his private interests from his public interests, how will the American people know he is acting fairly and impartially in his appointments to regulatory agencies, for example? or his funding recommendations of budgets and departments that could impact his investments? Or how about the contracts that are let by the Federal Government itself?

How will he work with banks, and which ones, nation-state-owned or foreign, that have loaned him and his associates money?

Who will he be appointing to key regulatory positions that could impact his vast financial interests across many continents?

A former Reform Party Vice Presidential candidate opined on the Huffington Post site that Mr. Trump has three options to address his conflicts of interest:

Number one, to place his company and assets into a true blind trust, supervised by a totally independent entity;

Number two, to persuade the GOP-controlled Congress to enact a law that exempts the President from the Emolument Provision, which I would vote against; or

Number three, to resign, or risk impeachment.

As the Office of Government Ethics advised, only a true divestiture of his financial stake in his sprawling and global business dealings will resolve ethical concerns about conflicts of interest as he assumes the role of President of the United States.

Now, this map gives you a sense of some of his interests that he has acknowledged in some of his filings, of 144 companies in 25 different countries. We don't know what these relationships are. He has a sprawling global business empire, and the list includes countries with strained diplomatic ties to the United States.

As the President, his responsibilities will force him to make decisions on foreign policy and tax policy, for example, that will impact these significant business interests. Only a truly complete removal of his ownership can assure the American people that his Presidential actions and political decisions are not motivated by personal financial interests. Even then, suspicion will arise about every move he makes and be subject to prosecution.

In the 3 weeks since his election, President-elect Trump has held meetings and calls with foreign dignitaries, Prime Ministers, and Presidents in his

official capacity as President-elect. That is normal. What is not normal or appropriate, though, is for the public to hear afterwards that his adult children, who are slated to take over the family business, were also present.

The American public is well aware that the Trump team has a steep learning curve in understanding his role, the operation and legal allowances of our Federal Government, and he has a long way to go in separating his personal financial interests from his public financial interests. I can't say in strong enough terms we do need to have his tax filings on record, and we do need to have clarification for the American people that our Constitution must prevail.

No public official—no public official—is exempt from the law of the land, and the highest law is the Constitution of the United States. He must separate himself from his business dealings.

ST. XAVIER FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 2, my alma mater, St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, beat the odds in a true underdog story and won the Ohio high school Division I football State championship. They join the St. Xavier water polo team as State champs this year as well.

Through a tough regular season schedule, the St. X Bombers went into the final regular season game with a record of 4 and 5, needing one more win to make it to the playoffs, and they were losing at halftime. They won and went on to win five more times, ultimately beating a tough Cleveland Saint Ignatius team, in front of 13,000 people at Ohio Stadium, to win the State championship.

In one of the most thrilling high school football games, St. X won 27-20 in double overtime. In fact, three of the five playoff victories were won in overtime.

In a historic year, St. X became the first team in Ohio high school athletic history to lose five regular season games and then go on to win the State championship. The 2016 football season can teach us all something about perseverance and never giving up.

I would like to congratulate the St. Xavier players, Coach Steve Specht, and his staff, for their hard work and dedication. This win adds to a long history of sportsmanship and commitment on the field at St. Xavier High School.

Go Bombers.

CONGRATULATING DR. BEN CARSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that President-elect Donald Trump has appointed Dr. Ben Carson to serve as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, where he will promote opportunity for success for everyone.

President-elect Trump announced: "Ben Carson has a brilliant mind and is passionate about strengthening communities and families within those communities . . . Ben shares my optimism about the future of our country and is part of ensuring that this is a Presidency representing all Americans."

Dr. Carson knows that there is power in education and hard work. He earned a full scholarship to Yale University, received his doctorate from the University of Michigan, and then, at just age 33, became the director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins.

With his dear wife, Candy, he started the Carson Scholars Fund, a valuable national scholarship program to empower students from all backgrounds to strive for academic excellence and community service.

Our Nation is fortunate that Dr. Ben Carson has been nominated to this important position, and I am confident in his future success for American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

9/11 was the Pearl Harbor of our era, being a surprise attack on our civilization. President-elect Donald Trump, with Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, will lead us to victory to protect American families.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this day 75 years ago, our Nation was attacked, and war was visited upon our people. In so many places in our world, war rages still. May all leaders be empowered to work toward lasting peace, with the help of Your grace.

We ask also this day for wisdom, patience, and understanding among the

Members of this people's House. Give them the generosity of heart, and the courage of true leadership, to work as true statesmen and women, toward a common solution to the many issues facing our Nation.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BARTON 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING DR. EDUARDO J. PADRON ON RECEIVING THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Dr. Eduardo Padron, president of my alma mater, Miami Dade College, for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

As a fellow refugee who escaped the Castro regime, I was honored to help lead the effort to nominate Dr. Padron for this meritorious recognition. He has always made it his life's work to advocate on behalf of underserved populations.

Through his expert guidance and leadership, Dr. Padron has propelled Miami Dade College into national prominence by improving student access, retention, and graduation, as well as helping them with their professional achievements.

Today, MDC enrolls and graduates more minority students than any other institution of higher education in the country.

Congratulations to Dr. Padron on receiving our Nation's highest civilian honor. South Florida and the MDC community could not be more proud of you.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, my heart is in Hawaii today. At almost this exact time, on this very day 75 years ago, the first bombs were dropped in the attack on Pearl Harbor. More than 2,400 people perished on that fateful day that will forever live in infamy.

We remember our brothers and sisters who paid the ultimate price and those who answered the call to serve in the months and years that followed, including our two former Senators Inouye and Akaka, and the more than 320,000 who gave their lives in that war.

We remember the Japanese Americans whose lives were forever changed when, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, were thrown into internment camps; and the brave nisei who, in spite of these atrocities, volunteered to serve, forming the nisei-only "Go for Broke" 442nd Infantry Regiment, serving courageously and sacrificing greatly.

May we never forget what happened at Pearl Harbor, the lessons learned, and the sacrifices of all who served.

HONORING NED RANDOLPH

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a faithful public servant of Louisiana, Mr. Edward Gordon Randolph, Jr., better known as Ned, who passed away October 4, 2016, at the age of 74.

Ned was a political force in Louisiana. He served in the Louisiana House of Representatives, the Louisiana Senate, and served as mayor of his hometown, the great city of Alexandria, Louisiana.

Ned served in that capacity for over 20 years, and he had many, many accomplishments in that job. Among those was the opening of the Alexandria Riverfront Center, and advocating for the transition from England Air Force Base to England Airpark, which is still in existence. He revitalized that entire city and left behind a legacy of great, great success.

So, again, just a tribute to Ned Randolph. He will be missed.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 75th anniversary of the tragic attacks on Pearl Harbor. It is a day we reflect to remember over 2,400 Americans whose lives we lost that morning.

Today I especially remember Army Corporal Earl Wickett, a south Buffalo

native, who was stationed at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attacks. Mr. Wickett went on to fight on behalf of our Nation for over 4 years.

Following his tour, he returned home to western New York, raised a family, and continued to serve his community as a Buffalo firefighter.

Unfortunately, Mr. Wickett is no longer with us, passing away a few years ago, but his stories and acts of bravery live on.

Today I join all Americans in remembering those who paid the ultimate price at Pearl Harbor and those who sought and seek to protect our freedom here and throughout the world. This Nation is always grateful for those like Mr. Wickett, for their bravery, dedication, and selfless service.

CONGRATULATING FAIRFIELD AREA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOC- CER TEAM

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly honor my constituents, the Fairfield Area High School girls' soccer team, for earning the PIAA 1A championship. These young women have brought home the first State team sports title in Fairfield's history.

The Green Knights defeated District 7 champion, Shady Side, in a 9-4 victory, at Hersheypark Stadium, on November 18, 2016. The Green Knights finished the season with a 25-1 record and scored 27 goals in four State playoff games, including two nine-goal performances.

For a team from a small community, the Green Knights had an army of loyal supporters.

I extend my congratulations to the team, to the head coach, Phomma Phanhthy, and the school officials, family, and friends who supported these young women on this incredible journey. We are all so very proud of you.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to acknowledge the fallen on this day, December 7, at Pearl Harbor, the day of infamy, and offer to them our greatest admiration and gratitude. Our prayers continue to be with their ongoing families.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to speak about the responsibilities of public servants.

To my knowledge, Air Force One does not belong to any particular Presidency, regardless of party. Therefore, any attempt to ensure the technological sophistication and the quality of that aircraft should be left to the decisionmakers who have the responsi-

bility of protecting the President of the United States or, in essence, those who have the responsibility of governing the United States military, which includes the Congress and, certainly, our Pentagon.

I am concerned when the incoming person that will take the oath of office begins to abuse the process and suggests that this is too costly and that this company—Boeing, in particular—should be undermined.

Our job is to create and save jobs, not to destroy jobs. Our job also, Mr. Speaker, is to protect the President of the United States; and that kind of interference, uninformed, should be stopped immediately.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

(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, I rise today, on the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, to remember, in particular, the recognition of one of the survivors we still have with us, David Edward Callahan, a great northern California veteran who put his life on the line to serve in the United States Navy at a time when the world was on fire.

Less than 4 months after he reported to the U.S. naval training station in San Diego at the age of 16—he fibbed a little on his application—Mr. Callahan soon would be standing to colors aboard the USS *New Orleans* when the drone of the first Japanese aircraft was heard that morning at Pearl Harbor.

It would only be the start of his service to us in the U.S. For 6 years, he would fight the Japanese in almost every major battle of the Pacific war as a combat swimmer, which later became known as the Navy SEALs, from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima, where he was awarded a Purple Heart.

On behalf of the First District of California, we want to show our gratitude to Mr. Callahan because his service didn't end there. Later on in the Pacific nuclear proving grounds, he used his diving skills there to see how that would work in the nuclear testing that was going on at that time.

He has never stopped serving. He has never been less than an inspiration for all of us. He will be taking part in Pearl Harbor ceremonies today. We are glad to have him, and we are proud to have him as an American.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was a defining moment in our Nation's history, and, as has been said, a day that will live in infamy.

The events of Pearl Harbor demonstrated the resolve of the American people and our Armed Forces. It is a day when we honor those who gave their lives in the defense of this country, but also honor those who have saved lives of others during this tragedy.

Petty Officer Doris "Dorie" Miller, from my hometown of Waco, was one such individual who went above and beyond the call of duty in defense of this country and his fellow Americans. Dorie Miller is widely recognized as a hero after the attack on Pearl Harbor for his remarkable courage when his ship, the USS *West Virginia*, came under attack by the Japanese.

In the face of imminent danger, he assisted his ship's commander, who was mortally wounded, to safety. He then reportedly manned a .50-caliber anti-aircraft machine gun to shoot down at least 3 of the 29 Japanese planes that went down that day.

Mr. Speaker, ever since I have been a Member of Congress, I have worked time and time again to get Dorie Miller awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Yet, today he is left with still the Navy Cross. It is time we honor the unheard sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and award Dorie Miller the Congressional Medal of Honor.

WHY THE CONSTITUTION IS IMPORTANT

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the United States of America is a nation of laws, where the government derives its limited powers from "We the People," the consenting governed.

Since 1789, the Constitution has served as our country's legal foundation. Its wisdom is timeless. And just as George Washington called the Constitution the guide he would never abandon, we won't abandon it either or try to tinker unnecessarily with its brilliance.

Thanks to the foresight of the Constitution's Framers, their understanding of government overreach, and their grasp of human nature, we have an abiding document that checks the power of the Federal Government and protects the rights of individual citizens.

It is genius in its brevity, in its endurance, and in its aforethought to limit and separate the governing powers established therein.

As a Member of Congress, it is an honor and sacred duty to protect and uphold the Constitution.

□ 1215

FBI AND WALL STREET

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

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I wrote to FBI Director James Comey in September and requested the materials related to the FBI's investigations into the 2008 financial crisis. ELIZABETH WARREN joined me in this request, which we made as a result of the precedent the FBI established in a high-profile case involving a Secretary of State's emails. In citing "intense public interest" and "the interest of transparency," the FBI saw fit to provide extensive testimony to Congress and hundreds of pages of documents that gave context to its decision not to prosecute.

It has been 8 years since casino-style bets and a culture of fraud on Wall Street crashed our economy and caused millions of Americans to lose their jobs and their homes; yet no top executives were charged with crimes, and many Americans have a gnawing sense that justice has not been served. As of today, I have not received one word.

The DOJ has obtained financial settlements from major institutions, like Citigroup and Bank of America.

The American public has a clear interest and stake in understanding why the FBI did not pursue charges against the recommendations of its own commission.

RECOGNIZING THE KEYSTONE LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Pennsylvania State Little League champions, the Keystone Little League team, from Clinton County, Pennsylvania. Today, I had the privilege of hosting them for a Capitol tour, and they currently join me from the House Gallery.

The team had a remarkable 2016 season, claiming their district and sectional titles before winning the statewide championship for Pennsylvania.

As the Pennsylvania champions, they made an impressive run in the regional playoffs and came just one game short of representing the mid-Atlantic region in the Little League World Series. Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District has a rich history of great Little League players and teams, and this year's Keystone team continues that legacy. They join greats such as Specialist Ross A. McGinnis, a Medal of Honor winner and Little League Hall of Excellence inductee, and the 2011 Mid-Atlantic Little League World Series team, also the former Keystone team, which also hailed from Clinton County.

In keeping with this tradition, Keystone made their region proud through their love and dedication to America's favorite pastime—baseball. Congratulations to the players and coaches on such a great run.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION: NYPD REIMBURSEMENT FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep disappointment in the continuing resolution that was released last night.

The \$7 million appropriated to reimburse New York City for costs incurred to provide security for President-elect Trump and his family was a mere fraction of the \$35 million requested by the city and the police department.

The security efforts involved are unprecedented, and it is totally unfair to ask New York City taxpayers alone to pay for these costs. This is the second busiest intersection, not in New York City, not in New York State, but in the entire country. Over 10,000 residents per hour cross at 57th and 5th. It is a security challenge personified.

Because of this budget's failure, New Yorkers are now being forced to provide a no-interest loan to the Federal Government and have no guarantee of being paid back.

This is a terrible deal. Securing the President-elect is a national security priority, and it must be paid for by the Federal Government.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP'S PHONE CALL TO PRESIDENT TSAI

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

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise for two reasons today.

First, I honor the life of my father, Larry L. Barton. He died on this date, December 7, 1996. He was a World War II veteran and a B-24 Liberator navigator. He was based in Italy and flew 40 combat missions over Central Europe.

I also rise to commend President-elect Trump for his phone call to the President of Taiwan, President Tsai. Taiwan is a friend of the United States. We recognized Taiwan from the late 1940s to 1972. We then recognized Mainland China but maintained diplomatic relationships with Taiwan until 1978. President-elect Trump was right to make a phone call to President Tsai. They are a friend of the United States. In my opinion, there is no reason we can't have diplomatic relations with both nations. I am told that President Tsai is going to come through Texas in the fall on her way to Guatemala. I will welcome her if that trip occurs and will try to give her the hospitality that she gave me when I visited her great nation last month.

A phone call is a phone call, Mr. Speaker. I commend the President-elect for calling President Tsai. I hope this means a warming of a relationship with Taiwan.

JOSIE AND ROLLIE HEATH

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we know it is truly a privilege to serve because of the people we serve. Today, I want to acknowledge two very special constituents of mine who are retiring this year. Josie and Rollie Heath are beloved members of the community in Boulder, Colorado.

The pair moved to Boulder, Colorado, in the 1970s, where their family and love grew alongside their history of public service. In a recent newspaper article, Josie said that people say to her: Oh, now that you are retiring, you can do what you want to do.

And she thinks: Well, I have been doing what I want to do.

This month, Josie retired after 20 years as the head of The Community Foundation Boulder County. Prior to that, she was a county commissioner, and she served in the Carter and Clinton administrations. When I was 15 years old, I volunteered on her United States Senate race in 1990.

Early next month, Rollie Heath, a 23-year veteran of the Army, is retiring as a State Senator. Prior to the legislature, he had a career in international business and founded the Rocky Mountain World Trade Center.

For Rollie and Josie, their jobs weren't simply about the work they did. They were about building community. Both served on so many boards and advocated for so many just causes. Above all, they have remained true to themselves as purveyors of progress in all that they do. I am honored not only to be their Congressman but to be their friend.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate them on their life's work, and I look forward to joining them in future adventures.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM M. PETERSON

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Captain William M. Peterson of Richland, Washington, who was recently inducted into the Wall of Gallantry in the Hall of Heroes at the United States Coast Guard Academy.

While serving as an aircraft commander with the Coast Guard in July of 1982, then-Lieutenant Peterson engaged in a perilous rescue of nine survivors from an HC-130 that had crashed in bad weather on Attu Island, off the coast of Alaska. Flying in extremely hazardous conditions, with winds gusting up to 40 knots, and with visibility as low as 50 feet, Lieutenant Peterson inched his helicopter along the side of a mountain and transported nine survivors back to safety over multiple trips from the crash site.

Captain Peterson demonstrated the highest forms of courage, judgment, and unwavering devotion to duty that day. I congratulate him on this much-deserved honor. I also offer my humble appreciation to Captain Peterson for serving on my Academy Nomination Board.

Your heroic service is an inspiration to these future military leaders.

HONORING LINDA CHRISTLE

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Linda Christle, who is retiring as executive director of Economic Development Sedalia-Pettis County.

She has faithfully served the community of Sedalia for the past 12 years. Throughout her tenure as executive director, Linda has achieved many accomplishments, including the creation of three enhanced enterprise zones, resulting in over 50 companies benefiting and growing their businesses in her community. Additionally, this past year, the community was able to complete its third strategic plan in 15 years. As a result, multiple task forces were established to enhance the community, which also led to the eventual creation of the entrepreneurial program called 1 Million Cups.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to congratulate and to thank Linda Christle for her years of distinguished service in Sedalia and Pettis County. I am blessed to represent her in Congress, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

MEDIACRATS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we need a new word for the dictionary, a new term for the merger of the liberal media and the Democratic Party.

Obviously, the liberal media have no intention of treating President-elect Trump objectively or fairly. They want to continue to link arms with the Democrats. This is no surprise, given that 96 percent of national reporters' contributions went to Hillary Clinton.

As chairman of the Media Fairness Caucus, here is my proposal: let's combine the two words—"media" and "Democrat"—and go with "mediacrat." It is short; it gives the media first mention; and it sounds like a new species. Now, I realize the liberal media is not likely to use this word "mediacrat" very often, but there are two reasons for them to do so—first, to show they have a sense of humor, and, second, to show they have a sense of humility.

I think most Americans would be happy if the liberal media didn't display their bias every time they covered

the President-elect. Maybe the mediacrats should try balanced reporting. It surely would help their credibility.

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW MUST BE ENFORCED

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, a disturbing trend has developed of leading universities in their promoting lawlessness by refusing to comply with Federal immigration law; so, today, I am introducing the Federal Immigration Law Compliance Act of 2016, with co-sponsors from California to New York to Florida.

This act requires any entity that receives Federal funds, including institutions of higher learning, to comply with all lawful requests made by Federal immigration enforcement authorities. Should the entity refuse to comply with Federal immigration enforcement requests, all Federal funding can be withheld. For instance, the University of Pennsylvania, which charges \$51,000 tuition, despite its having an endowment of \$10.7 billion, would stand to lose \$700 million in Federal grants if they were to choose to continue their policy of not complying with Federal immigration law.

Congress has the responsibility to protect the rule of law in our country and to provide for the safety of our citizens. The American people have spoken loudly in this past election that they want Federal immigration law enforced. Shame on those universities that take Federal money and then promote lawlessness.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5143, TRANSPARENT INSURANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 9, 2016, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2017; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 944 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 944

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5143) to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-68 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All

points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; (2) the further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress after December 8, 2016—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 4. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII.

SEC. 6. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of December 8, 2016, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

□ 1230

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 944 provides for consideration of H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016. The resolution provides for a structured rule. This legislation is an important effort to protect the U.S. model of insurance supervision, provide for improved oversight,

and keep the U.S. insurance industry strong and competitive.

For over 150 years, individual States have successfully regulated insurance and coordinated their activities. This model has worked and ensured that the focus remains on the consumer.

Well, when Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Act back in 2010, the Federal Government assumed a new role in the regulation of the insurance industry. This change included the creation of the Federal Insurance Office, otherwise known as FIO, and charged FIO with representing the interests of U.S. insurers—not consumers, insurers—during the negotiation of any international agreements.

The change also allowed for both the FIO Director and the Federal Reserve to participate in an international organization known as the International Association of Insurance Supervisors. Previously, insurance regulators from the individual States participated in the international discussions. Remember, the State insurance regulators are there to protect consumers.

The International Association of Insurance Supervisors is responsible for developing regulatory guidelines and best practices for insurance supervisors around the world to adopt. Europe and the United States have very different regulatory models for insurance.

Recently, the European Union has developed a regulatory protocol known as Solvency II. Solvency II is significantly different from the successful State-based insurance regulatory system that has been successful in the U.S. for the last 150 years. The fear is that the International Association of Insurance Supervisors will adopt Solvency II as the gold standard, which would put U.S. insurers and consumers at a severe disadvantage.

More alarming, the Treasury Department and the U.S. Trade Representative are already engaged in negotiations with the European Union regarding a “covered agreement” over insurance regulations. If based on the Solvency II model, this could severely hurt the U.S. insurance industry and consumers.

That is where our legislation comes in. The Transparent Insurance Standards Act simply enhances Congress’ oversight of international deliberations relating to insurance standards. The bill sets reasonable requirements that must be met before the United States can agree to accept, establish, or enter into the adoption of any international insurance standard. The same requirements would be followed throughout any negotiations over a covered agreement with the European Union.

To be clear, this bill would not stop the international process. It simply will ensure that the United States is leading on the issues instead of being led by foreign governments.

This bill also requires that the Federal Insurance Office and the Federal Reserve report and testify before Con-

gress at least twice a year about ongoing negotiations.

I appreciate Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Chairman HENSARLING for their leadership on this very important issue, and I hope we can come together to pass this very important legislation.

I just don’t understand why anyone would be opposed to greater congressional oversight over such an important issue. Adoption of these standards or entering into an agreement with the European Union could fundamentally alter the U.S. insurance industry and, yes, hurt consumers. It only makes sense for the democratically elected Congress to play a role in the process.

This legislation is simply about improving oversight and protecting the State-based model of insurance regulation that has held up so well in our country over the last 150 years and has enjoyed wide, bipartisan support. Most importantly, this bill is about ensuring the concerns of the American people come first, not the worries of some foreign government or group.

I urge my colleagues to protect insurance consumers across America by supporting House Resolution 944 and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding to me the customary 30 minutes for debate.

I rise to debate the rule for consideration of H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016. At best, this bill is unnecessary. At worst, it will harm our ability to reach vital international agreements to protect our financial system.

Mr. Speaker, the 2008 financial crisis and the subsequent Great Recession was the worst financial disaster in our Nation’s history since the Great Depression. Nearly 9 million Americans lost their jobs, doubling the unemployment rate. More than 11 million Americans lost their homes to foreclosures. Home values dropped more than 30 percent. Our Nation lost more than \$13 trillion in economic output. To put that in perspective, that is the equivalent of losing a year’s gross domestic product.

From this disaster, we learned many lessons and passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to ensure that we are better able to prevent such a financial calamity from occurring again.

One lesson we learned was the significant risk posed to our financial system by potentially unstable, large, globally active insurance companies, as demonstrated by the near collapse of AIG. As a result, commonsense reforms to the insurance industry were put in place, including the creation of the Federal Insurance Office to coordinate Federal efforts, develop policy, and represent the United States in the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

This office, along with new authorities for the Federal Reserve and the

Department of the Treasury, allow our regulators to work to ensure that our unique insurance regulatory regime provides stability in our financial system, both nationally and globally. Now, however, the majority seems to have forgotten the lessons of the 2008 financial crisis.

Mr. Speaker, at best, this legislation is unnecessary. Under the guise of transparency, H.R. 5143 would require additional public notice and comment regarding potential agreements on international insurance standards. But such international agreements would only take effect domestically after regulations were promulgated in accordance with U.S. law, which already includes a notice and comment period. The transparency this bill is seeking is already enshrined in our rulemaking process.

Then, at worst, this bill will harm U.S. negotiators by tying their hands and making setting workable insurance standards nearly impossible to achieve. Mr. Speaker, by requiring our negotiators to seek consensus positions with all 50 State insurance commissioners, this bill weakens the United States’ ability to work with other countries to improve the regulation of large global insurance companies. By placing unnecessary, counterproductive, and overly cumbersome reporting and negotiating requirements on the Federal Reserve and Treasury, we will not be able to achieve the global insurance stability we need to prevent future financial disasters.

As we approach the end of the 114th Congress, I am dismayed to see that consideration of this bill is how the majority has decided we should spend what few precious legislative days remain. I guess my dismay carries over from last night’s so-called impeachment consideration of the IRS Commissioner, who will be gone from office by the time they could get through this process. I was pleased to see the chairman of the Judiciary Committee refer it to his committee, where I am sure it will die.

It just seems that we get to this important juncture and we find ourselves caught up in bumper sticker politics, as we have for most of the session of the 114th Congress. It appears that, in the final hours of this Congress, the majority is attempting to throw up roadblocks to prevent commonsense financial regulations aimed at preventing large insurance companies from once again threatening the stability of our economy.

The American people—all of them, Republican and Democrat—deserve better. Assuredly, we can anticipate that if this measure were to become law—and I predict it won’t—but if it were to become law, then I can see us, at some point, faced with another serious financial crisis.

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

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

I have listened to my colleague from Florida's remarks, and I certainly understand the concern that we all have with the aftermath of the Great Recession of 2008. But there are many of us who believe that the Dodd-Frank law, which contains the provision that we are trying to affect here, really did things that went way outside of what we should have been doing to try to prevent another recession from happening again.

How does ceding control over the U.S. insurance market to foreign governments and groups help our economy or help prevent a future recession? How does a bill like the underlying bill, that protects consumers and provides congressional oversight, hurt our economy? How does that not help our economy, help the consumers?

□ 1245

This bill is necessary because the United States faces losing control over our insurance that is so very important to everybody in the United States of America.

My colleague talked about State insurance departments. One thing we have seen these last several years is a steady effort to take power away from State governments, which is, frankly, contrary to the intent of our Constitution.

Our State governments do very important things, like they are the primary providers for public education. But they are also the primary regulators for insurance, and they have done a good job of that. We have 150 years of experience with that. We have bipartisan support for that. Why would we be taking power away from them? Why isn't continuing to allow them to have that power and utilize it as each State sees fit, why isn't that a good thing?

Finally, my colleague talked about how, at the end of this Congress, we are doing bumper sticker things. Well, I believe that passing, with a huge bipartisan vote, the National Defense Authorization Act last week was a good thing. If that is a bumper sticker, I want that bumper sticker.

We passed, last week, the 21st Century Cures Act that I really believe is going to save lives. If that is a bumper sticker, I want that bumper sticker.

And I predict on the floor tomorrow we are going to take a WRDA bill for everybody in the United States that is going to enhance the well-being of people all over this country. That is another bumper sticker I will be happy to have on my car.

So I appreciate my colleague's remarks. He knows the tremendous respect that I have for him, but I respectfully disagree with the premise for his arguments.

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

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

My colleague from Alabama and I do have mutual respect for each other,

and I agree with him the three measures that he cited, and I can cite others during the course of the 114th that were substantive legislation that rightly we should have bipartisan support for and did, and I agree with him that the WRDA bill will be one that we could equally wear proudly on our bumper stickers.

The point that I was making was that we spent a good portion of the 114th Congress, number one, doing nothing. We didn't even make any bumper stickers because we weren't here that often to undertake to do anything. At the very same time, many of the things that we did fell in the category, at least as I perceive it, of being bumper sticker measures: 60-plus times repealing the Affordable Care Act, knowing full well that the sitting President was not going to sign anything, so all we did it for was for certain people to have talking points. Now, we are entitled; that is a part of what politics is. But make no mistake about it: we did a lot of bumper sticker legislation in the last session because a lot of it went nowhere, and a lot of it was done during a period that we should have been about the business of substantive legislation.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up a bill that would close a tax loophole that rewards companies for moving jobs overseas and would, instead, provide a tax credit for companies that move jobs back to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), the bill's sponsor and my good friend, to discuss our proposal.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule.

In the waning days of the 114th Congress, here we are debating a bill once again to roll back Wall Street reforms. This is what it comes down to.

How tone deaf can we be? Here is a news flash: the whole country is focused on defending blue-collar jobs, bolstering our industrial manufacturing base. Folks are zoned in on that, focused on that issue. So we need to stop outsourcing now.

This Congress should start by defeating the previous question and bringing up the Bring Jobs Home Act. Around 5 million United States manufacturing jobs have been lost since 1994, good-paying jobs. Their loss has led to a somewhat demise of the middle class in America. Just ask folks in places like Ohio and Pennsylvania, who have seen steel mills and rubber factories shipped

overseas. My hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, was formerly the hub of the textile manufacturing industry, which no longer exists.

So why are we subsidizing it? Why are we subsidizing American companies to move to other shores? That is what we are doing. Right now, when companies move overseas, they can take a tax deduction for the cost of the move. That is a huge tax break. How do we defend it and why do we defend it?

So the bill that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) referred to eliminates this tax deduction and gives a tax credit of up to 20 percent of the cost of moving businesses, bringing businesses back to the United States of America through U.S. companies. That seems to me to make more sense. Why are we paying folks to leave when we could be paying them to get back into this country? I don't know how you disagree with that.

The companies would have to add jobs to claim the tax credit. That is the caveat. I think it works. I ask you to consider it. Let's stop subsidizing companies that ship jobs overseas and start bringing jobs back to our shores. Let's stop talking about it. Let's do something about it. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't get much simpler than that.

This is not a new idea at all. President Obama and the Democrats in Congress have raised this bill for years, and the Republican Congress has blocked the bill at every turn. Senator STABENOW of Michigan leads this bill in the Senate, where it cleared a procedural vote 93-7 in 2014.

I challenge you today to take up and pass the bill, to stand up for American manufacturing and the workers here at home who need help. Don't be all talk. Step up to the plate. Take a stand where it counts.

I urge a "no" vote on the previous question so we can bring up the Bring Jobs Home Act and start bringing jobs back to the United States of America, the greatest country in the world.

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

This bill, the underlying bill, has nothing to do with Wall Street and everything to do with consumers, so I respectfully disagree with my colleague from New Jersey. I know that it would be good for them to try to characterize this bill as something having to do with Wall Street, but it really has to do with you and me and the average people in this country.

I listened to his remarks about his proposal regarding doing things to try to keep American companies from going abroad and doing everything we can to attract other companies abroad, whether they are U.S. based or not, to come back here. That sounds a whole lot like what President-elect Trump is saying, and I think it is pretty clear that that is going to be a big priority for him when we come back in January.

Now, we had been talking about tax reform here in this House, and there is

a proposal moving forward that is comprehensive that will not only provide the appropriate incentives for American companies to stay here, but also provide incentives for companies that are in other countries to come here and provide jobs for the American people, which is really what this is all about.

Our tax reform proposal would actually lower tax rates for everybody in America, and we should be about that as well. Instead, our friends on the other side of the aisle, every time we talk about tax reform, they want to stick some tax increases in there.

The American people don't want a tax increase. They are tired of tax increases. They are tired of the over-extension of the Federal Government, and they are tired of ceding control over things in America to international governments and groups. What the underlying bill does is it keeps control over our domestic insurance market here in America and doesn't give that control, doesn't give any of that authority to people in other countries.

I listened with interest to the remarks that were just made. I am looking forward to President-elect Trump being President Trump so that we can have a comprehensive approach to keeping American businesses here and attracting more businesses here for more jobs. I believe that is exactly what we are going to see during this very exciting year to come.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

As my friend from Alabama knows, we are currently debating the rule. This is a tool used to set the House's agenda and to prioritize consideration of legislation. For that very reason, this is, in fact, the appropriate time for us to explain to the American people what legislation we would like to prioritize and what agenda we would like to pursue in this House. That is why we have a previous question.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman will also be pleased to learn that our amendment does not prevent the House from considering the majority's bill. Our amendment simply allows the House to consider our bill as well. As Mr. PASCRELL pointed out, it is not as if this isn't something that hasn't been brought up for the last 2 years; and therefore, I join the gentleman in his excitement about the possibilities going forward of us being able to address this legislation, but now is the time that we can do it if we were to vote the previous question as requested.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me reiterate that the bill before us is unnecessary; it is a waste of valuable time; and if it were ever to be enacted into law, which I predict it won't, it would be harmful to our country's fiscal well-being. Let me go back and put a caveat there. It won't become the law in the 114th session. It may very well pass the 115th session.

We need to protect and wisely continue to implement commonsense regulations and oversight passed in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis to ensure it doesn't happen again. I urge my colleagues to oppose the rule and the underlying measure.

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I want to go back to some remarks I made at the very beginning. No one wants to see a repeat of the Great Recession. It harmed everybody in this country. But in response to it, by passing the Dodd-Frank law, which this provision is going to try to affect, we essentially took a liberal grab bag of ideas that have been hanging around for years and just threw it into a bill and then tried to pretend that somehow that was going to have something to do with preventing a future recession.

□ 1300

Virtually everything that is in the Dodd-Frank law has nothing to do with preventing a future recession, and the particular provision that we are talking about with the underlying bill has nothing to do with preventing a future recession. What it does do is take the bill we have right now—not the underlying bill but the law we have right now—and take authority away from the American people.

We have sat back the last several years and watched this administration go through negotiation and agreement after agreement that were bad for the American people. My colleague and I have agreed over and over again that the Iran deal was a bad deal for the American people. So why would we continue to cede control to foreign governments and groups?

I think the election that we just had was, in part, about taking control of our country back—taking it back from Federal overreach and taking it back from ceding authority to people in other countries.

This bill, the underlying bill that this rule deals with, gets that authority back for the American people and gets the control back to the States, where it has been successful for 150 years. That is what is good for the American people, and that is why we have chosen to bring this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 944 and the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 944 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC 7. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2963) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage domestic insourcing and discourage foreign

outsourcing. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 8. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 2963.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the lime will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he

then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.”

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled “Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.” (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: “Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.”

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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, December 7, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. 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 December 7, 2016, at 12:24 p.m.:

Appointments:
United States-China Economic Security Review Commission
Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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 on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

INDIAN EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND RELATED SERVICES CON- SOLIDATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 329) to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 329

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 “Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF SHORT TITLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 note; 106 Stat. 2302) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992.’”

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in law to the ‘Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992’ shall be deemed to be a reference to the ‘Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992’.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

Section 2 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking “The purposes of this Act are to demonstrate how Indian tribal governments can” and inserting “The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes and tribal organizations to”;

(2) by inserting “from diverse Federal sources” after “they provide”;

(3) by striking “and serve tribally-determined” and inserting “, and serve tribally determined”; and

(4) by inserting “, while reducing administrative, reporting, and accounting costs” after “policy of self-determination”.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3402), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribe’ have the meaning given the term ‘Indian tribe’ in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

“(B) INCLUSION.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ includes tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)).”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means a program described in section 5(a).”.

SEC. 5. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AUTHORIZED.

Section 4 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25

U.S.C. 3403), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AUTHORIZED.

“The Secretary shall, after approving a plan submitted by an Indian tribe in accordance with section 8, authorize the Indian tribe to, in accordance with the plan—

“(1) integrate the programs and Federal funds received by the Indian tribe in accordance with waiver authority granted under section 7(d); and

“(2) coordinate the employment, training, and related services provided with those funds in a consolidated and comprehensive tribal plan.”.

SEC. 6. PROGRAMS AFFECTED AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Section 5 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3404), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. PROGRAMS AFFECTED.

“(a) PROGRAMS AFFECTED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The programs that may be integrated pursuant to a plan approved under section 8 shall be only programs—

“(A) implemented for the purpose of—

“(i) job training;

“(ii) welfare to work and tribal work experience;

“(iii) creating or enhancing employment opportunities;

“(iv) skill development;

“(v) assisting Indian youth and adults to succeed in the workforce;

“(vi) encouraging self-sufficiency;

“(vii) familiarizing individual participants with the world of work;

“(viii) facilitating the creation of job opportunities;

“(ix) economic development; or

“(x) any services related to the activities described in clauses (i) through (x); and

“(B) under which an Indian tribe or members of an Indian tribe—

“(i) are eligible to receive funds—

“(I) under a statutory or administrative formula making funds available to an Indian tribe; or

“(II) due to their status as Indians under Federal law; or

“(ii) have secured funds as a result of a competitive process, a noncompetitive process, or a specific designation.

“(2) TREATMENT OF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.—For purposes of this section, programs funded by block grant funds provided to an Indian tribe, regardless of whether the block grant is for the benefit of the Indian tribe because of the status of the Indian tribe or the status of the beneficiaries the grant serves, shall be eligible to be integrated into the plan.

“(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, after the Secretary approves a plan submitted by an Indian tribe or tribal organization under section 8, authorize the Indian tribe or tribal organization, as applicable, to coordinate, in accordance with the plan, federally funded employment, training, and related services programs and funding in a manner that integrates the programs and funding into a consolidated and comprehensive program.”.

SEC. 7. PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

Section 6 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25

U.S.C. 3405), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

“A plan submitted to the Secretary for approval under this Act shall—

“(1) identify the programs to be integrated and consolidated;

“(2) be consistent with the purposes of this Act;

“(3) describe—

“(A) a comprehensive strategy identifying the full range of potential employment opportunities on and near the service area of the Indian tribe;

“(B) the education, training, and related services to be provided to assist Indians to access those employment opportunities;

“(C) the way in which services and program funds are to be integrated, consolidated, and delivered; and

“(D) the results expected, including the expected number of program participants in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program, from the plan;

“(4) identify the projected expenditures under the plan in a single budget covering all consolidated funds;

“(5) identify any agency of the Indian tribe to be involved in the delivery of the services integrated under the plan;

“(6) identify any statutory provisions, regulations, policies, or procedures that the Indian tribe believes need to be waived to implement the plan; and

“(7) be approved by the governing body of the Indian tribe.”.

SEC. 8. PLAN REVIEW; WAIVER AUTHORITY; AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

Section 7 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3406), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7 PLAN REVIEW.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of a plan from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall consult with—

“(1) the head of each Federal agency overseeing a program identified in the plan; and

“(2) the Indian tribe that submitted the plan.

“(b) IDENTIFICATION OF WAIVERS.—The parties identified in subsection (a) shall identify any waivers of applicable statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirements, or of Federal agency policies or procedures necessary to enable the Indian tribe to efficiently implement the plan.

“(c) TRIBAL WAIVER REQUEST.—In consultation with the Secretary, a participating Indian tribe may request that the head of each affected agency waive any statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirement, policy, or procedure identified subsection (b).

“(d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of each affected Federal agency shall waive any applicable statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirement, regulation, policy, or procedure promulgated by the agency that has been identified by the parties under subparagraph (b).

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The head of an affected Federal agency shall not grant a waiver under paragraph (1) if the head of the affected agency determines that a waiver will be inconsistent with—

“(A) the purposes of this Act; or

“(B) the provision of law from which the program included in the plan derives its authority that is specifically applicable to Indians.

“(e) DECISION ON WAIVER REQUEST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the head of an affected agency receives

a waiver request, the head of the affected agency shall decide whether to grant or deny the request.

“(2) DENIAL OF REQUEST.—If the head of the affected agency denies a waiver request, not later than 30 days after the date on which the denial is made, the head of the affected agency shall provide the requesting Indian tribe and the Secretary with written notice of the denial and the reasons for the denial.

“(3) FAILURE TO ACT ON REQUEST.—If the head of an affected agency does not make a decision under paragraph (1) by the deadline identified in that paragraph, the request shall be considered to be granted.

“(f) SECRETARIAL REVIEW.—If the head of an affected agency denies a waiver request under subsection (e)(2), not later than 30 days after the date on which the request is denied, the Secretary shall review the denial and determine whether granting the waiver—

“(1) will be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act; or

“(2) will prevent the affected agency from fulfilling the obligations of the affected agency under this Act.

“(g) INTERAGENCY DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary determines that granting the waiver will not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and will not prevent the affected agency from fulfilling the obligations of the affected agency under this Act, the Secretary shall establish and initiate an interagency dispute resolution process involving—

“(A) the Secretary;

“(B) the participating Indian tribe; and

“(C) the head of the affected agency.

“(2) DURATION.—A dispute subject to paragraph (1) shall be resolved not later than 30 days after the date on which the process is initiated.

“(h) FINAL AUTHORITY.—If the dispute resolution process fails to resolve the dispute between a participating Indian tribe and an affected agency, the head of the affected agency shall have the final authority to resolve the dispute.

“(i) FINAL DECISION.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the dispute is resolved under this section, the Secretary shall provide the requesting Indian tribe with—

“(1) the final decision on the waiver request; and

“(2) notice of the right to file an appeal in accordance with the applicable provisions described in section 8(d).”.

SEC. 9. PLAN APPROVAL; SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY; REVIEW OF DECISION.

Section 8 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3407), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. PLAN APPROVAL; SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY; REVIEW OF DECISION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall have exclusive authority to approve or disapprove a plan submitted by an Indian tribe in accordance with section 6.

“(b) APPROVAL PROCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a plan, the Secretary shall, after coordinating with the Secretary of each Federal agency providing funds to be used to implement the plan, approve or deny the plan.

“(2) APPROVAL.—If the Secretary approves a plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall authorize the transfer of program funds identified in the plan in accordance with section 13.

“(3) DENIAL.—If the Secretary denies the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe a written noti-

fication of disapproval of the plan that contains a specific finding that clearly demonstrates, or that is supported by a controlling legal authority, that the plan does not meet the requirements described in section 6.

“(4) PARTIAL APPROVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan is denied under paragraph (3) solely on the basis that a request for a waiver that is part of the plan has not been approved (or is subject to dispute resolution) under section 7, the Secretary shall, upon a request from the tribe, grant partial approval for those portions of the plan not affected by the request for a waiver.

“(B) APPROVAL AFTER RESOLUTION.—With respect to a plan described in subparagraph (A), on resolution of the request for a waiver under section 7, the Secretary shall, on a request from the tribe, approve the plan or amended plan not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the request.

“(5) FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Secretary does not make a decision under paragraph (1) within 90 days of the date on which the Secretary receives the plan, the plan shall be considered to be approved.

“(c) EXTENSION OF TIME.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may extend or otherwise alter the 90-day period identified in subsection (b)(1) for not more than 90 additional days, if, before the expiration of the period, the Secretary obtains the express written consent of the Indian tribe.

“(d) REVIEW OF DENIAL.—

“(1) PROCEDURE UPON REFUSAL TO APPROVE PLAN.—If the Secretary denies a plan under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall—

“(A) state any objections in writing to the Indian tribe;

“(B) provide assistance to the Indian tribe to overcome the stated objections; and

“(C) unless the Indian tribe brings a civil action under paragraph (2), provide the Indian tribe with a hearing on the record with the right to engage in full discovery relevant to any issue raised in the matter and the opportunity for appeal on the objections raised, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may promulgate.

“(2) CIVIL ACTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The district courts of the United States shall have original jurisdiction of a civil action against the appropriate Secretary arising under this section.

“(B) ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING AND APPEAL NOT REQUIRED.—An Indian tribe may bring a civil action under this paragraph without regard to whether the Indian tribe had a hearing or filed an appeal under paragraph (1).

“(C) RELIEF.—In an action brought under this paragraph, the court may order appropriate relief (including injunctive relief to reverse a denial of a plan under this section or to compel an officer or employee of the United States, or any agency thereof, to perform a duty provided under this Act or regulations promulgated thereunder) against any action by an officer or employee of the United States or any agency thereof contrary to this Act or regulations promulgated thereunder.

“(3) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a decision by an official of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Health and Human Services, as appropriate (collectively referred to in this paragraph as the ‘Department’) that constitutes final agency action and that relates to an appeal within the Department that is conducted under paragraph (1)(C) shall be made—

“(A) by an official of the Department who holds a position at a higher organizational level within the Department than the level of the departmental agency (such as the Indian Health Service or the Bureau of Indian

Affairs) in which the decision that is the subject of the appeal was made; or

“(B) by an administrative law judge.”.

SEC. 10. EMPLOYER TRAINING PLACEMENTS.

Section 10 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3409), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act may use the funds made available for the plan under this Act—

“(1) to place participants in training positions with employers; and

“(2) to pay the participants a training allowance or wage for a training period of not more than 24 months, which may be non-consecutive.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—An Indian tribe may carry out subsection (a) only if the Indian tribe enters into a written agreement with each applicable employer under which the employer shall agree—

“(1) to provide on-the-job training to the participants; and

“(2) on satisfactory completion of the training period described in subsection (a)(2), to prioritize the provision of permanent employment to the participants.”.

SEC. 11. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 11 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3410), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“(A) LEAD AGENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the lead agency responsible for implementation of this Act shall be the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The responsibilities of the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in carrying out this Act shall include—

“(A) in coordination with the head of each Federal agency overseeing a program identified in the plan, the development of a single model report for each Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act to submit to the Director reports on any consolidated activities undertaken and joint expenditures made under the plan;

“(B) the provision, directly or through contract, of appropriate voluntary and technical assistance to participating Indian tribes;

“(C) the development and use of a single monitoring and oversight system for plans approved under this Act;

“(D)(i) the receipt of all funds covered by a plan approved under this Act; and

“(ii) the distribution of the funds to the respective Indian tribes by not later than 45 days after the date of receipt of the funds from the appropriate Federal department or agency; and

“(E)(i) the performance of activities described in section 7 relating to agency waivers; and

“(ii) the establishment of an interagency dispute resolution process.

“(3) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016, the Secretary (acting through the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs), in conjunction with the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs and the Attorney General, shall enter into an interdepartmental memorandum of agreement providing for the implementation of this Act.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The memorandum of agreement under subparagraph (A) shall include provisions relating to—

“(i) an annual meeting of participating Indian tribes and Federal departments and agencies, to be co-chaired by—

“(I) a representative of the President; and

“(II) a representative of the participating Indian tribes;

“(ii) an annual review of the achievements under this Act, including the number and percentage of program participants in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program, and any statutory, regulatory, administrative, or policy obstacles that prevent participating Indian tribes from fully and efficiently carrying out the purposes of this Act; and

“(iii) a forum comprised of participating Indian tribes and Federal departments and agencies to identify and resolve interagency conflicts and conflicts between the Federal Government and Indian tribes in the administration of this Act.

“(b) REPORT FORMAT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall develop and distribute to Indian tribes that have in place an approved plan under this Act a single report format, in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The lead agency shall ensure that the report format developed under paragraph (1), together with records maintained by each participating Indian tribe, contains information sufficient—

“(A) to determine whether the Indian tribe has complied with the requirements of the approved plan of the Indian tribe;

“(B) to determine the number and percentage of program participants in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program; and

“(C) to provide assurances to the head of each applicable Federal department or agency that the Indian tribe has complied with all directly applicable statutory and regulatory requirements not waived under section 7.

“(3) LIMITATION.—The report format developed under paragraph (1) shall not require a participating Indian tribe to report on the expenditure of funds expressed by fund source or single agency code transferred to the Indian tribe under an approved plan under this Act but instead shall require the Indian tribe to submit a single report on the expenditure of consolidated funds under such plan.”.

SEC. 12. NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.

Section 12 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3411), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In no case shall the amount of Federal funds available to an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act be reduced as a result of—

“(1) the enactment of this Act; or

“(2) the approval or implementation of a plan of an Indian tribe under this Act.

“(b) INTERACTION WITH OTHER LAWS.—The inclusion of a program in a tribal plan under this Act shall not—

“(1) modify, limit, or otherwise affect the eligibility of the program for contracting under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.); or

“(2) eliminate the applicability of any provision of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), as the provision relates to a specific program eligible for contracting under that Act.”.

SEC. 13. TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Section 13 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25

U.S.C. 3412), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date of apportionment to the applicable Federal department or agency, the head of a Federal agency overseeing a program identified in a plan approved under this Act shall transfer to the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for distribution to an Indian tribe any funds identified in the approved plan of the Indian tribe.

“(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, at the request of the Indian tribe, all program funds transferred to an Indian tribe in accordance with the approved plan of the Indian tribe shall be transferred to the Indian tribe pursuant to an existing contract, compact, or funding agreement awarded pursuant to title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).”.

SEC. 14. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.

Section 14 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3413), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (d);

(2) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) CONSOLIDATION AND REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all amounts transferred to a tribe pursuant to an approved plan may be consolidated, reallocated, and rebudgeted as specified in the approved plan to best meet the employment, training, and related needs of the local community served by the Indian tribe.

“(B) AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS.—The amounts used to carry out a plan approved under this Act shall be administered in such manner as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to ensure the amounts are spent on activities authorized under the approved plan.

“(C) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section interferes with the ability of the Secretary or the lead agency to use accounting procedures that conform to generally accepted accounting principles, auditing procedures, and safeguarding of funds that conform to chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Single Audit Act of 1984’).

“(2) SEPARATE RECORDS AND AUDITS NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations and circulars of any agency (including Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133)), an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act shall not be required—

“(A) to maintain separate records that trace any service or activity conducted under the approved plan to the program for which the funds were initially authorized or transferred;

“(B) to allocate expenditures among such a program; or

“(C) to audit expenditures by the original source of the program.

“(b) CARRYOVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any funds transferred to an Indian tribe under this Act that are not obligated or expended prior to the beginning of the fiscal year after the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated shall remain available for obligation or expenditure without fiscal year limitation, subject to the condition that the funds shall be obligated or

expended in accordance with the approved plan of the Indian tribe.

“(2) NO ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION.—The Indian tribe shall not be required to provide any additional justification or documentation of the purposes of the approved plan as a condition of receiving or expending the funds.

“(c) INDIRECT COSTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an Indian tribe shall be entitled to recover 100 percent of any indirect costs incurred by the Indian tribe as a result of the transfer of funds to the Indian tribe under this Act.”; and

(3) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—

(A) by striking “All administrative” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—All administrative”; and
(B) by striking “regulations”)” and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting the following: “regulations).

“(2) TREATMENT.—The amount equal to the difference between the amount of the commingled funds and the actual administrative cost of the programs, as described in paragraph (1), shall be considered to be properly spent for Federal audit purposes if the amount is used to achieve the purposes of this Act.

“(e) MATCHING FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds transferred to an Indian tribe under this Act shall be treated as non-Federal funds for purposes of meeting matching requirements under any other Federal law, except those administered by the Department of Labor or the Department of Health and Human Services.

“(f) CLAIMS.—The following provisions of law shall apply to plans approved under this Act:

“(1) Section 314 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1991 (Public Law 101-512; 104 Stat. 1959).

“(2) Chapter 171 of title 28 (commonly known as the ‘Federal Tort Claims Act’).

“(g) INTEREST OR OTHER INCOME.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe shall be entitled to retain interest earned on any funds transferred to the tribe under an approved plan and such interest shall not diminish the amount of funds the Indian tribe is authorized to receive under the plan in the year the interest is earned or in any subsequent fiscal year.

“(2) PRUDENT INVESTMENT.—Funds transferred under a plan shall be managed in accordance with the prudent investment standard.”.

SEC. 15. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ON INDIAN WORK FORCE.

Section 17(a) of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3416(a)), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and all that follows through “manner,” and inserting “The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary, Indian tribes, and the Director of the Bureau of the Census, shall”; and

(2) by striking “, by gender;”.

SEC. 16. REPEALS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REPEALS.—Sections 15 and 16 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3414, 3415), as amended by section 2 of this Act, are repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sections 17 and 18 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3416, 3417) (as amended by this Act) are redesignated as sections 15 and 16, respectively.

SEC. 17. EFFECT OF ACT.

Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act—

(1) affects any plan approved under the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.) (as so redesignated) before the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) requires any Indian tribe or tribal organization to resubmit a plan described in paragraph (1); or

(3) modifies the effective period of any plan described in paragraph (1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act, will empower tribes and tribal organizations to offer workforce development issues that uplift Native communities throughout the country. This bipartisan legislation will make the tribal 477 program permanent and make improvements to its administration.

The 477 program was established in 1992—by the way, I was the sponsor of that legislation at that time, also—as a demonstration program. It allows tribes to combine employment, child care, and job training funding from a variety of Federal sources to conduct consolidated, comprehensive reporting. This has enabled tribes to run innovative programs and saved both the tribes and the Federal Government money and resources.

I would suggest respectfully that this is a great piece of legislation. The 477 program embodies tribal self-determination by allowing tribes to provide opportunities tailored to the unique needs of their communities. Significant education and training needs exist in Indian country, and the 477 program has a proven track record of success. This is particularly true in Alaska, where the Cook Inlet Tribal Council has pioneered a smart model that provides holistic services, all under one roof, for individuals and families.

My bill improves accounting procedures and reporting mechanisms to uphold the original intent of the program, ensures that agencies treat tribes fairly, and sets a foundation for participants’ continued success.

I especially, at this time, would like to thank the members of the 477 tribal work group who, over the past 4 years, have been dedicated to developing and advancing this legislation. Without the

work group’s tireless advocacy, this bill would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA and their staffs for their work on the bill and commitment to advancing it through the process. I would specifically like to recognize Ken Degenfelder on Chairman BISHOP’s staff and Alex Ortiz on my staff.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to Chairman BRADY, Chairman KLINE, and Chairman GOODLATTE and their staffs for working together on the committee on which I serve to improve this bill.

I would like to thank them for agreeing to help expedite consideration of this bill today, and I urge adoption of H.R. 329.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE,

Washington, DC, December 5, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Education and the Workforce with regard to H.R. 329 on those matters within my committee’s jurisdiction and making improvements to the legislation to address concerns.

In the interest of expediting the House’s consideration of H.R. 329, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will forgo further consideration of this bill. However, I do so only with the understanding this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice my committee’s jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee Report on H.R. 329 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,

Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 16, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016. The bill was sequentially referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Education and the Workforce until December 8, 2016.

I understand our staffs have been able to negotiate out text that is agreeable to you. Therefore, I ask that you allow the Committee on Ways and Means to be discharged

from further consideration of the bill before December 8, 2016, so that this revised text for H.R. 329 may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to submit this letter and any response to the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you next Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,

*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I write with respect to H.R. 329, the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015," on which the Committee on Ways and Means received a sequential referral.

I appreciate your willingness to work with my Committee on this legislation. In order to allow H.R. 329 to move expeditiously to the House floor, I agree to forgo a markup of this bill. The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with our mutual understanding that by forgoing consideration of H.R. 329 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,

Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,

*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 16, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016. The bill was sequentially referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Education and the Workforce until December 8, 2016.

I understand our staffs have been able to negotiate out text that is agreeable to you. Therefore, I ask that you allow the Committee on Ways and Means to be discharged from further consideration of the bill before December 8, 2016, so that this revised text for H.R. 329 may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of

the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to submit this letter and any response to the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you next Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,

*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On March 16, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016, by unanimous consent. My staff has shared the reported text of the bill with your staff.

The reported bill contains provisions regarding judicial review, a matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. Specifically, section 9 of the bill amends section 8(d) of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 to provide for judicial review of the Secretary of the Interior's denial of a plan. I understand that you have concerns regarding this provision. Based on my agreement to drop this text from the bill when it is considered by the House of Representatives, I ask that the Committee on the Judiciary not seek a sequential referral of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader before the House adjourns for the election. This concession in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary and the issues raised by the omitted text are within the scope of the conference, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Judiciary represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the Congressional Record to document this agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,

*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 329, the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act." I appreciate your willingness to work with me on this issue.

As you note in your letter, the reported bill contains provisions regarding judicial review that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. Specifically, section 9 of the bill amends section 8(d) of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 to provide for judicial review of the Secretary of the Interior's denial of a plan. The Judiciary Committee has concerns with this provision. However, based on your agreement to drop

this text from the bill or similar legislation when it is considered by the House, the Judiciary Committee will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. The Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by forgoing a sequential referral of H.R. 329 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in your committee report and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 329.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,

Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, Public Law 102-477 established what is commonly known as the 477 program to foster employment and economic development in Indian country. This highly successful program authorizes tribal governments to consolidate up to 13 different Federal grant programs into a single plan with a single budget and a single reporting system.

Current participants in the program have significantly improved effectiveness of the delivery of services included in the 477 plan, while lowering administrative costs. These cost savings have been translated into more and better direct services for their communities.

H.R. 329 will build on this success by permanently authorizing the program, by increasing the scope and availability of participating Federal grant programs, and by setting a streamlined process for tribes to follow.

I want to congratulate Chairman YOUNG for his tireless work on this legislation and for putting together a piece of legislation that we should always consider and for bringing together all of the stakeholders to address the concerns and find a workable solution.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge passage of the legislation.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concerns with H.R. 329. While the legislation seeks to provide additional flexibility and support to Indian tribes—a worthy goal—I remain concerned that it could have the effect of weakening the services provided to families and children in Indian tribes.

Currently, Indian tribes have the option to consolidate certain federal funding streams related to work and job training into one grant. H.R. 329 includes a number of changes to this consolidation option and expands the number of programs that can be consolidated.

The legislation could be interpreted in an overly broad fashion resulting in the inclusion of programs that may not be appropriate to include—programs or services only “relating to” job training, skill development, and economic development, or other related goals.

The Education and the Workforce Committee, on which I serve as Ranking Member, was given a sequential jurisdictional referral on this legislation, but has not considered the legislation nor considered its impact on education and training programs within our jurisdiction.

Specifically, our Committee has an interest in ensuring that program funds are used for their intended purpose. Whether the TANF program or Head Start, adequate reporting and oversight protect beneficiaries and ensure the quality of services. For example, Head Start performance standards are vital to the success of the program.

While I do not intend to oppose the legislation, I encourage continued robust oversight of the programs impacted by this bill to ensure that quality and effective education and job training programs remain available to our nation’s tribes.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015.

In particular, I’m grateful for the opportunity I had to work with Representative YOUNG and the Natural Resources Committee to address some concerns I had with a previous version of the bill, and I’m grateful for the collaborative effort between our two committees so this bill can move forward today.

Under current law, Indian tribes can combine funding for employment, training, and related services to streamline their administration of social service programs—often referred to as “section 477 demonstration projects.” Many times the dollar amounts received from the individual programs are rather small, so being able to combine funds with similar purposes allows tribes to achieve more effective economies of scale. However, in recent years these tribes have run into challenges as they have sought to operate these demonstration projects to best serve their members. The goal of H.R. 329 is to clarify confusion related to these demonstration projects, increase the flexibility Indian tribes have in consolidating these programs, and ensure accountability of taxpayer dollars.

While I agreed with the general intent of the prior version of this bill, I was concerned that it may have unintentionally undermined important requirements in current law for programs under Ways and Means jurisdiction, such as TANF and child care. To balance the goal of increased flexibility for tribes with appropriate oversight and accountability, I asked Representative YOUNG to amend the text to ensure the bill would not:

Undermine important rules regarding how funds appropriated for specific purposes can be used;

Eliminate requirements specifying how the spending of consolidated funds must be accounted for; and

Change how funds authorized by the Ways and Means Committee are treated for matching purposes.

First, I’m glad this bill now reiterates that agencies providing funding to tribes have the authority to approve or deny waivers of key

program provisions. For example, this would mean the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) could deny an Indian tribe’s request to use federal child care funds for the purchase or improvement of land, as such use of child care funds is not permitted under current law. HHS could also forbid a tribe from using federal TANF funds to pay for medical services, something states and tribes are not permitted to do under current law. At the same time, agencies and departments, like HIS, are encouraged to waive program requirements when they will assist the tribe in streamlining the administration of their social service programs to better serve their members, as long as they don’t undermine the central purposes for which the money was originally appropriated.

Second, there was some concern that the bill would eliminate requirements that tribes report how they spend funds consolidated in section 477 projects. Mr. YOUNG has modified the bill to reiterate that tribes must report how funds are spent, but that they will not be required to report spending by specific program. Since 2011, a tribal working group has worked diligently to simplify tribal financial reporting, and the group has recently agreed upon a unified financial report that allows tribes to report by category, instead of by program. This form allows taxpayers to understand broadly how dollars are spent, without requiring tribes to maintain complex accounting systems necessary to report on spending per the rules for each separate program. This form is now in use, and I hope this working group, or future iterations of it, will continue to engage, as needed, to ensure this form adequately serves all stakeholders in the same manner.

Third, the earlier version of this bill allowed tribes operating section 477 projects to count federal funding received through HHS and the Department of Labor (DOL) to count as tribal spending for matching purposes. Because this would have allowed tribes to use federal funds as match to draw down additional federal dollars—and because it would have advantaged tribes operating these demonstrations compared to those not operating these demos—I asked that this language not apply to funding administered by HHS and DOL. Mr. YOUNG agreed to incorporate this change, and I’m grateful for his willingness to do so.

Finally, I’m glad we could work together to restore language in the bill regarding coordination between the Department of the Interior and other departments as these projects are approved. It is important that agencies work together to ensure tribes have the flexibility they need to streamline their services, while maintaining a balance between flexibility and accountability.

Together, these changes will support tribes as they seek to better serve their members, while maintaining appropriate accountability of taxpayer dollars and ensuring funds are used to meet the goals for which they were appropriated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 329, 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.

JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM BOUNDARIES REVISION

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6400) to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6400

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

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The map subtitled “Seidler Beach Unit NJ-02, Cliffwood Beach Unit NJ-03P, Conaskonk Point Unit NJ-04”, dated August 1, 2014, that is included in the set of maps entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System” referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)) and relating to certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey, is hereby replaced by another map subtitled “Seidler Beach Unit NJ-02/NJ-02P, Cliffwood Beach Unit NJ-03P, Conaskonk Point Unit NJ-04, Sayreville Unit NJ-15P, Matawan Point Unit NJ-16P” and dated October 7, 2016.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the replacement map referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6400, introduced by my colleague, Mr. PALLONE, makes boundary adjustments to multiple units of the Coastal Barrier Resources System along the coast of his New Jersey congressional district. I have no objection to this bill and compliment the gentleman for introducing the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act—or CoBRA—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identifies hazardous areas on

the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and submits maps to Congress recommending that we make Federal subsidies off limits to people who choose to develop those lands.

This is a commonsense, scientific, fiscally conservative way to protect private property and public infrastructure, while also ensuring that taxpayers do not have to foot the bill for risky coastal development. In this time of rising sea levels and increased storm surge brought on by climate change, CoBRA is becoming more and more important every day.

H.R. 6400 would adjust the boundaries of several Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey, including one that contains an important flood control structure. These changes have been carefully mapped by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and reflect improvements in technology that have allowed us to show with great accuracy which parcels of land do and do not constitute "coastal barrier resources" under the law.

As a result, numerous properties that were originally included by mistake will be removed, and other properties that have been identified as at-risk will be included.

These changes to the C.B.R.S. are protective of private property rights, the environment, and the taxpayers, and I support passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the author of the bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6400.

This bill is extremely important to my constituents, especially those living in Union Beach, New Jersey. Passing this bill will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move forward on an important flood control project for Union Beach.

H.R. 6400 would realign the mapping of several New Jersey units of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resource System. Congressional approval is required for any changes to these maps by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Over the past year, the Fish and Wildlife Service worked with the Corps to make noncontroversial changes to the mapping, completed its review, and transmitted them to Congress on November 21 of this year.

Until these maps are approved by Congress, Mr. Speaker, the Union Beach flood control project will be in limbo. The Corps cannot sign a project partnership agreement or make other progress until the updated maps are approved.

Union Beach was devastated by Superstorm Sandy, and residents have been waiting far too long for this project to be completed. It was initially authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 on November 8, 2007, and funding and authorization for the project came from Sandy relief funding in 2013.

Moving forward on this project is a priority for the State of New Jersey, local authorities in Union Beach, and the Army Corps; however, that can only be done if Congress approves the new maps, which it can do by passing H.R. 6400.

Again, passing this bill is vitally important. It is noncontroversial. I want to thank Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and House leadership for allowing this legislation to be considered under suspension of the rules.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6400. The people of Union Beach have waited long enough to rebuild and protect their community from future storms.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I would like to compliment the gentleman from New Jersey. I do hope he understands that this is his district and I will support his legislation. I would like to have him do the same thing when I bring legislation to the floor that only affects my district.

So, with courtesy to him, I will urge a "yes" vote on this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6400.

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.

CHICANO PARK PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3711) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3711

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 "Chicano Park Preservation Act".

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) *STUDY.*—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park and its murals located in San Diego, California.

(b) *CONTENTS.*—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of the site;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a National Historic Landmark or Affiliated Area of the National Park System;

(3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of Chicano Park and its murals by Federal, State, or local governmental entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(4) consult with interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations or any other interested individuals; and

(5) identify cost estimates for any development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(c) *APPLICABLE LAW.*—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code, except that the study shall not consider any options that involve Federal acquisition of lands, interests in lands, or any other property related to the Chicano Park and its murals.

(d) *REPORT.*—Not later than 18 months after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing the results of the study and any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, located in the Barrio Logan community of San Diego, Chicano Park is a 7.4-acre parcel known for its display of nearly 50 vibrant murals depicting the history, culture, and its civil rights movement.

□ 1315

Residents secured the creation of the park in 1970 by protesting the construction of a parking lot on the vacant land the city previously promised for the development of the community park. After successfully taking over the land, artists painted dozens of vibrant murals on the pillars and ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge located in the park, creating the largest concentration of these murals in the world.

H.R. 3711 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the national significance of the park, determine the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a national historic landmark or affiliated area of the National Park Service through a special resource study. The bill prohibits the Secretary from considering any options that result in the Federal acquisition of the park.

I urge adoption of this bill, H.R. 3711.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS).

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues for their support of H.R. 3711, the Chicano Park Preservation Act. Again, I thank the chairman for those kind words about the park. I appreciate it very much.

Ranking member, thank you again for allowing me to be here to support moving this legislation forward.

Chicano Park is a historic park under the San Diego-Coronado Bridge that embodies the spirit of the Hispanic culture in San Diego.

As was said, in the spring of 1970, the Barrio Logan community in San Diego united to advocate for the community park and, with the support of the city and State officials, the park was born. Since then, the park has been transformed by world-renowned muralists who have adorned the freeway pillars with breathtaking murals, sculptures, and architectural pieces that tell the story of the Hispanic community in San Diego.

Chicano Park is home to the largest collection of outdoor murals, 89 of them, in the country, in addition to various sculptures, earthworks, and an architectural piece dedicated to the cultural heritage of the community. The murals are recognized at the local, State, and national levels as historical, cultural, and public art.

This legislation, as was said, authorizes a special resource study of Chicano Park and its murals to evaluate the feasibility of the park becoming a national historic landmark or an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service.

It is also interesting that now the community has taken it on as a community park. Unfortunately, the area has very few parks, and this is one of the places where the community now, since 1970, has been coming and having picnics there with their families, their children, and it has become really a wonderful opportunity for the people that live in the community.

Even more than that, if you go there on a Saturday, you will find artists and different people from throughout the State, and Arizona, and other places coming to look at the murals and to look at the art. It is quite a vibrant area. If you take a look at some of the things that are sold in the area, you will see T-shirts and you will see lots of cultural food. It has become a wonderful place for everyone to come together.

So I appreciate very much the opportunity here, and I thank the ranking member, and especially the chairman, for this opportunity. Again, I encourage them to come to the park. It is not quite as grand as some of the things in Alaska, and I look to going to Alaska some day because I have only seen them in the pictures. Again, I thank you for your kind words about the park.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers on this legislation. I do urge the passage of the legislation as a classic example of

where people are working together to have a place to rest and save some great art. I congratulate the gentleman for introducing the legislation. So I urge the passage of the legislation.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will permit the National Park Service to study and evaluate the Chicano Park for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and possibly to become an affiliated site of the agency.

Chicano Park has come to represent not only the civil rights struggles and victories for the residents of the Barrio Logan community, but has become a center for discussions around civil rights movements for all Mexican Americans today.

Today, this space has become a vibrant expression of the history and concerns of the community and, because of their efforts, I know it will continue to remain a relevant site for generations to come. I am glad to see that this community will receive the national recognition it deserves.

I thank my colleague, Congressman VARGAS, for introducing this bill, and I am very pleased to see that we are able to move this through the House expeditiously.

I would also like to, one day, visit Alaska, but at this point in time I urge adoption of this legislation.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would assure both gentlemen, Alaska will welcome you on a visit. I hope to visit both of their communities in the future. The only way we can get things done around here is if we understand your locations, your people, and what you will treasure, as I do in my State of Alaska.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3711, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 944;

Adoption of House Resolution 944, if ordered;

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1219; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3028.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5143, TRANSPARENT INSURANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 9, 2016, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2017; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 944) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5143) to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from December 9, 2016, through January 3, 2017; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 178, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 609]

YEAS—231

Abraham	Crawford	Herrera Beutler
Aderholt	Culberson	Hice, Jody B.
Allen	Curbelo (FL)	Hill
Amash	Davidson	Holding
Amodei	Davis, Rodney	Hudson
Babin	Denham	Huelskamp
Barletta	Dent	Huizenga (MI)
Barr	DeSantis	Hultgren
Barton	DesJarlais	Hunter
Benishek	Diaz-Balart	Hurd (TX)
Bilirakis	Dold	Hurt (VA)
Bishop (MI)	Donovan	Issa
Bishop (UT)	Duffy	Jenkins (KS)
Black	Duncan (SC)	Jenkins (WV)
Blackburn	Duncan (TN)	Johnson (OH)
Blum	Emmer (MN)	Johnson, Sam
Bost	Farenthold	Jones
Boustany	Fleischmann	Jordan
Brady (TX)	Fleming	Joyce
Brat	Flores	Katko
Bridenstine	Fortenberry	Kelly (MS)
Brooks (AL)	Fox	Kelly (PA)
Brooks (IN)	Franks (AZ)	King (IA)
Buchanan	Frelinghuysen	King (NY)
Buck	Gibbs	Kinzinger (IL)
Bucshon	Gibson	Kline
Burgess	Gohmert	Knight
Byrne	Goodlatte	Labrador
Calvert	Gosar	LaHood
Carter (GA)	Gowdy	LaMalfa
Carter (TX)	Granger	Lamborn
Chabot	Graves (GA)	Lance
Chaffetz	Graves (LA)	Latta
Clawson (FL)	Griffith	LoBiondo
Coffman	Grothman	Long
Cole	Guinta	Loudermilk
Collins (GA)	Guthrie	Love
Collins (NY)	Hanna	Lucas
Comer	Hardy	Luetkemeyer
Comstock	Harper	Lummis
Conaway	Harris	Marchant
Cook	Hartzler	Marino
Costello (PA)	Heck (NV)	Massie
Cramer	Hensarling	McCarthy

McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom

Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Smith (TX)

Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zinke

NAYS—178

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleave
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Foster
Frankel (FL)

Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler

Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—24

Brown (FL)
Clyburn
Crenshaw
Ellmers (NC)
Jolly
Kirkpatrick
Lee
Fitpatrick
Forbes

Garrett
Graves (MO)
Honda
Kirkpatrick
Lee
MacArthur
Miller (MI)

Poe (TX)
Rothfus
Sanchez, Loretta
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Tiberi
Westmoreland
Zeldin

□ 1349

Messrs. CICILLINE, PETERS, VELA, and VISCLOSKY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 232, noes 180, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 610]

AYES—232

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Payne
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)

Duncan (TN)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador

LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)

Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster

Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden

NOES—180

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleave
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)

Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler

Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—21

Brown (FL)
Clyburn
Crenshaw
Ellmers (NC)
Fincher
Fitpatrick
Forbes

Garrett
Graves (MO)
Honda
Jolly
Kirkpatrick
Lee
MacArthur

Miller (MI)
Poe (TX)
Rothfus
Sanchez, Loretta
Serrano
Tiberi
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1357

Mrs. TORRES changed her vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ARBUCKLE PROJECT MAINTENANCE COMPLEX AND DISTRICT OFFICE CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1219) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Arbutle Project, Oklahoma, to the Arbutle Master Conservancy District, and for other purposes, 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 gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) 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 412, nays 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 611]
YEAS—412

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishak
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)

Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Gibson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett

Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farenthold
Farr
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hanna

Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb
Loeb
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant

Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaull
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeke
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce

Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—1

Amash
NOT VOTING—20

Brown (FL)
Clyburn
Graves (MO)
Honda
Jolly

Fitzpatrick
Garrett
Graves (MO)
Miller (MI)
Poe (TX)

Kirkpatrick
Lee
Miller (MI)
Poe (TX)

Rothfus
Sanchez, Loretta
Schweikert
Serrano
Tiberi
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1405

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DANIEL J. EVANS OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3028) to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness, 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 gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 8, answered “present” 2, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 612]
YEAS—401

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishak
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)

Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)

Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)

Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farenthold
Farr
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard

Gallego
Garamendi
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal

Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen

Roskam
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruijs
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
McCollum
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Mulvaney Rice (SC)

NOT VOTING—22

Brown (FL) Honda
Clyburn Jolly
Crenshaw Jones
Ellmers (NC) Kirkpatrick
Fincher Lee
Fitzpatrick Miller (MI)
Garrett Pittenger
Graves (MO) Poe (TX)

Rothfus
Sanchez, Loretta
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Tiberi
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1413

Mr. RICE of South Carolina changed his vote from "yea" to "present."

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.

□ 1415

AUTHORIZING DIRECTORS OF VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO INVESTIGATE MEDICAL CENTERS

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6435) to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6435

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF DIRECTORS OF VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS TO INVESTIGATE MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network of the Department of Veterans Affairs may contract with an appropriate entity specializing in civilian accreditation or health care evaluation to investigate any medical center within such Network to assess and report deficiencies of the facilities at such medical center.

(b) COORDINATION.—Before entering into any contract under subsection (a), the Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network shall notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Comptroller General of the United States for purposes of coordinating any investigation conducted pursuant to such contract with any other investigations or accreditations that may be ongoing.

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

(1) to prevent the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs from conducting any review, audit, evaluation, or inspection regarding a topic

for which a review is conducted under subsection (a); or

(2) to modify the requirement that employees of the Department assist with any review, audit, evaluation, or inspection conducted by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6435, a bill to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISN, of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate VA medical centers.

This bill would allow VISN directors to contract with an appropriate non-VA entity with expertise and civilian accreditation or healthcare evaluation to investigate any medical center within that director's catchment area.

It is no secret that the last few years have been tumultuous for the VA healthcare system, beginning with the access and accountability crisis in Phoenix and across the country in 2014, and continuing to just last week when reports surfaced of potential infectious disease concerns at a troubled VA medical center in Tomah, Wisconsin.

While the committee has an important oversight and investigative responsibility toward VA, as a Federal bureaucracy, VA is all too often charged with policing itself through internal watchdogs like the Office of Medical Inspector and the VA Office of Inspector General. However, despite all of our best efforts, waste, fraud, and abuse still persist and still continue to harm veterans throughout the VA healthcare system.

H.R. 6435 would provide VA regional leadership yet another tool to root out deficiencies within the VA medical facilities while providing VISN directors the ability to work with an experienced, objective entity to assess a given VA medical center's operations and management.

I believe this bill will empower VISN leaders to take a more active role in creating a culture of quality and accountability and lead to the provision of better, safer care to veteran patients.

I am grateful to my friend and colleague Congressman MARKWAYNE

NAYS—8

Amash Grothman Sanford
Brat Harris Sinema
Gosar Massie

MULLIN of Oklahoma for sponsoring this legislation, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of this legislation by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Ensuring VA delivers safe and high-quality health care to veterans is an important priority for this committee. This bill will allow Veterans Integrated Service Network directors to contract with civilian accreditation and healthcare evaluation organizations to inspect and investigate VA medical centers. This gives VA another tool to evaluate and improve the quality of care provided at its facilities.

VA medical centers are routinely inspected and accredited by recognized organizations in the healthcare world, such as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. This bill would allow other organizations to inspect and accredit VA hospitals at VA's discretion.

Since the VA inspector general and Government Accountability Office also routinely conduct investigations, inspections, and audits of VA medical facilities, I would like to emphasize that this bill requires both GAO and the IG to be notified when a VISN chooses to contract with civilian inspection and accreditation organizations.

Coordination of efforts with GAO and the IG will avoid duplication and prevent the waste of taxpayer dollars. I also want to emphasize that this authority should not be used to replace the role of the IG and GAO in conducting investigations, inspections, and evaluations of VA medical facilities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), who brought this legislation to our committee.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman-elect ROE for yielding and for his work on the committee. I have no doubt that he will perform admirably in his new role, and I want to extend my appreciation to him and to Chairman MILLER for their leadership in getting this bill to the floor for consideration.

This bill is simple, so I will keep it short. All the bill does is authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to contract with appropriate civilian healthcare accrediting or evaluating groups to investigate the VA medical centers.

Our veterans deserve care equal to the finest civilian hospitals, so let's allow the VA to invite the people who evaluate and accredit those private hospitals to take a look at our VA medical centers when they have problems.

This is a commonsense bill that will help improve the care of our veterans who need us the most. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this important legislation and to join me in passing H.R. 6435.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. MULLIN said, this is a very commonsense piece of legislation.

I worked in hospitals for almost four decades that had joint commission supervision. It is a good way. It is best for patient safety. With that, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6435.

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.

COMMUNITIES HELPING INVEST THROUGH PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5099) to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5099

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 "Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016" or the "CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON ACCEPTANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF DONATED FACILITIES AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 8103 and 8104 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary may accept donations of the following property from entities described in paragraph (2):

(A) Real property (including structures and equipment associated therewith)—

(i) that includes a constructed facility; or

(ii) to be used as the site of a facility constructed by the entity.

(B) A facility to be constructed by the entity on real property of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—Entities described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) A State or local authority.

(B) An organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(C) A limited liability corporation.

(D) A private entity.

(E) A donor or donor group.

(F) Any other non-Federal Government entity.

(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may accept not more than five donations of real property and facility improvements under the pilot program and as described in this section.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY.—The Secretary may accept the donation of a property described in subsection (a)(1) under the pilot program only if—

(1) the property is—

(A) a property with respect to which funds have been appropriated for a Department facility project; or

(B) a property identified as—

(i) meeting a need of the Department as part of the long-range capital planning process of the Department; and

(ii) the location for a Department facility project that is included on the Strategic Capital Investment Planning process priority list in the most recent budget submitted to Congress by the President pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code; and

(2) an entity described in subsection (a)(2) has entered into or is willing to enter into a formal agreement with the Secretary in accordance with subsection (c) under which the entity agrees to independently donate the real property, improvements, goods, or services, for the Department facility project in an amount acceptable to the Secretary and at no additional cost to the Federal Government.

(c) REQUIREMENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept real property and improvements donated under the pilot program by an entity described in subsection (a)(2) only if the entity enters into a formal agreement with the Secretary that provides for—

(A) the donation of real property and improvements (including structures and equipment associated therewith) that includes a constructed facility; or

(B) the construction by the entity of a facility on—

(i) real property and improvements of the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(ii) real property and improvements donated to the Department by the entity.

(2) CONTENT OF FORMAL AGREEMENTS.—With respect to an entity described in subsection (a)(2) that seeks to enter into a formal agreement under paragraph (1) of this subsection that includes the construction by the entity of a facility, the formal agreement shall provide for the following:

(A) The entity shall conduct all necessary environmental and historic preservation due diligence, shall comply with all local zoning requirements (except for studies and consultations required of the Department under Federal law), and shall obtain all permits required in connection with the construction of the facility.

(B) The entity shall use construction standards required of the Department when designing, repairing, altering, or building the facility, except to the extent the Secretary determines otherwise, as permitted by applicable law.

(C) The entity shall provide the real property, improvements, goods, or services in a manner described in subsection (b)(2) sufficient to complete the construction of the facility, at no additional cost to the Federal Government.

(d) NO PAYMENT OF RENT OR USAGE FEES.—The Secretary may not pay rent, usage fees, or any other amounts to an entity described in subsection (a)(2) or any other entity for

the use or occupancy of real property or improvements donated under this section.

(e) FUNDING.—

(1) FROM DEPARTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide funds to help the entity finance, design, or construct a facility in connection with real property and improvements donated under the pilot program by an entity described in subsection (a)(2) that are in addition to the funds appropriated for the facility as of the date on which the Secretary and the entity enter into a formal agreement under subsection (c) for the donation of the real property and improvements.

(B) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall provide funds pursuant to subparagraph (A) under such terms, conditions, and schedule as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) FROM ENTITY.—An entity described in subsection (a)(2) that is donating a facility constructed by the entity under the pilot program shall be required, pursuant to a formal agreement entered into under subsection (c), to provide other funds in addition to the amounts provided by the Department under paragraph (1) that are needed to complete construction of the facility.

(f) APPLICATION.—An entity described in subsection (a)(2) that seeks to donate real property and improvements under the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary an application to address needs relating to facilities of the Department, including health care needs, identified in the Construction and Long-Range Capital Plan of the Department, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(g) INFORMATION ON DONATIONS AND RELATED PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall include in the budget submitted to Congress by the President pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, information regarding real property and improvements donated under the pilot program during the year preceding the submittal of the budget and the status of facility projects relating to that property.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Information submitted under paragraph (1) shall provide a detailed status of donations of real property and improvements conducted under the pilot program and facility projects relating to that property, including the percentage completion of the donations and projects.

(h) BIENNIAL REPORT OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—Not less frequently than once every two years until the termination date set forth in subsection (i), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the donation agreements entered into under the pilot program.

(i) TERMINATION.—The authority for the Secretary to accept donations under the pilot program shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(j) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation on the authority of the Secretary to enter into other arrangements or agreements that are authorized by law and not inconsistent with this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5099, as amended, the Communities Helping Invest Through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016—and that is a mouthful—or the CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016. This bill, sponsored by our colleague Congressman BRAD ASHFORD from Nebraska, would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to accept from certain non-Federal entities up to five donations of either real property that includes a constructed facility or is to be used as a site of a facility constructed by the entity, or a facility to be constructed by the entity on VA real property. Such donation may be accepted only if it is for a project for which funds have been appropriated for a VA facility or is identified as meeting both a VA need as part of the Department's long-range capital planning process and as the location for a VA facility project that is included on the strategic capital investment plan.

VA is one of our government's largest real property holders; and, considering that the average age of a VA medical building is five times older than the average age of a building in a nonprofit hospital system, VA's capital needs continue to grow in both cost and complexity. Meanwhile, the high-profile scandals and failures that VA's construction and capital asset program has undergone have been well publicized over the last few years.

In April of 2013, the Government Accountability Office found that VA's major medical facility construction projects, which are already costly, complicated endeavors, experienced cost increases ranging from 66 percent to 427 percent and schedule delays ranging from 14 months to 86 months. Needless to say, it is clear that the time to look for innovative solutions to VA's capital needs is now.

Currently, VA has the authority to accept a donated facility if that facility is already complete; however, it can be challenging to find existing facilities that both meet demonstrated VA need and satisfy all the requirements and mandates that a Federal facility must meet. Allowing VA to accept unconditional donations of real property, improvements, goods, or services from community donors, within certain parameters, could provide a viable solution to meeting VA's capital needs in an expedient, fiscally responsible manner while allowing communities and individuals the opportunity to step up and contribute in honor of their veteran friends and neighbors in a meaningful way.

As chairman in the 115th Congress, I look forward to continuing to aggressively oversee VA's troubled construction program and to leave no stones unturned when looking for new ways to ensure that VA has facilities they need to provide the services our veterans require. I believe that the pilot program could lay the foundation for doing just that.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5099, as amended, Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016. Indeed, it is a mouthful but is a very, very important, potentially transformative piece of legislation. Otherwise, we can shorten it down to the CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016, which was introduced by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska, BRAD ASHFORD. The bill is a testament to his hard work, as well as many Members and staff on both sides of the Capitol, that we are considering this bill today.

This bipartisan legislation will authorize a pilot program, allowing the Department of Veterans Affairs to partner with nonprofit and private donors to build VA hospitals, receive donated land, and acquire other VA facilities so that the VA may continue to serve veterans.

Today there are generous donors and organizations ready to pitch in and invest in their community's willingness to support and serve our veterans. That is why we must take immediate action and pass H.R. 5099, as amended.

This bill will permit the VA to accept facilities constructed by donors, land where a future facility will be constructed by a donor, and permit a donor to construct a facility on VA property under an agreement to donate the facility to VA upon completion. It will also preserve VA's authority to determine need by only allowing projects to move forward under this program based on projects authorized and funded by Congress or included on the VA's strategic capital investment planning process priority list.

This bill is necessary not only because of the Federal Government's significant budget constraints, but also so that VA has clear authority to undertake these projects and accept donations for the acquisition of facilities.

It also allows VA and Congress to determine whether this pilot program that permits the VA and non-Federal organizations to combine resources to construct facilities is a viable future model for the funding and management of major and minor VA construction projects.

Thanks to the public-private partnerships this legislation will foster, the VA will be able to take meaningful steps in improving its capacity to provide our veterans the quality care they

deserve at state-of-the-art VA facilities, all the while saving American taxpayers millions of dollars in the process. It is the very definition of a win-win situation.

Mr. Speaker, strengthening the VA and increasing its capacity to provide and coordinate care is one of our highest priorities at the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I am pleased to support H.R. 5099, as amended, which will only improve VA's ability to do so.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for his comments.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, as we are about to conclude this legislative session, I hope everyone here realizes the magnitude of what this bill before us does.

Yes, we have got a lot going on. We are distracted. We are eager to finish up business and start a transition period. But, as Congressman TAKANO just said, this is transformative. This creates a blueprint of the architecture for a 21st century VA. And why? As Congressman ROE pointed out, we have had extreme difficulties and complexities and problems in the VA with service delivery as well as budgetary cost overruns.

□ 1430

We have had for a very long time an aging hospital in Omaha. We have had a community that is very eager to find a new innovative way out of this problem. We have a pot of money that has been sitting here for a very long time and will continue to sit here for a very long time unless we become innovative, unless we do something different.

That is what Congressman ASHFORD has done with the rest of the Federal delegation from Nebraska, including Senator FISCHER. He has come up with an innovative transformative model that will create a new center of excellence based on a public-private partnership, using existing Federal moneys, using a base of community support that has already come forward looking to help the VA better integrate with the private facilities that already exist in the community of Omaha, which are quite extraordinary. As Congressman TAKANO said, this is a win-win-win.

I want to congratulate my friend and colleague, Congressman ASHFORD, for his extraordinary leadership and vision in this regard as well as the integrity to stay with it until the very end. We have had some complexities along the way, but it is my hope, Mr. Chairman, particularly as you take over the reins of the entire committee, that you will help us implement this rapidly, as I know you will, because it is a transformative mechanism by which we are going to deliver the highest and best possible care for our veterans back home.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD), who had the te-

nacity to stick it through and bring this legislation finally in this form to the floor.

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member TAKANO, Chairman ROE, certainly Chairman MILLER, and Mr. Speaker for bringing this important bill up for a vote today.

H.R. 5099, the CHIP IN for Vets Act, was introduced by myself and others in the House and by my good friend and colleague, Senator DEB FISCHER, in the United States Senate. There is an identical bill in the Senate awaiting action as we speak.

As has been suggested and mentioned, this bill allows for the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into donation agreements with community groups in order to complete VA construction projects. This is a new and innovative idea not necessarily brought to this body by myself, but by so many other people, as has been mentioned, who have worked on this bill for literally 2 years. I appreciate my good friend, Congressman FORTENBERRY from Lincoln, Nebraska, for his comments and his ability to hold me back from time to time as we proceeded down this course.

I think when we started out with this process, what I was focused on was the idea that in our own communities it is veterans who can make those tough decisions as to what their needs are. Nobody better than our veterans understands those needs. What this bill will allow us to do is to combine community donors with veterans to actually involve themselves together in the development of these projects. Certainly in Omaha, in my community in Iowa, and Nebraska area, we have had a need for such a renovated facility for many, many years.

My bill, I believe, empowers our veterans. It puts an end to the decades-long wait for hundreds of thousands of veterans in my area who have been promised new facilities. I think, as clearly as Congressman FORTENBERRY, Ranking Member TAKANO, and Chairman ROE mentioned, that this really does open up opportunities for VA facilities across the entire country and starts the course moving forward.

Let me just conclude by thanking so many of you. I would be here much longer than 5 minutes if I were going to name everyone, but certainly I appreciate my cosponsors, Congressman WALZ from Minnesota, Congressman FORTENBERRY, Congressman SMITH from Nebraska, Congressman DAVE YOUNG from across the river in Iowa.

I thank Chairman MILLER, who gave me the opportunity to discuss, even on weekends, some of the positive elements of what we were trying to do in Nebraska.

Lastly, thanks to the staff and certainly my staff leader on this bill, Denise Fleming. I am going to be in the House only a few more weeks, but I can't say that she is actually welcoming me leaving, but she certainly has been a tenacious advocate and has worked very, very hard.

There have been other staff members as well, and certainly they have all added a tremendous amount to this bill: Christine Hill and Grace Rodden most particularly.

Moving this bill ensures that Senator FISCHER's bill, which is now in the Senate, can move in the Senate and become law so we can begin this project now. My friends in Omaha, in Nebraska, and Iowa are ready to donate what is necessary to unleash, as Mr. FORTENBERRY suggests, the money that has already been appropriated for our Omaha facility.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Secretary of the Veterans Administration, Robert McDonald. I met Bob McDonald 2 years ago about just now when I was coming in to Congress. I suggested to him that we needed something to be done in Omaha, and I also suggested that I thought that our donor community and our veterans community would work together on an innovative public-private partnership to enable some sort of new way, some sort of center of excellence to develop; and certainly Secretary McDonald and his team have been great and have been so incredibly helpful in moving this along.

Lastly, again, I thank my colleague and friend actually from our years together in the unicameral legislature in Nebraska, DEB FISCHER, whose staff has been tireless and helpful in this matter.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG), my good friend, to speak on this issue.

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in support of H.R. 5099, the bipartisan CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016, which is sponsored by my colleague from across the river, Congressman BRAD ASHFORD in Nebraska.

Our veterans make great sacrifices in defense of our freedoms, and it is incumbent upon us to provide them with the best possible health care when they return home.

Now, many of our Department of Veterans Affairs facilities are aging. They are in need of upgrades and repair, some complete overhauls, yet cost overruns and significant delays trouble VA construction programs and hinder work on other VA facilities in need of improvements.

The CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016 seeks to address some of these problems by authorizing the VA to carry out a 5-year pilot program examining the feasibility of leveraging private donations to construct new VA facilities, that public-private partnership.

This is a new way of doing things and a unique opportunity for the taxpayer and for veterans. This bill could help facilities—and it will—like the Omaha VA Medical Center, which serve my constituents in Iowa as well as those in Nebraska.

Now, I appreciate my colleague's work, Congressman ASHFORD, for pushing this bill along. I was proud to sign

on as a cosponsor. Congressman ASHFORD has shown great leadership and tenacity in getting this bill over the finish line. That is what he came here to do, to get things done.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to add some more comments about the legislation that we are about to pass. I concur in and associate myself with the remarks of my colleague from Nebraska, Mr. FORTENBERRY. I certainly want to extend my appreciation to the majority for its generosity of spirit in this particular case. If there is anything that fills me with great hope that we can restore the esteem of this great institution in the eyes of the American people, it is when we pass legislation such as Mr. ASHFORD's bill today. We rose above politics—both sides rose above politics—to do the right thing for veterans. It was our regard for veterans that brought us together. It is fitting that this action is happening in the heartland of our country. This is no small measure today. The American people do not really see the drama. It looks very effortless about what we are going to do because it is going to be voice voted. No real big drama is going to play out in front of everybody, but I am going to tell you that Republicans and Democrats worked together.

I want to congratulate and show my appreciation to my whip, Mr. HOYER. He worked his relationships with some Members on the other side in the Senate, and it showed that we shouldn't be so hasty to move our more senior Members so quickly out of their positions because these relationships matter after so many years. I will go more into detail with anyone who cares to know more about it later. Mr. MCCARTHY, of my home State of California, my own Leader PELOSI, and staff on both sides of the aisle worked tirelessly to bring this bill.

We are about to head home for the holiday season, and I can't think of a greater gift that we can give—well, I can think of a lot of greater gifts, but this is a very important gift that we are going to give. It is truly a potentially transformative piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time. I just want to encourage all of my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation and join me in passing H.R. 5099, as amended.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I, too, want to associate myself with the remarks of all the speakers and thank Mr. ASHFORD for his perseverance in bringing this, along with Mr. FORTENBERRY on our side and Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member TAKANO. This is the way we are going to have to do this more. There is a finite amount of money we have. There

is a finite amount of money we can provide for services, and looking for public-private partnerships, as my city in Johnson City, Tennessee, is doing right now with other projects. I think this is a model for what could go on in the country.

I have a CBOC in my district where the local mayor provided use at a hospital for a dollar a year for the VA to have the VA facility there. I think that is going on in Nebraska right now. They are trying to see that happen. We need to be thinking about how we can provide these facilities to serve these great veterans who have served our country.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5099, 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.

□ 1445

TO RESEARCH, EVALUATE, ASSESS, AND TREAT ASTRONAUTS ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6076) to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of astronauts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6076

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 "To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act" or the "TREAT Astronauts Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Human space exploration can pose significant challenges and is full of substantial risk, which has ultimately claimed the lives of 24 National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronauts serving in the line of duty.

(2) As United States government astronauts participate in long-duration and exploration spaceflight missions they may experience increased health risks, such as vision impairment, bone demineralization, and behavioral health and performance risks, and may be exposed to galactic cosmic radiation. Exposure to high levels of radiation and microgravity can result in acute and long-term health consequences that can increase the risk of cancer and tissue degeneration and have potential effects on the musculoskeletal system, central nervous system, cardiovascular system, immune function, and vision.

(3) To advance the goal of long-duration and exploration spaceflight missions, United States government astronaut Scott Kelly participated in a one-year twins study in space while his identical twin brother, former United States government astronaut Mark Kelly, acted as a human control specimen on Earth, providing an understanding of the physical, behavioral, microbiological, and molecular reaction of the human body to an extended period of time in space.

(4) Since the Administration currently provides medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment for United States government astronauts during their active employment, given the unknown long-term health consequences of long-duration space exploration, the Administration has requested statutory authority from Congress to provide medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment to former United States government astronauts for psychological and medical conditions associated with human space flight.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to seek the unknown and lead the world in space exploration and scientific discovery as the Administration prepares for long-duration and exploration spaceflight in deep space and an eventual mission to Mars;

(2) data relating to the health of astronauts will become increasingly valuable to improving our understanding of many diseases humans face on Earth;

(3) the Administration should provide the type of monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment described in subsection (a) only for conditions the Administration considers unique to the training or exposure to the spaceflight environment of United States government astronauts and should not require any former United States government astronauts to participate in the Administration's monitoring;

(4) such monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment should not replace a former United States government astronaut's private health insurance;

(5) expanded data acquired from such monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment should be used to tailor treatment, inform the requirements for new spaceflight medical hardware, and develop controls in order to prevent disease occurrence in the astronaut corps; and

(6) the 340-day space mission of Scott Kelly aboard the ISS—

(A) was pivotal for the goal of the United States for humans to explore deep space and Mars as the mission generated new insight into how the human body adjusts to weightlessness, isolation, radiation, and the stress of long-duration space flight; and

(B) will help support the physical and mental well-being of astronauts during longer space exploration missions in the future.

SEC. 3. MEDICAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH RELATING TO HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 20148. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may provide for the medical monitoring and diagnosis of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist for conditions that the Administrator considers potentially associated with human space flight, and may provide for the treatment of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist for conditions that the Administrator considers

associated with human space flight, including scientific and medical tests for psychological and medical conditions.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) NO COST SHARING.—The medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) shall be provided without any deductible, copayment, or other cost sharing obligation.

“(2) ACCESS TO LOCAL SERVICES.—The medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment described in subsection (a) may be provided by a local health care provider if it is unadvisable due to the health of the applicable former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist for that former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist to travel to the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, as determined by the Administrator.

“(3) SECONDARY PAYMENT.—Payment or reimbursement for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) shall be secondary to any obligation of the United States government or any third party under any other provision of law or contractual agreement to pay for or provide such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment. Any costs for items and services that may be provided by the Administrator for medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a) that are not paid for or provided under such other provision of law or contractual agreement, due to the application of deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, other cost sharing, or otherwise, are reimbursable by the Administrator on behalf of the former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist involved to the extent such items or services are authorized to be provided by the Administrator for such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a).

“(4) CONDITIONAL PAYMENT.—The Administrator may provide for conditional payments for or provide medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) that is obligated to be paid for or provided by the United States or any third party under any other provision of law or contractual agreement to pay for or provide such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment if—

“(A) payment for (or the provision of) such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment services has not been made (or provided) or cannot reasonably be expected to be made (or provided) promptly by the United States or such third party, respectively; and

“(B) such payment (or such provision of services) by the Administrator is conditioned on reimbursement by the United States or such third party, respectively, for such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment.

“(c) EXCLUSIONS.—The Administrator may not—

“(1) provide for medical monitoring or diagnosis of a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist under subsection (a) for any psychological or medical condition that is not potentially associated with human space flight;

“(2) provide for treatment of a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist under subsection (a) for any psychological or medical condition that is not associated with human space flight; or

“(3) require a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist to participate in the medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment authorized under subsection (a).

“(d) PRIVACY.—Consistent with applicable provisions of Federal law relating to privacy, the Administrator shall protect the privacy of all medical records generated under subsection (a) and accessible to the Administration.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

“(f) DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.—In this section, the term ‘United States government astronaut’ has the meaning given the term ‘government astronaut’ in section 50902, except it does not include an individual who is an international partner astronaut.

“(g) DATA USE AND DISCLOSURE.—The Administrator may use or disclose data acquired in the course of medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist under subsection (a), in accordance with subsection (d). Former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist participation in medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a) shall constitute consent for the Administrator to use or disclose such data.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 20147 the following:

“20148. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight”.

(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, not later than the date of submission of the President's annual budget request for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall publish a report, in accordance with applicable Federal privacy laws, on the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed cost accounting of the Administration's activities under such section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, and a 5-year budget estimate.

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress each report under paragraph (1) not later than the date of submission of the President's annual budget request for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(d) COST ESTIMATE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall enter into an arrangement with an independent external organization to undertake an independent cost estimate of the cost to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Federal Government to implement and administer the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a). The independent external organization may not be an entity of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, such as the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance.

(2) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit the independent cost estimate undertaken pursuant to paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(e) PRIVACY STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall carry out a study on any potential privacy or legal issues related to the possible

sharing beyond the Federal Government of data acquired under the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the results of the study carried out under paragraph (1).

(f) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.—The Inspector General of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall periodically audit or review, as the Inspector General considers necessary to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6076, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, for over 50 years, the United States of America has asked its bravest to travel to space in service of their country. From the dynamic launch environment to the unforgiving vacuum of space, to the energetic reentry of Earth, human spaceflight places astronauts in challenging environments. Even training for spaceflight carries significant risks. I am very proud to say that I represent a great number of these astronauts who call Houston their home.

As a nation, we have an obligation to those whom we put in harm's way. As a Congress, we have a responsibility to provide for the treatment of conditions caused by Federal service. As a healthcare professional myself, and as their Representative, you can say it is my duty to make sure that these folks are taken care of properly. This is why I have sponsored H.R. 6076, the TREAT Astronauts Act, a very commonsense, fiscally responsible, bipartisan bill that makes sure that our brave men and women who venture into space receive the support for medical issues associated with their service.

The psychological and medical data associated with an astronaut's human spaceflight service is very important for our future space endeavors. The TREAT Astronauts Act will provide this additional data and will enable NASA to better understand the medical risks of spaceflight, minimize

these risks, and enable future long-duration missions to Mars and even beyond.

I am very thankful to Chairman LAMAR SMITH for his support of the TREAT Astronauts Act and for his leadership as chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I am also very glad that my colleague, Ms. EDWARDS, is an original cosponsor and that the bill was reported out of committee by a voice vote with broad bipartisan support.

The amendment before us today represents compromise language agreed upon with the Senate in good faith that this language will be included and passed in a NASA Authorization Act before the 114th Congress recesses. The program established under this compromise language is very similar to the program that passed out of the committee.

In developing this bill, my staff and I had extensive discussions with former astronauts, NASA, and a number of other Federal agencies. The TREAT Astronauts Act is also informed by a hearing the Space Subcommittee held back in June, at which a number of former astronauts testified, including Captain Scott Kelly, who spent a year on the International Space Station.

Under existing statutes, NASA has the authority to collect voluntary astronaut medical data for research. It exercises that authority through the Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health program, or LSAH. However, there are limitations on the usefulness of the LSAH program. Former astronaut participation is only 61 percent and the existing LSAH program only affords NASA access to yearly checkup data, not the entirety of the former astronauts' medical records.

Furthermore, NASA is unable to provide for the appropriate diagnosis and treatment under the existing authority to conduct research. The TREAT Astronauts Act solves this problem by supplementing existing authorities.

Congress would be remiss not to ensure that the TREAT Astronauts Act is fiscally responsible. The TREAT Astronauts Act is not a mandate and is subject to existing discretionary appropriations.

In order to address cost risks, the bill establishes NASA as a secondary payer to existing obligations of the United States or third parties, ensuring that the cost to NASA is minimal. Establishing NASA as a secondary payer is not unprecedented. For example, the Department of Defense is a secondary payer to veteran and civilian healthcare programs.

Allow me to make this clear for the record. Although NASA is a secondary payer, the TREAT Astronauts Act provides that no participating former astronaut or payload specialist will have to pay for anything out of pocket, including deductibles and copayments associated with the primary payer.

There are a number of reporting requirements, including an independent

cost estimate and an annual fiscal report. These reports will ensure that Congress is well informed and able to conduct appropriate oversight.

Participation in the program is voluntary. No astronaut should be forced or coerced to participate in this program. In the event that an astronaut chooses not to participate in the program, there are still other occupational healthcare options available to them. But if they do participate, the astronauts have consented that NASA can use and disclose the data they collect, subject to protecting their personally identifiable health information.

In conclusion, I strongly support the TREAT Astronauts Act, and I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense, fiscally responsible, bipartisan bill that makes sure that our brave men and women who venture into space receive the support for medical issues associated with their service.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6076, as amended, the TREAT Astronauts Act.

The House-passed, bipartisan NASA Authorization Act of 2015 set the long-term goal of sending humans to the surface of Mars. The amendments to the TREAT Astronauts Act being considered today will help provide the research results needed to achieve this goal. As Chairman BABIN noted, the amendment reflects compromise language agreed upon with the Senate in good faith.

Committee Ranking Member JOHNSON and I thank Space Subcommittee Chairman BABIN and his staff for working together to achieve bipartisan and bicameral consensus on this amendment.

Chairman BABIN and I both want to do the right thing for the health of our current and future astronauts. That is why I was pleased to be a cosponsor of this act to provide for monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of former astronauts.

Our astronauts are heroes. They serve this Nation in the face of extreme risks. Some of those risks involve the potential for medical conditions that may not reveal themselves for years or even decades after an astronaut's service.

It is our responsibility to ensure that we, as a nation, acknowledge the risks that these heroes have taken and, in return, provide our astronauts with the medical monitoring and treatment they need.

It is also our responsibility to mitigate the risks for future NASA explorers, especially as we put in place the systems and missions to prepare the way for human exploration to Mars. Such risk mitigation requires data about astronauts' mental and psychological health.

H.R. 6076, as amended, maintains the three principles I identified as critical to this legislation in the original bill.

The first principle is getting care to former astronauts under this program as soon as possible. NASA has indicated that some former astronauts could already benefit from this new authority.

As Chairman BABIN noted, this bill provides NASA with supplementary authority. As such, I would expect that monitoring provided by NASA's Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health program will continue to be made available to any former astronaut or payload specialist electing not to participate in the program being established by this legislation.

The second principle is being respectful of astronaut rights and privacy. As we expand the amount of data collected on former astronaut health, it is important that we place a priority on ensuring the privacy of the data. NASA is tasked to report on how the agency will ensure the privacy of astronauts in the program when data is shared beyond the Federal Government.

The third principle is ensuring that the program is in sync with the goal of sending humans to Mars. Expanded data acquired from the monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of former astronauts and former shuttle payload specialists will be invaluable for informing the requirements for new spaceflight medical hardware and developing controls to prevent disease occurrence in the astronaut corps.

Mr. Speaker, it is also my hope that Congress and the administration will enable NASA to get to Mars sooner rather than later. As part of that effort, we must establish the safeguards that will get our astronauts there and back safely. Supporting this bill will allow us to stay on that vector.

I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas, the author of this bill, for yielding. I also want to say that Congressman BRIAN BABIN is an excellent chairman of the Space Subcommittee of the full Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. Speaker, since NASA selected the first group of astronauts in 1959, more than 300 brave American astronauts have ventured into the cosmos as explorers. In an age when spaceflight has come to seem almost routine, it is easy to overlook how dangerous it is and how little we know about its long-term health effects.

H.R. 6076, the TREAT Astronauts Act, ensures that our courageous men and women who venture into space receive support for medical issues associated with their service.

The TREAT Astronauts Act also will help us better understand the medical science of human spaceflight, enabling

next generation of explorers to literally go where no man has gone before. I should say where no man or woman has gone before.

The TREAT Astronauts Act builds upon NASA's existing Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health program and will operate within existing NASA resources. It provides for enhanced monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions associated with spaceflight service.

I thank Space Subcommittee Chairman BRIAN BABIN again for introducing this legislation and for his persistence in getting us to the point of passage. We wouldn't be here today without him.

I urge my colleagues to support the TREAT Astronauts Act.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take a moment to thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS), who is a friend and has been the ranking member of the Space Subcommittee for the last 2 years, for her outstanding service to Congress and for being a wonderful contributor to the Science Committee as a whole, and in particular the Space Subcommittee. To almost any subject, she always brings enthusiasm, knowledge, and in this case, an almost unequal dedication to space exploration, which we will continue to appreciate both now and in the future. I just thank her again for, as I said, her many contributions to the committee and the subcommittee and say that I hope she stays in touch with us. She will always be a friend of the committee and many members of this side of the aisle.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with Chairman SMITH that I am so grateful for his remarks today on the floor. He beat me to the punch, but it has been a pleasure both to work on the committee since the beginning of my time here in the Congress. It is the most fun I think that I have ever had, and I have truly enjoyed the collegial working relationship and friendship that we have shared on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6076, as amended, To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act, or the TREAT Astronauts Act.

Long-duration exposure to microgravity and space radiation can lead to chronic health effects such as muscle atrophy, bone loss, permanent vision impairment, and cancer. However, there is much we still need to understand regarding how the space environment relates to these effects and other critical biological functions, such as immunity and tissue healing, so that appropriate countermeasures can be developed.

□ 1500

This bill, as amended, would provide NASA with the statutory authority to

perform monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment for former astronauts for medical or psychological conditions associated with human spaceflight.

Through this authorization, NASA would be able to acquire data from a larger set of participants, and the data acquired on former astronauts would be more comprehensive.

This bill, as amended, reflects several changes that strengthen and improve the bipartisan bill that passed out of committee in September. In particular, the provision that would sunset the monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment program for former astronauts after 10 years has been removed.

In addition, the current version of the bill removes a provision that would have denied a fiscal year's authorization of appropriations for the program if NASA did not submit an annual report on time.

Mr. Speaker, NASA's astronauts are some of the most accomplished, highly trained, and courageous individuals who serve our Nation in the pursuit of furthering our exploration of outer space. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their willingness to risk their health and their lives in the furtherance of space exploration. I would urge all of the House Members to vote for and pass H.R. 6076, as amended.

I too want to join the chairman to express my appreciation and thanks for the services of Congresswoman DONNA EDWARDS for her leadership in bringing this measure to this point and to her overall leadership as subcommittee ranking member of the Space Subcommittee. She has made many efforts, has led the committee with much understanding, and we certainly will miss her.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join us in this bipartisan effort to make sure that we can get signed into law the TREAT Act for our current, former, and future astronauts.

I would like to close by expressing my gratitude to Chairman LAMAR SMITH, to Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, and to our Subcommittee Chair BABIN for their graciousness and for their leadership. It has truly been a joy to work on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. It is one of the few places in the United States House of Representatives where our charge is really to think about the future, and it is in this spirit that this legislation is in front of us today.

I hadn't anticipated, Mr. Speaker, that I would have a moment on the floor of the House, my last moment on the floor of the House before I depart my service to the United States House of Representatives, but I am grateful for that.

As I reflect on the last 8½ years, it has really been a pleasure, particu-

larly, to work on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and to do that in what seems like a contentious environment sometimes but has been a lot of collegiality.

As I close my service in the Congress, I am, Mr. Speaker, reminded that, as a little girl, I used to picnic with my father and my mother and my siblings on the west front of the Capitol. My dad was in his Air Force uniform, prepared to go back to work after we had had our little picnic.

As little girls, we would run around to the east front of the Capitol, Mr. Speaker, and climb the steps, when you could climb the steps. And we would sit there in between my father and look out on the United States Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

I never would have imagined, Mr. Speaker, that I would have an opportunity to serve in the House of Representatives; and it has been a great privilege and a joy to represent the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland.

I wish for my colleagues here in the Congress that, as we approach the 115th Congress, and in the spirit of service to this great Nation, that we work together in service to the Nation.

When we come to work every day, Mr. Speaker, people think about things that are big and small; but for a lot of people out there, a lot of our constituents, it is about their health and their life, their safety and their security, the ability of them to raise their children, and to move forward. And I wish that, in the upcoming Congress, that we have an opportunity to do those things together, and that you do.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the staff of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and the Space Subcommittee, Allen Li, Pam Whitney, Dick Obermann; Anne Nelson on the minority staff, and the majority staff for all of their work; to the people who serve in this institution and serve us tremendously, from the Parliamentarians to the stenographers and the Clerk's staff, and the Marshals Service and the Capitol Police, and all of it, because it makes the trains run, and it means that we can get the job done of the people of the United States.

God bless the United States of America.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to thank our full committee chairman, LAMAR SMITH; our ranking subcommittee member, Ms. EDWARDS from Maryland; and also our ranking member of the full committee, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON from Texas as well.

I would also like to thank my staff and the staff of the full committee, as well as the subcommittee, who have worked so hard to make this bill happen. It was so badly needed for our astronauts.

Mr. Speaker, I include a letter from the American Association of Space Explorers into the RECORD. This is signed

by the president of the American Association of Space Explorers, astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria.

ASSOCIATION OF SPACE
EXPLORERS—USA,

Webster, TX, 7 December 2016.

Hon. BRIAN BABIN,
Chair, Subcommittee on Space, House Committee
on Science, Space and Technology, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BABIN: I am writing on behalf of the U.S. chapter of the international Association of Space Explorers (ASE-USA) to strongly endorse H.R. 6076, the "To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts" (TREAT) Act, that is under consideration by the House of Representatives.

Our organization counts over 210 American current and former flown astronauts as its members. Our mission is to provide a forum for professional dialogue among individuals who have flown in space, to promote education in science and mathematics and inspire in students a lifelong commitment to learning, to foster environmental awareness and encourage planetary stewardship, to promote the benefits of space science and exploration and to advocate for international cooperation and operational compatibility in current and future space exploration endeavors.

We in the astronaut community applaud your Committee for recognizing the risks inherent in traveling to and exploring space, and for ensuring that the men and women who do so on behalf of our nation receive support for medical issues associated with their service.

I urge the House to pass the TREAT Act so that my colleagues and future generations of Americans can continue to explore and expand the frontiers of space and human knowledge, and can return home to Earth suitably protected from the potential medical consequences of those endeavors on behalf of the United States.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL LOPEZ-ALEGRIA,
President.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6076, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BABIN. 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.

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM ACT OF 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2971) to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2971

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 "National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 327. NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions shall apply:

"(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"(2) AGENCY.—The term 'Agency' means the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"(3) HAZARD.—The term 'hazard' has the meaning given the term in section 602.

"(4) NONEMPLOYEE SYSTEM MEMBER.—The term 'nonemployee System member' means a System member not employed by a sponsoring agency or participating agency.

"(5) PARTICIPATING AGENCY.—The term 'participating agency' means a State or local government, nonprofit organization, or private organization that has executed an agreement with a sponsoring agency to participate in the System.

"(6) SPONSORING AGENCY.—The term 'sponsoring agency' means a State or local government that is the sponsor of a task force designated by the Administrator to participate in the System.

"(7) SYSTEM.—The term 'System' means the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System to be administered under this section.

"(8) SYSTEM MEMBER.—The term 'System member' means an individual who is not a full-time employee of the Federal Government and who serves on a task force or on a System management or other technical team.

"(9) TASK FORCE.—The term 'task force' means an urban search and rescue team designated by the Administrator to participate in the System.

"(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator shall continue to administer the emergency response system known as the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

"(c) FUNCTIONS.—In administering the System, the Administrator shall provide for a national network of standardized search and rescue resources to assist States and local governments in responding to hazards.

"(d) TASK FORCES.—

"(1) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator shall designate task forces to participate in the System. The Administration shall determine the criteria for such participation.

"(2) SPONSORING AGENCIES.—Each task force shall have a sponsoring agency. The Administrator shall enter into an agreement with the sponsoring agency with respect to the participation of each task force in the System.

"(3) COMPOSITION.—

"(A) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—A task force may include, at the discretion of the sponsoring agency, 1 or more participating agencies. The sponsoring agency shall enter into an agreement with each participating agency with respect to the participation of the participating agency on the task force.

"(B) OTHER INDIVIDUALS.—A task force may also include, at the discretion of the sponsoring agency, other individuals not otherwise associated with the sponsoring agency or a participating agency. The sponsoring agency of a task force may enter into a sepa-

rate agreement with each such individual with respect to the participation of the individual on the task force.

"(e) MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL TEAMS.—The Administrator shall maintain such management teams and other technical teams as the Administrator determines are necessary to administer the System.

"(f) APPOINTMENT OF SYSTEM MEMBERS INTO FEDERAL SERVICE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may appoint a System member into Federal service for a period of service to provide for the participation of the System member in exercises, preincident staging, major disaster and emergency response activities, and training events sponsored or sanctioned by the Administrator.

"(2) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—The Administrator may make appointments under paragraph (1) without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service.

"(3) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The authority of the Administrator to make appointments under this subsection shall not affect any other authority of the Administrator under this Act.

"(4) LIMITATION.—A System member who is appointed into Federal service under paragraph (1) shall not be considered an employee of the United States for purposes other than those specifically set forth in this section.

"(g) COMPENSATION.—

"(1) PAY OF SYSTEM MEMBERS.—Subject to such terms and conditions as the Administrator may impose by regulation, the Administrator shall make payments to the sponsoring agency of a task force—

"(A) to reimburse each employer of a System member on the task force for compensation paid by the employer to the System member for any period during which the System member is appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1); and

"(B) to make payments directly to a nonemployee System member on the task force for any period during which the nonemployee System member is appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1).

"(2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES FILLING POSITIONS OF SYSTEM MEMBERS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to such terms and conditions as the Administrator may impose by regulation, the Administrator shall make payments to the sponsoring agency of a task force to be used to reimburse each employer of a System member on the task force for compensation paid by the employer to an employee filling a position normally filled by the System member for any period during which the System member is appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1).

"(B) LIMITATION.—Costs incurred by an employer shall be eligible for reimbursement under subparagraph (A) only to the extent that the costs are in excess of the costs that would have been incurred by the employer had the System member not been appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1).

"(3) METHOD OF PAYMENT.—A System member shall not be entitled to pay directly from the Agency for a period during which the System member is appointed into Federal Service under subsection (f)(1).

"(h) PERSONAL INJURY, ILLNESS, DISABILITY, OR DEATH.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A System member who is appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1) and who suffers personal injury, illness, disability, or death as a result of a personal injury sustained while acting in the scope of such appointment, shall, for the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, be treated as though the

member were an employee (as defined by section 8101 of that title) who had sustained the injury in the performance of duty.

“(2) ELECTION OF BENEFITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A System member (or, in the case of the death of the System member, the System member’s dependent) who is entitled under paragraph (1) to receive benefits under subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, by reason of personal injury, illness, disability, or death, and to receive benefits from a State or local government by reason of the same personal injury, illness, disability or death shall elect to—

“(i) receive benefits under such subchapter; or

“(ii) receive benefits from the State or local government.

“(B) DEADLINE.—A System member or dependent shall make an election of benefits under subparagraph (A) not later than 1 year after the date of the personal injury, illness, disability, or death that is the reason for the benefits, or until such later date as the Secretary of Labor may allow for reasonable cause shown.

“(C) EFFECT OF ELECTION.—An election of benefits made under this paragraph is irrevocable unless otherwise provided by law.

“(3) REIMBURSEMENT FOR STATE OR LOCAL BENEFITS.—Subject to such terms and conditions as the Administrator may impose by regulation, if a System member or dependent elects to receive benefits from a State or local government under paragraph (2)(A), the Administrator shall reimburse the State or local government for the value of the benefits.

“(4) PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER CLAIMS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to bar any claim by, or with respect to, any System member who is a public safety officer, as defined in section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b), for any benefits authorized under part L of title I of that Act (42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq.).

“(i) LIABILITY.—A System member appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1), while acting within the scope of the appointment, shall be considered to be an employee of the Federal Government under section 1346(b) of title 28, United States Code, and chapter 171 of that title, relating to tort claims procedure.

“(j) EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS.—With respect to a System member who is not a regular full-time employee of a sponsoring agency or participating agency, the following terms and conditions apply:

“(1) SERVICE.—Service as a System member shall be considered to be ‘service in the uniformed services’ for purposes of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, relating to employment and reemployment rights of individuals who have performed service in the uniformed services (regardless of whether the individual receives compensation for such participation). All rights and obligations of such persons and procedures for assistance, enforcement, and investigation shall be as provided for in such chapter.

“(2) PRECLUSION.—Preclusion of giving notice of service by necessity of appointment under this section shall be considered to be preclusion by ‘military necessity’ for purposes of section 4312(b) of title 38, United States Code, pertaining to giving notice of absence from a position of employment. A determination of such necessity shall be made by the Administrator and shall not be subject to judicial review.

“(k) LICENSES AND PERMITS.—If a System member holds a valid license, certificate, or other permit issued by any State or other governmental jurisdiction evidencing the member’s qualifications in any professional, mechanical, or other skill or type of assist-

ance required by the System, the System member is deemed to be performing a Federal activity when rendering aid involving such skill or assistance during a period of appointment into Federal service under subsection (f)(1).

“(1) PREPAREDNESS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, the Administrator shall enter into an annual preparedness cooperative agreement with each sponsoring agency. Amounts made available to a sponsoring agency under such a preparedness cooperative agreement shall be for the following purposes:

“(1) Training and exercises, including training and exercises with other Federal, State, and local government response entities.

“(2) Acquisition and maintenance of equipment, including interoperable communications and personal protective equipment.

“(3) Medical monitoring required for responder safety and health in anticipation of and following a major disaster, emergency, or other hazard, as determined by the Administrator.

“(m) RESPONSE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator shall enter into a response cooperative agreement with each sponsoring agency, as appropriate, under which the Administrator agrees to reimburse the sponsoring agency for costs incurred by the sponsoring agency in responding to a major disaster or emergency.

“(n) OBLIGATIONS.—The Administrator may incur all necessary obligations consistent with this section in order to ensure the effectiveness of the System.

“(o) EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101)) a report on the development of a plan, including implementation steps and timeframes, to finance, maintain, and replace System equipment.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 8101(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by transferring subparagraph (F) to between subparagraph (E) and the matter following subparagraph (E);

(C) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) by striking “United States Code.”; and

(ii) by adding “and” at the end; and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) an individual who is a System member of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System during a period of appointment into Federal service pursuant to section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act;”.

(2) INCLUSION AS PART OF UNIFORMED SERVICES FOR PURPOSES OF USERRA.—Section 4303 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (13), by inserting “. a period for which a System member of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System is absent from a position of employment due to an appointment into Federal service under section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act” before “. and a period”; and

(B) in paragraph (16), by inserting “System members of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System during a period of appointment into Federal service under section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act,” after “Public Health Service.”.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1086(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act

for Fiscal Year 2013 is amended as follows (which amendments shall take effect as if enacted on January 2, 2013)—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking “filed or” and inserting “filed (consistent with pre-existing effective dates) or”;

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “amendments made by this Act” and inserting “amendments made to section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b) by this Act”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2971, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking Chairman SHUSTER for his tremendous support and leadership on this issue. For over 8 years, the bipartisan leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has been the driving force behind trying to get these reforms through Congress, and, today, we are closer than ever.

I also want to thank Ranking Member DEFAZIO and Ranking Member CARSON for their bipartisan support.

The House unanimously passed a nearly identical measure earlier this year as part of the FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act, H.R. 1471.

Today, when members of the search and rescue teams are federalized and sent across State lines, they don’t know who, if anyone, will pay for their injuries, disabilities, or death. So S. 2971 addresses that issue and clarifies that longstanding concern which has hindered the deployment of critical search and rescue teams between States.

Currently, there are 28 USAR teams across the Nation. Members of these teams are cross-trained in areas such as search, rescue, medical, hazardous materials, and logistics. The teams include firefighters, physicians, structural engineers, and first responders, and they are trained and equipped with help from FEMA. While the members of these teams are not Federal, they do not hesitate to respond to disasters in other States.

These teams have been deployed over the years to numerous disasters, including the Pentagon and World Trade Center on 9/11, Hurricane Sandy, and, most recently, Hurricane Matthew. The challenge has been that when these team members are federalized,

they do not have clarity on who would be responsible if they were injured or even killed while performing their jobs.

It is amazing that we ask these men and women to go into collapsed structures to search for trapped survivors, risking life and limb, without providing them with clarity when it comes to liability and injuries.

The stories of the selfless heroism of these men and women are numerous and humbling. Their work is tireless, physically and emotionally demanding, and nerve-racking.

In Hurricane Matthew, one team helped make more than 100 rescues in North Carolina alone, including the rescue of a 98-year-old hospice patient, when they had to go into areas where the water was 5 to 7 feet above street level, and they could only see the tops of the street signs.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, a single task force rescued more than 850 individuals in 17 hours from a flooded area overwhelmed by a tidal surge. And there are hundreds more such as these accounts.

These heroes play an essential role in the Federal response to national disasters and catastrophes. In addition, the National USAR system benefits our State, local, and regional emergency managers and first responders through training, equipment, and preparedness.

The local government and other entities that sponsor the members of the teams should not have to worry about being left vulnerable or exposed by allowing their employees to participate in such a critical national asset.

After 8 years, it is time to give men and women who put their lives at risk the liability protections they and their families need and deserve. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First, I would like to compliment the Senate on passing the bill we passed last week, the 21st Century Cures Act, which will help research and save the lives of many Americans, something we did in a bipartisan fashion. I am pleased that that happened.

I rise in support of S. 2971, the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2016, as amended, which codifies the Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

Authorizing the urban search and rescue teams, better known as USAR teams, and codifying protections for team members, such as workers' comp and liability protections, have been a top priority of mine since I first introduced a bill to do so in 2007, my first year in Congress.

I was pleased that the late former Democratic Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman, an outstanding Member, Mr. Oberstar, now deceased, included my USAR language in a bill that was reported from the committee in 2010. Since then, legislation authorizing USAR teams has passed the House several times, and now the Senate has passed one as well.

□ 1515

The 28 urban search and rescue teams that are strategically located across the United States provide timely response when needed in the aftermath of a disaster. In fact, USAR teams can be ready for deployment within 6 hours of being called up.

These specialized teams of first responders provide search and rescue services, extraction from structural collapses, and swift, rapid rescue, among other activities, after disaster strikes. Their dedication is truly commendable, as they drop everything in their busy daily lives to come to the prompt assistance of others when needed.

It should be noted that USAR teams even respond internationally when assistance is requested. In fact, two USAR teams deployed in the aftermath of Nepal's earthquakes in 2015 and were responsible for many rescues from structural collapses.

It is only appropriate that we ensure that they have the protection they need to perform their jobs as well as the peace of mind that will come from clarity in compensation and liability issues.

USAR teams may be composed of firefighters, law enforcement officers, paramedics, engineers, medical professionals, and canine handlers. Often, these team members are civil servants. By extending job protection benefits when activated for Federal service, team members know that their jobs will be waiting at home for them. In addition, it helps USAR teams recruit and retain new members.

Tennessee's USAR, known as Tennessee Task Force One, has a strong commitment to their jobs, and they do an extraordinarily good job. Tennessee Task Force One is based in Memphis, Tennessee, and consists of firefighters, police officers, and civilians; and they responded when called to assist in the aftermath of disasters, such as Hurricane Matthew in South Carolina and, most recently, for the tragic wildfires in our Smoky Mountains. They did so despite the uncertainty of whether they would be covered for any injuries.

Their actions are truly heroic, and I applaud them and their dedication. The protections in today's bill are long overdue, and team members can now rest assured that they will be taken care of if they are injured when performing Federal duties.

I am sadly disappointed, though, that the Republican leadership is once again selectively choosing when and when not to enforce its budget rules. The underlying Senate bill we are considering authorized "such sums as necessary" to carry out the USAR system. Despite the House having passed a bill authorizing "such sums as necessary" for the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System earlier this year, we are now told that this authorization violates budget rules and an amendment and further consideration by the Senate is required.

As a result, USAR team members must wait another day before we afford them the protections that they deserve. They deserve better, and they deserve laws that will ensure that Congress will appropriate adequate funds to support them and their activities.

I thank all the USAR teams for their service, and I thank Mr. BARLETTA for working on this bill as well. I urge my colleagues to support our USAR teams by supporting the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on S. 2971.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2971, 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.

Mr. BARLETTA. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 34) "An Act to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5790) to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5790

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 Bureau of Investigation Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES IN THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

Section 2303(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "any employee of the Bureau" and all that follows through "health or safety" and inserting the following: "an employee in, or applicant for, a position in the Bureau as a reprisal for a disclosure of information—

“(1) made—

“(A) in the case of an employee, to a supervisor in the direct chain of command of the employee, up to and including the head of the employing agency;

“(B) to the Inspector General;

“(C) to the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Department of Justice;

“(D) to the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

“(E) to the Inspection Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

“(F) as described in section 7211;

“(G) to the Office of Special Counsel; or

“(H) to an employee designated by any officer, employee, office, or division described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) for the purpose of receiving such disclosures; and

“(2) which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences—

“(A) any violation of any law, rule, or regulation; or

“(B) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5790, the FBI Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2016, as amended.

We have great respect and admiration for the FBI. They do wonderful work. In fact, I was always proud of my grandfather. He was a career FBI agent serving here in the Greater Washington, D.C., area and then up in Pennsylvania for a long period of time. It is because I respect the FBI and its agents that I helped introduce this bill.

The whistleblower protections in the FBI have really not kept up with the rest of government. That is why we need a change here. The whistleblowers at the FBI should be treated the same as they are within the rest of the Federal Government, and this simple bill goes to help correct that.

H.R. 5790 would clarify Congress' longstanding intent to protect whistleblowers when they make disclosures to the same supervisors who have the power to take personnel actions against them. While a great many changes remain to be made in how the Department of Justice and the FBI respond to whistleblowers, this clarification is not a minor one. If implemented, it would have far-reaching implications in protecting whistleblowers at the FBI just as Congress intended in

1978 in the Whistleblower Protection Act.

The FBI Director, Mr. Comey, testified a year ago in the Senate that he “very much” supports legal protections for FBI employees who follow FBI's own policies and report wrongdoing to their supervisors. Similarly, the Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, testified: “We certainly support protecting those who report within their chain of command.”

I want to thank, in particular, the Senate Judiciary Committee, and specifically Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY for his leadership in first introducing this version of the bill. We are also grateful for the support of my colleagues, including Representative HAKEEM JEFFRIES, who joined me as the lead Democrat on this bill in this House.

I also want to particularly thank ELIJAH CUMMINGS, the ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, a great friend and colleague and somebody who also has been very supportive of the passage of this bill. I thank him for his work and commitment on this issue.

Mr. CUMMINGS, personally and through his dedicated staff, continually has worked hand in hand on whistleblower protections, and this is no exception. Together, we have sent the message throughout the Federal Government that protecting whistleblowers is not a partisan issue, and passing this bill will not mark the end of the road for reforming whistleblower protections at the FBI. In fact, in the next Congress, I look forward to addressing other issues raised by the whistleblower community in the GAO as well as the Department of Justice.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5790, as amended. This bill will provide FBI employees with protection for blowing the whistle to a supervisor and make it a prohibited personnel practice to retaliate against a whistleblower for making such a disclosure.

This bill will also ensure that FBI employees are protected when they blow the whistle to certain other individuals, including the Inspector General of the Department of Justice and the Office of Special Counsel.

These small improvements to protect FBI whistleblowers are why I support this measure before us.

The version of this bill that was reported by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee would have done much more to protect the whistleblowers at the FBI than the measure before us today. The introduced version of this bill would have strengthened the whistleblower protections for FBI employees by more closely aligning them with those of the rest of the Federal workforce.

For example, it would have strengthened the appeals process for whistleblowers by requiring appellate review by the Attorney General and giving employees access to the courts. It would have defined prohibited personnel practices to be consistent with those of other Federal employees, and it would have prohibited the use of nondisclosure agreements unless the employee was fully aware of his or her rights before signing such an agreement.

We should work to enact these additional improvements in the next Congress. All employees deserve strong whistleblower protections, including the employees of the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my ranking member, Mr. CUMMINGS, and to our chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, thank you for the hearings and the dedicated work to ensure that our FBI agents are protected in any case of whistleblowing.

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, again, Mrs. LAWRENCE. I want to thank the ranking member, Mr. CUMMINGS.

This is a good, bipartisan issue. It is really a nonpartisan issue. It is to protect Federal employees within the FBI so that they can have the whistleblower protections that, really, most of the rest of the government has, and I urge its adoption.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5790, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. 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.

TRANSPARENT INSURANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2016

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 944, I call up the bill (H.R. 5143) to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 944, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the

text of Rules Committee Print 114–68, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5143

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 “Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The State-based system for insurance regulation in the United States has served American consumers well for more than 150 years and has fostered an open and competitive marketplace with a diversity of insurance products to the benefit of policyholders and consumers.

(2) Protecting policyholders by regulating to ensure an insurer’s ability to pay claims has been the hallmark of the successful United States system and should be the paramount objective of domestic prudential regulation and emerging international standards.

(3) United States officials participating in discussions or negotiations regarding international insurance standards shall support standards designed for the protection of policyholders.

(4) The Secretary of the Treasury shall seek advice and recommendations from a diverse group of outside experts in performing the duties and authorities of the Secretary to coordinate Federal efforts and develop Federal policy on prudential aspects of international insurance matters.

(5) The draft of the Higher Loss Absorbency capital standard adopted in 2015 by the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, notwithstanding the concerns of U.S. parties to the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, unequally affects insurance products offered in the United States, an issue that must be addressed.

(6) Any international standard agreed to at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors is not self-executing in the United States for any insurer until implemented through the required Federal or State legislative or regulatory process.

SEC. 3. OBJECTIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE STANDARDS.

The objectives of the United States regarding international insurance standards are as follows:

(1) To ensure standards that maintain strong protection of policy holders, as reflected in the United States solvency regime.

(2) To ensure, pursuant to enactment of the Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–279), standards that are appropriate for insurers and are not bank-centric in nature.

(3) To promote a principles-based approach to insurance supervision, in which capital adequacy is assessed using risk-based capital requirements for insurance combined with qualitative risk assessment and management tools.

(4) To consider the most efficient and least disruptive approaches to enhancing regulatory assessment of the capital adequacy of insurance groups, including tools that are already in place.

(5) To ensure that any international insurance standard recognizes prudential measures used within the United States as satisfying standards finalized by international standard-setting organizations.

(6) To support increasing transparency at any global insurance or international standard-setting organization in which the United States participates, including advocating for greater stakeholder public observer access to working groups and committee meetings of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

(7) To ensure that there is a sufficient period for public consultation and comment regarding any proposed international insurance standard before it takes effect.

(8) To ensure that the Secretary of the Treasury and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System achieve consensus positions with State insurance commissioners when the Secretary and the Board are United States participants in discussions on insurance issues before the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, Financial Stability Board, or any other international forum of financial regulators or supervisors that considers such issues.

(9) To consider the impact of any such standard on the availability and cost of products to consumers.

(10) To avoid measures that could limit the availability and accessibility of risk protection and retirement security products that are essential to meeting the needs of aging populations.

(11) To ensure that the merits of existing State-based capital standards are recognized and incorporated in any domestic or global insurance capital standard.

(12) To advocate for insurance regulatory standards that are based on the nature, scale, and complexity of the risks posed by the regulated insurance group and entity or activity.

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSENT TO ADOPT INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE STANDARDS.

(a) PUBLICATION OF STANDARDS; ADOPTION OF CAPITAL AND PRUDENTIAL STANDARDS.—The United States may not agree to, accept, establish, enter into, or consent to the adoption of a final international insurance standard with an international standard-setting organization or a foreign government, authority, or regulatory entity unless the requirements under both of the following paragraphs are complied with:

(1) PUBLICATION.—The requirements under this paragraph are complied with if the conditions under one of the following subparagraphs have been met:

(A) BY FEDERAL RESERVE AND TREASURY.—The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Secretary of the Treasury have caused the proposed text of the proposed final international insurance standard to be published in the Federal Register and made available for public comment for a period of not fewer than 30 days (which period may run concurrently with the 90-day period referred to in subsection (b)(3)).

(B) BY STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.—The State insurance commissioners have caused the proposed text of the proposed international insurance standard to be published in a similar form and manner that provides for notice and public comment.

(2) CAPITAL STANDARD.—In the case only of a final international insurance standard setting forth any capital standard or standards for insurers—

(A) such international capital standard is consistent with capital requirements set forth in the State-based system of insurance regulation;

(B) the Board has issued capital requirements for insurance companies supervised by the Board and subject to such requirements, which shall be issued through rulemaking in accordance with the procedures established under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, regarding substantive rules, under which the periods for notice and public comment shall each have a duration of not fewer than 60 days; and

(C) to the extent that such international capital standard is intended to be applied to a company or companies supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, is consistent with the capital requirements of the Board for such companies.

(b) SUBMISSION AND LAYOVER PROVISIONS.—The Secretary and the Board may not agree to, accept, establish, enter into, or consent to the adoption of an international insurance standard established through an international stand-

ard-setting organization or a foreign government, authority, or regulatory entity unless—

(1) the Secretary and the Board have—

(A) conducted an analysis under subsection (c) of the proposed international insurance standard; and

(B) submitted to the covered congressional committees, on a day on which both Houses of Congress are in session, a copy of the proposed final text of the proposed international insurance standard and the report required under subsection (c)(2) regarding such analysis;

(2) the Secretary and the Chairman of the Board have determined, pursuant to such analysis, that the proposed standard will not result in any change in State law;

(3) with respect to a capital standard under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary and the Chairman of the Board certify that the proposed international capital standard is designed solely to help ensure that sufficient funds are available to pay claims to an insurer’s policyholders in the event of the liquidation of that entity; and

(4) a period of 90 calendar days beginning on the date on which the copy of the proposed final text of the standard is submitted to the covered congressional committees under paragraph (1)(B) has expired, during which period the Congress may take action to approve or reject such final standard.

(c) JOINT ANALYSIS BY CHAIR OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE AND SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An analysis under this subsection of a proposed final international insurance standard shall be an analysis conducted by the Secretary and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in consultation with the State insurance commissioners, of the impact of such standard on consumers and markets in the United States and whether any changes in State law will result from such final standard.

(2) REPORT.—Upon completion of an analysis under this subsection of a final international insurance standard, the Secretary and the Board shall submit a report on the results of the analysis to the covered congressional committees and the Comptroller General of the United States. The report shall include a statement setting forth the determination made pursuant to paragraph (1) regarding any changes in State law resulting from such final standard.

(3) NOTICE AND COMMENT.—

(A) NOTICE.—The Secretary and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall provide notice before the date on which drafting the report is commenced and after the date on which the draft of the report is completed.

(B) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT.—There shall be an opportunity for public comment for a period beginning on the date on which the report is submitted under paragraph (2) and ending on the date that is not fewer than 60 days after the date on which the report is submitted. Nothing in this subparagraph shall affect the authority of the Board to issue the rule referred to in subsection (a)(2).

(4) REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Upon submission of a report pursuant to paragraph (2) to the Comptroller General, the Comptroller General shall review the report and shall submit a report to the Congress setting forth the conclusions of the Comptroller General’s review.

(d) LIMITED EFFECT.—This section may not be construed to establish or expand any authority to implement an international insurance standard in the United States or for the United States or any representative of the Federal Government to adopt or enter into any international insurance standard.

(e) TREATMENT OF STATE LAW.—In accordance with the Act of March 9, 1945 (Chapter 20; 59 Stat. 33; 15 U.S.C. 1011 et seq.), commonly referred to as the “McCarran-Ferguson Act”, this section may not be construed to preempt State law.

SEC. 5. REPORTS.

(a) **REPORTS AND TESTIMONY BY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AND CHAIR OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE.**—The Secretary and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall submit to the covered congressional committees an annual report and provide testimony, not less often than every 6 months, to the covered congressional committees on the efforts of the Secretary and the Chairman with the State insurance commissioners with respect to international insurance standard-setting organizations and international insurance standards, including—

(1) a description of the insurance standard-setting issues under discussion at international standard-setting bodies, including the Financial Stability Board and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors;

(2) a description of the effects that international insurance standards could have on consumers and insurance markets in the United States;

(3) a description of any position taken by the Secretary and the Board in international insurance discussions or on any international insurance standard;

(4) a description of the efforts by the Secretary and the Board to increase transparency and accountability at the Financial Stability Board with respect to insurance proposals and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, including efforts to provide additional public access to working groups and committees of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors; and

(5) a description of how the Secretary and the Board are meeting the objectives set forth in section 3, or, if such objectives are not being met, an explanation of the reasons for not meeting such objectives.

(b) **REPORTS AND TESTIMONY BY STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.**—The State insurance commissioners may provide testimony or reports to the Congress on the issues described in subsection (a).

(c) **REPORT ON TRANSPARENCY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report and provide testimony to the Congress on the efforts of the Chairman and the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a)(4) of this section to increase transparency at meetings of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

(d) **GAO REPORT ON TRANSPARENCY OF OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the covered congressional committees a report, and provide testimony to such committees, identifying and analyzing the transparency and accountability of any organization acting as a designee of, or at the direction of, the head of a State insurance department on issues related to international insurance standards, which is not employed directly by the State.

(2) **CONTENT.**—The report and testimony required under this section shall include a description and analysis of—

(A) the role, involvement, or relationship, of any organization identified pursuant to paragraph (1), of, with, or to the State insurance departments' activities as authorized by, directed by, or otherwise referred to in this Act, including a description and analysis regarding such organization's participation in policy and decision-making deliberations and activities related to international insurance standards;

(B) any financial support provided by such organization to any State insurance department personnel in furtherance of their activities related to international insurance standards, the nature and amount of such support, and any understandings between the organization and the State regarding travel protocols and State

laws governing State officials' receipt of, benefiting from, or being subsidized by, outside funds;

(C) the budget, including revenues and expenses, of any organization identified pursuant to paragraph (1) relating to participation in international insurance discussions on issues before, involving, or relating to the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, the Financial Stability Board, or any other international forum of financial regulators or supervisors that considers such issues, and how the organization collects money to fund such activities;

(D) whether each such budget of such an organization is developed under a process comparable in its transparency and accountability to the process under which budgets are developed and appropriated for State departments of insurance and Federal executive branch regulatory agencies, including—

(i) an identification of any bodies independent of the organization that set standards for and/or oversee that organization's budgeting process; and

(ii) a description of the extent to which and how the organization, in funding its operations, uses or benefits from its members' ability to compel entities subject to its members' regulatory authority to use the services of the organization or any of its affiliates; and

(E) the extent to which the work product of any organization identified pursuant to paragraph (1) has the effect of establishing any self-executing national standards, and in what way, and whether such standards are developed under processes comparable in their transparency and accountability to the process under which national standards are developed by the Congress or Federal executive branch agencies.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the designee of the Board.

(2) **COVERED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “covered congressional committees” means the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(3) **INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE STANDARD.**—The term “international insurance standard” means any international insurance supervisory standard developed by an international standards setting organization, or regulatory or supervisory forum, in which the United States participates, including the Common Framework for the Supervision of Internationally Active Insurance Groups, the Financial Stability Board, and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's designee.

(5) **STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.**—The term “State insurance commissioners” means the heads of the State insurance departments or their designees acting at their direction.

SEC. 7. TREATMENT OF COVERED AGREEMENTS.

Section 314 of title 31, United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

“(1) the Secretary of the Treasury and the United States Trade Representative have caused to be published in the Federal Register, and made available for public comment for a period of not fewer than 30 days (which period may run concurrently with the 90-day period for the covered agreement referred to in paragraph (3)), the proposed text of the covered agreement;”;

and

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

“(d) **CONSULTATION WITH STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.**—In any negotiations regarding a contemplated covered agreement, the Secretary and the United States Trade Representative shall consult with and directly include State insurance commissioners.

“(e) **PROHIBITION ON REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**—In accordance with subsections (k) and (l) of section 313, a covered agreement shall not be used to establish or provide the Federal Insurance Office or the Treasury with any general supervisory or regulatory authority over the business of insurance or with the authority to participate in a supervisory college or similar process.

“(f) **TREATMENT UNDER OTHER LAW.**—A covered agreement shall not be considered an international insurance standard for purposes of the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016 and shall not be subject to such Act.”.

SEC. 8. DUTIES OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL.

Subsection (a) of section 112 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5322(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) **DUTIES OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER.**—To assist the Council with its responsibilities to monitor international insurance developments, advise Congress, and make recommendations, the Independent Member of the Council shall have the authority to—

“(A) regularly consult with international insurance supervisors and international financial stability counterparts;

“(B) consult with, advise, and assist the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to representing the Federal Government of the United States, as appropriate, in the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (including to become a non-voting member thereof), particularly on matters of systemic risk, and to consult with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the States concerning such matters;

“(C) attend the Financial Stability Board of The Group of Twenty and join with other members from the United States, including on matters related to insurance and financial stability, and provide for the attendance and participation at such Board, on matters related to insurance and financial stability, of State insurance commissioners; and

“(D) attend, with the United States delegation, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and observe and participate at the Insurance and Private Pensions Committee of such Organization on matters related to insurance and financial stability.”.

SEC. 9. STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SETTING.

Parties representing the United States at the Financial Stability Board of the Group of Twenty on matters, and in meetings, related to insurance and financial stability shall consult with, and seek to include in such meetings, the State insurance commissioners.

SEC. 10. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to support or endorse the domestic capital standard for insurers referred to in section 4(a)(2) or any such domestic capital standards established by the Board.

SEC. 11. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RESERVE FUND.

Clause (i) of section 4(i)(2)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d(i)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, except that for fiscal year 2017, the amount deposited may not exceed \$43,000,000”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1530

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016.

Introduced by my good friend and colleague, the chairman of the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee of our committee, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, H.R. 5143 enhances Congress' constitutional oversight of international deliberations relating to insurance standards. Mr. Speaker, again, this is legislation which is about accountability, transparency, and oversight.

More specifically, the legislation establishes a series of requirements to be met before the Federal Insurance Office or the Federal Reserve may agree to accept, establish, enter into, or consent to the adoption of a final international insurance standard. Permit me to go into greater detail.

First, the Federal Insurance Office and the Fed must publish any proposed final standard and allow for public comment. A public comment is critical to our negotiating posture, Mr. Speaker. In so doing, the involved agencies must provide a joint analysis of the impact the standard will have on consumers and the U.S. insurance markets. Before agreeing to any international standard relating to capital, the Fed is required to first promulgate its domestic capital standard rule.

The bill makes similar requirements for negotiations concerning insurance covered agreements. It sets negotiating objectives for U.S. parties and also mandates that the Federal Insurance Office and the Fed report and testify before Congress twice annually.

Finally, H.R. 5143 ensures that the independent member with insurance expertise who sits on the Financial Stability Oversight Council, known as FSOC, is permitted to assist the FSOC in international discussions and attend meetings of international bodies where insurance standards are discussed.

Mr. Speaker, for almost 150 years, U.S. insurance companies of every type—including property-casualty, life, reinsurance, health, and auto—have been primarily regulated by our States. Congress and the States have occasionally reviewed the effectiveness of the State-based regulation of insurance and coordinated efforts to achieve greater regulatory uniformity. In 1949, Congress passed the McCarran-Ferguson Act, which confirmed the States'

regulatory authority over insurance, except where Federal law expressly provides otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, this changed with the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act in 2010. Dodd-Frank changed the insurance landscape and further enlarged the Federal Government's role in the insurance industry by creating a Federal office specifically tasked with insurance matters. Dodd-Frank established the Federal Insurance Office at Treasury and charged its director with representing the interest of U.S. insurers during negotiations of international agreements.

Among other things, H.R. 5143 seeks to prevent any Federal overreach and establishes essential guardrails for the Federal Government when discussing international insurance issues abroad. The bill is not intended to bring international negotiations to any type of halt. Team USA has experienced victories at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, and has kept Congress informed of its intent to negotiate the first of what could be many covered agreements.

However, we should not underestimate the importance of these conversations or the implications they can have on insurers and the American consumers because they need to be heard and they need to be represented.

As the leader of a Missouri-based midsize insurance company has told our committee, Mr. Speaker:

We worry about the potential negative impacts any international agreement could have on the domestic marketplace or the State-based regulatory system that has served consumer and insurance needs for more than a century.

He added:

Congress should conduct strong oversight in this area in order to protect domestic insurance markets, companies, and especially their policy holders.

Strong oversight and transparency are, indeed, absolutely essential, and that is what we get with this bill.

It is simply imperative that our States, the executive branch, and Congress work cooperatively to signify to the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, the Financial Stability Board, and to foreign governments that we will only lend our name to standards and agreements that benefit U.S. consumers. The bill we are considering today will assuredly lead us to this goal.

Again, H.R. 5143 provides greater transparency, allows for a stronger Team USA in negotiations, and sends a signal to foreign governments and international organizations that the United States will lead and not be led into bad agreements. With the greater congressional oversight the bill provides, we can ensure that any deal that is reached will be a fair deal, and a good deal, for the American people.

Again, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), for his leadership, yet again, on bringing an excellent bill to the House floor.

I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Last week, the majority made it clear that it was just getting started with the special interest giveaways at the expense of financial stability and consumer protection.

Now, before we adjourn, we are here to debate one last holiday gift to Wall Street. This bill's gift is less oversight of the largest insurers in the United States, which will put us at risk for another AIG. Don't forget, AIG was bailed out to the tune of \$182 billion.

While Democrats passed Wall Street reform to prevent another crisis and future bailouts, Chairman HENSARLING and Donald Trump have made it clear that Dodd-Frank is on the chopping block. Without the safeguards in Dodd-Frank, a lack of capital standards for large insurance companies will put our economy at risk.

No one should be surprised at what is taking place here. This is Donald Trump's agenda. Despite promises to hold Wall Street accountable, the President-elect is proposing an administration that is heavy on Wall Street insiders. Their plans will do little to help the millions of Americans struggling to get ahead, but that is by design. Because "Trumpism" isn't really about helping the middle class. It is about lining the pockets of some of our biggest banks and insurance companies.

AIG, as I mentioned, is a poster child of the financial crisis. It engaged in financial activities that more closely resemble investment banking than traditional insurance.

Prior to the crisis, State regulators, which have primary jurisdiction over insurance companies, did not effectively account for AIG's activities related to credit derivatives or securities lending, for example, which allowed it to skate by with minimum capital. When AIG's bets on subprime mortgage-backed securities failed, it collapsed and required a taxpayer bailout. Recall that we bailed out AIG because it was a counterparty to nearly all of the largest global banks; meaning that if AIG failed, it would bring down a series of global megabanks with it.

So under Dodd-Frank, we improved the oversight of insurance companies by giving Federal regulators the necessary tools to prevent another collapse of large, globally active insurance companies. We are talking about the big boys here: AIG, MetLife, and Prudential. For the past several years, Federal regulators have been over-seeing systematically important financial institutions, which are identified as such because they are expected to pose a substantial risk to our financial stability if they fail. Our Federal regulators have also been negotiating with

140 other countries on international standards for large globally connected insurers.

However, today's bill is designed to undermine the progress we have made on this front, and to ultimately prevent the adoption of these capital standards in the United States.

In fact, H.R. 5143 would add layers of burdensome red tape and unworkable requirements on our Federal negotiators, making it virtually impossible for them to advocate effectively for U.S. interests on these issues or agree to any kind of standard. For example, this bill would prevent negotiators from agreeing to any standard unless it focuses exclusively on a company's ability to pay claims. However, focusing exclusively on a company's ability to pay claims can lead those same policyholders vulnerable to systemic failure.

Moreover, by crippling our ability to engage effectively on international insurance issues, this bill will ensure that the rest of the world will move on to adopt standards that are not in our best interest.

At worst, this bill is unconstitutional—something that the administration detailed in its statement of policy—raising multiple conflicts between the President's exclusive authority on international agreements and the bill's requirements to directly include State insurance commissioners in international negotiations.

At best, this bill is a solution in search of a problem. It caters to an unfounded fear that internationally agreed upon policies would be forced upon the small, domestic insurance companies and unwilling States.

Let me again reiterate that the standards being negotiated internationally are for the largest insurers that operate all over the world—companies like AIG, MetLife, and Prudential. It is a scare tactic to claim that these standards would be applied to anyone but the largest and most interconnected global insurers.

Second, States can never be compelled to adopt international standards such as these. These standards are non-binding and each individual State has the discretion to adopt them, modify them, or reject them entirely after going through their full regulatory process.

Third, stakeholders have ample opportunity to weigh in on these discussions. For example, Federal negotiators have held multiple sessions for stakeholders to provide input, and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors has greatly improved public access and consultation. Yet, this bill, H.R. 5143, would require several additional notice and comment periods and several other layers of unnecessary red tape.

To make matters worse, the sponsor proposes to pay for the bill's costs by taking \$7 million from the Securities and Exchange Commission's reserve fund, which means that our financial

watchdog will be unable to respond to unforeseen events, like the flash crash.

In short, this bill would ask taxpayers to pay for the cost of rejecting capital standards by taking away the funding the SEC needs to respond to emergency situations that threaten financial stability. That just doubles down on the irresponsible policy-making we have seen by the opposite side of the aisle.

As the veto threat issued by the White House on this bill states:

The Nation has made great progress as a result of Dodd-Frank, and we cannot allow this bill to hamper the United States' ability to implement the best standards for our unique regulatory regime.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Republicans will go to any lengths necessary to give industry what it wants—less oversight, less supervision, and less regulation. Republicans have repeatedly tried to hamstring our efforts to more effectively monitor and respond to systemic risk by working to dismantle the FSOC and its designation authority for SIFIs. They have called the FSOC unconstitutional and helped companies like MetLife challenge its designation in court. So I am not really surprised that Republicans would close out 2016 by bringing this bill to the floor, but I am disappointed because the American people deserve better.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), the author of H.R. 5143 and the chairman of our Housing and Insurance Subcommittee.

□ 1545

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. I thank the chairman for his tireless help and support in getting this bill to where it is today.

Mr. Speaker, insurance serves as the backbone of financial independence for millions of Americans. It offers support when it is needed the most so that consumers can be assured that they are protected in the event of a loss. Our Nation has a history of thoughtful insurance regulation and strong consumer confidence. To ensure that, we need to make sure that foreign regulators don't do anything to jeopardize that.

The Transparent Insurance Standards Act would establish a series of reasonable requirements to be met before our Team USA, if you will—the Treasury's Federal Insurance Office, the Federal Reserve, or any other party to international regulatory conversations—consents to the adoption of a final insurance standard. H.R. 5143 would also require Team USA to publish any proposed final standard for congressional review and public comment.

Additionally, H.R. 5143 would institute a 90-day layover period, allowing

Congress the ability to block any international agreement. It would also ensure State insurance commissioners a broader role in negotiations, thereby protecting our State-based regulatory system that has served policyholders so well. In doing so, the bill would not only help protect the best interests of U.S. insurance customers, but it would also be a step in restoring the powers vested to Congress in Article I of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, when the Financial Services Committee embarked on this journey, the intent was to craft a bill that not only respected the process, but that provided this body and the public with more opportunity. As such, H.R. 5143 has been drafted with the input of a wide variety of stakeholders, and it has generated broad support. This bill is not intended to bring the international process to a halt. Rather, it will serve as leverage for U.S. negotiators and will ensure that we are in a position to export domestic standards rather than import European-centric ones.

The truth of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is that our constituents don't read about international insurance standards in the local paper or discuss them at the dinner table. However, these conversations and the negotiations at the IAIS have real implications on U.S. companies and, more importantly, on every American policyholder.

Given that, consideration of this bill shouldn't be a partisan affair. Many of my friends across the aisle and their constituents would like to see more sunshine on this international process, and this bill does just that. It is imperative that the United States—that is, the States, the executive branch, and Congress—work cooperatively to signal to the IAIS and foreign governments that we will only lend our name to standards and agreements that benefit U.S. customers. We will lead and not be led, as our chairman just said.

Again, I thank Chairman HENSARLING for his support of this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 5143.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER), the ranking member of the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. CLEAVER. I thank the ranking member for allowing me to speak on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I find much greater satisfaction in working on legislation with the subcommittee chairman, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, than opposing such; but, Mr. Speaker, I do, in fact, believe that H.R. 5143 would prescribe narrowly tailored reporting and negotiating requirements that must be completed before any international regulatory insurance standard could be agreed on.

In the wake of the financial crisis with the passage of Dodd-Frank, the Federal Insurance Office, FIO, was

tasked with representing the United States at international insurance forums. Currently, the FIO has been negotiating alongside the Federal Reserve and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, NAIC, on behalf of our country's insurance interests. The Housing and Insurance Subcommittee has held numerous hearings on this topic, giving us ample opportunity to more fully understand the process that is being undertaken at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors as well as with other international bodies.

It is critical that Team USA continue to advocate strongly on behalf of the U.S. insurance system, and it is imperative that we do not hamstring their ability to do so. More specifically, the bill contains a number of provisions that would ultimately delay our negotiations abroad. If we limit the ability of our negotiators to do their job, we lose our seat at the international table, which, I believe, will weaken our position. Like most on the other side, I am a strong proponent of the State-based system.

Our Missouri insurance commissioner has recently held a national position. In order to effectively communicate our position and advocate for this unique American system, we need to ensure that our international representatives are empowered, and we believe that this actually impacts their role at the table.

Additionally, none of the standards that may be decided upon internationally are binding. This is, perhaps, the most significant thing I am saying. As everyone knows, the States would have to approve any standards because we can't impose those standards on them. These standards would have to be agreed to domestically—they would have to go to each and every State—and they won't be approved on the Federal level. This process would include a notice and a comment period.

I do believe that this bill does not address a single problem, that it does not fix any broken part of this process that is going on.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and a heavy heart that I yield to the next gentleman. I have a heavy heart because I fear this will be the last time I yield time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER); but it is with great pride that, for 14 years, I have called him friend and colleague. He is retiring from this institution. He has been tireless in his service to our committee, his constituents, and this country. He has been a tireless advocate for the cause of freedom, free enterprise, and the lot of the common man and the common woman; and this will be a lesser institution upon his departure.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), my friend.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the chairman and thank him for his leadership and his kind words.

It has been a great pleasure to serve on this Financial Services Committee. I think we have done some good work. I enjoyed working with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle on some issues as well. I wish you the very best as you continue as a committee to work on behalf of Americans all across the country to make sure that they have access to the financial products that they need for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5143, offered by my good friend from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER).

The Transparent Insurance Standards Act is critically important to ensuring that the U.S. State-based model for regulating insurance is preserved and that international agreements benefit U.S. consumers. Since the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act, the increased role of the Federal Government in insurance regulation has led to changes to U.S. participation in international insurance forums, like the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

The Federal Insurance Office, FIO, is charged with representing the interests of U.S. insurers during negotiations of international agreements. Further, the FIO, along with the Federal Reserve, is an active participant in international standard-setting bodies. Over the last several years, developments in international insurance supervision have created tension with our State-based model.

The European Union has moved toward a single regulatory structure for its member states. This effort, known as Solvency II, will harmonize the varied regulatory regimes in each European nation. Many have raised concern that Solvency II will be adopted as the gold standard for international insurance supervision. Solvency II could put the U.S. insurance industry and the U.S. policyholders at a disadvantage.

H.R. 5143 is important legislation that enhances the congressional oversight of international deliberations for insurance regulation. It holds both the FIO and the Federal Reserve to important benchmarks that ensure that U.S. interests are being represented. For example, the agencies must provide joint analyses on the impact of proposed international standards on U.S. consumers and insurance markets. Further, it allows for public comment on any proposed final standard that the U.S. may agree to.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. These regulatory checks are not new to many U.S. agencies, which already must comply with certain Administrative Procedure Act requirements when setting Federal standards. While there may be a critical role for U.S. representatives to play in the international insurance discussion, it is important that our advocates ensure that U.S. interests are not recklessly pushed aside in the name of global harmony.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5143.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the ranking member of the Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee on the Financial Services Committee.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentlewoman.

I join the chairman in thanking Congressman NEUGEBAUER for his outstanding service to this institution, to his district, and to this country. He has been an outstanding Member. It has been a pleasure to serve with him.

We will miss you. Thank you for your friendship, your consideration, and your really hard work for good, sound policy in this country. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5143.

I believe that it would undermine the Fed's ability to negotiate international agreements on insurance regulation, and I think that that will cause a big problem for insurance in our country.

Telling the Fed that it can't agree to any international standard on insurance that isn't already the law in the United States absolutely makes no sense whatsoever. The other countries would simply stop negotiating with us, and I believe we would lose our voice and our seat at the table, and that is not good for America.

It is also important to remember that nothing the Fed or Treasury agrees to internationally can be binding on State insurance regulators. That is already the law, and we don't need a new law to tell us that. The Fed does regulate 14 insurance companies through its holding companies. This has been a Federal authority, and there is nothing new about that.

The Fed should be able to align the insurance regulations that it has authority over with the regulations in other countries. One of the big lessons of the scandal and of the economic downturn of 2008 was that different regulatory regimes in different countries could have different incentives, and some of them were bad incentives—for example, AIG. The only problem that existed with this country was in the different incentives in England.

I am very uncomfortable with a bill that hamstring the Federal Reserve's ability to regulate the safety and soundness of the large insurance holding companies that it has authority over and to ensure that those regulatory standards are consistent internationally, so I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), and I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman be able to control the remainder of such time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), who is the Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee chairman.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I thank my fellow subcommittee chairman for working with me to protect the State-based insurance regulatory model that has served our Nation so well for 150 years.

To my colleague from New York, I am very comfortable with this bill and with the underlying philosophy that has brought us here.

Mr. Speaker, I am a former State representative in the Michigan Legislature, and I know firsthand that Michigan does a better job of protecting policyholders within their borders than the Federal Government does or could. Even more so, Michigan certainly knows how to maintain a robust insurance marketplace that works for Michigan customers. Additionally, Michigan serves as an entry point for several foreign companies which then come into the U.S. marketplace.

However, there are bureaucrats in Washington who believe that they know best. The Dodd-Frank Act significantly expanded the Federal Government's role in the insurance marketplace by creating the Federal Insurance Office and charging the Director with representing the U.S. during the negotiations of international agreements. At the same time, the Dodd-Frank Act changed domestic insurance regulation, which also led to the changes in U.S. participation at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, or IAIS.

□ 1600

The IAIS develops international insurance regulations for its 190 jurisdictions in more than 140 countries to then adopt those. I am concerned that this could influence the U.S. to replace the State-based insurance regulatory model with international standards that were created by unelected European bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, our States are, as Justice Brandeis so eloquently coined, "laboratories of democracy;" and in his words that means that a "State may, if its citizens choose, serve as a laboratory; and try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country."

I can't think of a better example of a successful experiment than the State-based insurance regulatory system, especially in my home State of Michigan. That is why the protections provided in the Transparent Insurance Standards Act are so vitally important.

The straightforward bill simply gives the States and Congress the opportunity to comment on any international insurance standard before it may be adopted.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this very, very important bill and support our system that has existed for 150 years.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK), who is a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am especially grateful to the ranking member for allowing me this opportunity.

First, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from New York and the other gentleman from Texas regarding our colleague, Mr. NEUGEBAUER. From the day that I walked into this Chamber, he has been nothing but a paragon of gentlemanliness toward myself and my colleagues. In fact, every freshman receives a flag flown over the Capitol that Congressman NEUGEBAUER has had flown. And wouldn't you know it, small world category: 2,000 miles away, he happened to be good friends with my uncle, which I didn't even know until he arrived here. He will be missed. He is a testament to how you can see the world completely differently, yet be able to treat one another with respect.

Mr. Speaker, I am a little uncomfortable because this is the second time in a week I have risen to oppose a proposal by my friend from Missouri who I think actually is trying to do the right thing and with whom I have dealt in good faith and who has dealt in good faith with us. But I do, in fact, rise to oppose this bill because in some cases it goes too far, in some cases it won't work, and in some cases, frankly, it doesn't go far enough.

It goes too far in terms of stealing the money from the SEC reserve to pay for this. Its costs and those associated with its implementation should not be borne by another enforcement agency whose job it is to keep us safe.

It won't work in terms of its reporting requirements: all of these expensive requirements that require the rate on the SEC, the transparency, the reporting. Anybody who knows anything about negotiations knows you can't post a public notice about what you intend to do and hope to be successful on the outcome.

I happen to have been a professional on both sides of the labor management negotiations table, and I can tell you, the last thing in the world you want to do is post your playbook. That would be a little bit like the football team saying: Come here, defense; let me tell you what we are going to do.

That would, in fact, be the net effect of this particular approach.

The objective: to maintain the integrity in the McCarran-Ferguson Act is the right one. It is the wrong approach. In some cases it, frankly, doesn't go far enough because, the truth is, we ought to have these international discussions and negotiations for international firms; but this bill would only apply to the IAIS. There are a lot of international forums where insurance is at the table. The fact of the matter is, the State regulators ought to be at those tables as well.

Look, there is a better way. I offer it to you. It is a bill I have introduced, which is H.R. 6436, that takes a principle-based approach. It merely says that the State-based insurance regulators have got to be at the table, and we have to protect that system. It is a principle-based, not a top-down, command and control heavy bureaucracy approach to achieving the same objective while at the same time ensuring that we provide adequate protection and regulation for international insurance companies, but respecting the State-based system.

I don't know why we can't get the win-win here. You know, I find it ironic that my legislation, H.R. 6436, actually enjoys broad-based support among the stakeholders: the regulated and, yes, the regulators. The State-based insurance regulators believe that this is the best approach to take, and it is the one I think is a win-win for everybody. It achieves everybody's objectives. That is not what H.R. 5143 will do.

H.R. 5143 goes too far in some cases, won't work in others, and doesn't go far enough in others. So I hope that you will reject it, provide us with an opportunity to continue to negotiate in good faith, and get to win-win because win-win is possible in this circumstance.

I, once again, thank the ranking member very much for this opportunity.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), who is chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LUETKEMEYER for all of his work on this bill, H.R. 5143.

As we enter into this debate, I think it is important to look at who supports what. If you look at insurers in States like Wisconsin, they have looked at Mr. LUETKEMEYER's bill and they love it. They think it is a great bill because it protects the American State-based model.

If you are a large global insurer, you don't like this bill because you want one global international standard that you have to comply with.

So we are here fighting for the little guy, those little insurance companies that dot all of our States, that serve our communities and our families; and the opposition is standing with the large insurers which have been more concerned about this bill than the little guy, which goes to my point.

I am concerned that the Federal Reserve and Treasury could enter into an international framework that undermines the U.S. system in favor of, again, this European-centric model that is inconsistent with our American model. If you look at this great American model, it has worked for 150 years.

Look back to the 2008 crisis. This system in America, with a ton of pressure, it performed beautifully. It did really well. Why do you want to cash that in for a different model?

I guess my concern is that those State insurers like in my State, they are not even regulated at the Federal level, but they are concerned that on the track that we are going, they very well may be.

This is pretty simple stuff.

What Mr. LUETKEMEYER is looking for is openness and transparency. He just doesn't want Washington bureaucrats negotiating a deal. He wants all stakeholders as part of this deal. And lo and behold, it is a remarkable concept; but if we are going to have fundamental changes to our insurance law, why only have unelected bureaucrats make those decisions? Why not empower the Congress, the people who are responsive to the American electorate?

We should have a say in this process. Put us back in control, which is exactly what Chairman LUETKEMEYER does.

It is a great bill. I encourage all of my friends on both sides of the aisle to show their resounding support.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for his work on H.R. 5143. I rise in strong support of the legislation.

Now, what we are hearing on the floor today is very similar, I suspect, to the discussion at the founding of this country, yet some who wanted a strong central government, strong regulating powers from Washington and some who said, no, that will not be the best way to provide a strong economy, that we should send the decisions closer to where people live. Frankly, that choice is being played out worldwide right now, and that is the case with the question in front of us.

Should we allow people in Europe to tell us what our markets will look like here?

Now, there are those who say yes. I am in the group that says no. Because our system here has created its own stability. In the financial difficulties of 2008 and 2009, our market performed just perfectly. We have got 56 different regulators, each one has their own responsibility. It provides a safer market for the consumer. It provides a safer product for the consumers to purchase. Why we would send that authority to some other country across the oceans just never made sense to those of us who want the decisions made closer to the people.

Secondly, we have to think that it is good for American jobs. Anytime people in a different country are deciding what the rules are, they are going to skew it in favor of themselves. Again, our market is well diversified. It is spread among the States, and it provides insurance markets for every individual State and some more than just the one.

So that tells us that it is good for the economy, it is good for the consumer;

but, finally, we need the stabilizing force here, the ability for Americans to determine what we are going to do.

I think that the recent election has been maybe a referendum on: Do we want to give up power to the local people, or do we just send it away?

Mr. LUETKEMEYER's bill preserves power for the people. It preserves power for the Congress. I would urge support for Mr. LUETKEMEYER's bill, H.R. 5143.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016, with my good friend and colleague from the State of Missouri, Representative BLAINE LUETKEMEYER.

Dodd-Frank reversed a nearly 150-year precedent of the U.S. insurance industry being regulated primarily by the States. From property-casualty, life, reinsurance, health, and even auto, the Obama administration and Dodd-Frank created a more invasive role for the Federal Government to intervene in this industry.

Where this has become apparent is during the negotiations of international agreements regarding insurance standards, where our foreign counterparts, particularly in the European Union, are trying to force us to adopt their standard and forgo our State-based insurance regime.

Most concerning is that many of these meetings take place behind closed doors with little accountability or transparency while our Federal Government says they are negotiating on behalf of our best interests.

H.R. 5143 would enhance congressional oversight into these deliberations by establishing requirements to be met before the Federal Government can agree to the adoption of any final international insurance standards or covered agreements. Setting these procedures in place ensures that Missouri policyholders and customers will be protected from premium increases by having to adopt international standards that don't apply or make sense here in the United States.

Americans are sick and tired of the Federal Government making choices on their behalf without proper input and oversight. Congress needs to be more involved in these negotiations that could have substantial impacts on policyholders across the country.

I have two letters of support from companies in Missouri that represent over 40,000 customers and employees in the State. The companies state that this bill will help prevent costs from being driven up in Missouri, and I would like to include these letters in the RECORD.

CAMERON INSURANCE COMPANIES,

August 19, 2016.

To: MEMBERS OF THE MISSOURI CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: On behalf of Cameron Mutual Insurance Company and the 39,370 policyholders/employees in Missouri, I am writing to ask for your support. During the next few months, U.S. negotiators and their international counterparts are scheduled to meet behind closed doors around the globe approximately three dozen times to make strategic decisions on new international capital and regulatory standards. The U.S. is under pressure from international regulators to adopt their standards. These types of changes have the very real potential to drive up costs here at home.

It is important that the U.S. defend its effective system of insurance regulation. Our U.S. negotiators should not agree to new standards that could eventually weaken U.S. consumer protections, reduce competition, and, according to economist Robert Shapiro, cost homeowners insurance consumers up to an additional \$100 per year.

H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016, introduced by Missouri's own Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, provides critically important checks and balances regarding negotiations on international insurance standards by requiring transparency, accountability, and consultation with Congress, and allowing for public input. The bill passed the House Financial Services Committee in June.

It is critical for Congress to act on this legislation now and I am asking you to defend U.S. insurance markets and to preserve our effective, consumer-focused, state-based system of insurance regulation. Please contact House leadership and the Financial Services Committee leadership and request a September House floor vote on H.R. 5143.

Transparency, accountability, and consultation with Congress and the public is a simple and reasonable approach to ensure our system is not undermined by closed-door international regulatory fora. H.R. 5143 strengthens the U.S. voice by requiring U.S. state and federal negotiators reach consensus on advocacy positions and supporting them by shining a light on the negotiations.

Sincerely,

BRAD M. FOWLER,
President/Chief Executive Officer,
Cameron Mutual Insurance Company.

SHELTER INSURANCE COMPANIES,

September 7, 2016.

Re: H.R. 5143, the "Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016"

Hon. ANN WAGNER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER: Shelter Insurance is the largest domestic property and casualty insurance company in Missouri, writing more than \$1.6 billion in premium, and is home to almost 1,700 Missouri constituents/employees.

On behalf of Shelter Insurance Company, our agents, employees and mutual policyholders in Missouri, I am writing to ask for your help to defend the state-based system of insurance regulation. Congressman Luetkemeyer's bill, H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016, provides critically important checks and balances regarding negotiations on international insurance standards by requiring transparency, accountability, and consultation with Congress, and allowing for public input.

We ask that you please encourage Chairman Hensarling and House leadership to schedule a House vote on this legislation in September.

As you well know, the next few months are important when it comes to international insurance regulation. By the end of 2016, U.S. negotiators and their international counterparts are scheduled to meet behind closed doors around the globe approximately three dozen times to make strategic decisions on new international capital and regulatory standards. The U.S. is under pressure from international regulators to adopt their standards. These types of changes have the very real potential to drive up costs here at home in Missouri.

It is important that the U.S. defend its effective system of insurance regulation. Our U.S. negotiators should not agree to new standards that could eventually weaken U.S. consumer protections, reduce competition.

Again, our ask is that you please work with House leadership and the Financial Services Committee leadership and request a September House floor vote on H.R. 5143.

I thank you for your help on this bill and for your continued leadership on these efforts that are important to my company and many insurers around the United States.

Sincerely,

RICK MEANS,
President and CEO.

BRIAN WALLER,
Director of Government Relations.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I simply ask my colleagues to support this commonsense piece of legislation that instills transparency and accountability for our government when negotiating with their foreign counterparts.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri has 11½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

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Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and his staff for the hard work that went into crafting this legislation, coordinating with the insurance industry and the diverse array of stakeholders and consumers.

Mr. Speaker, for about 150 years, the American insurance industry has been regulated at the State level. This has enabled the tailoring of regulations and business models to local circumstances for insurance companies of all types, structures, and sizes. This system has provided our domestic insurance industry a competitive advantage that benefits consumers and the market for insuring against risk. It is a superior model to the concentrated national champion insurance models of Europe.

Some of Dodd-Frank's policies threaten to upend this existing regulatory infrastructure by interjecting the Federal Government, and ultimately international regulators, into the oversight of the American insurance industry. Regardless of one's views on Federal oversight of insurance, I think we should all agree that

Congress should have a stake in this process and engage in robust oversight of any Federal or international standards.

The Transparent Insurance Standards Act achieves just that. The legislation sets clear objectives, or rules of the road, for the Federal Insurance Office and the Federal Reserve that must be met during negotiation and, ultimately, adoption of any international insurance standards or covered agreements.

The bill ensures that State insurance commissioners or their designees are directly involved in the negotiation process; and before adoption of such an international standard, the public and Congress must have access to the final text and the opportunity to provide comments.

FIO and the Fed would be required to file reports and come before Congress twice a year to brief us on the progress and implementation. If the standards include capital requirements, the Fed must have promulgated a domestic standard first, and this will prevent the tail wagging the dog that we have seen with other international financial standards.

These reforms and several other provisions ensure that, if the United States is going down the road of Federal and international insurance standards, the process is transparent, and Congress, the States, and the American people have a say in that process.

For these reasons, I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge its passage.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I believe this is my last speaker. Last but not least, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), an entrepreneur who understands the importance of our free enterprise system and how important it is for the insurance industry to be able to protect those interests of the free enterprise folks.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I think by now the secret is out the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act has been a complete failure.

For the last 6 years, in an effort to protect consumers, the Dodd-Frank Act has instead stifled job creation for millions of Americans with regulation after regulation. H.R. 5143, which I am a proud cosponsor of, aims to roll back one of the many unintended consequences forced upon U.S. insurers.

For 150 years, the State-based model, the American model, has been successful because it focused on one thing—the consumer. The U.S. State-based insurance regulatory system is unmatched by any insurance regulatory system in the world. It is important that U.S. insurers are not put at a competitive disadvantage worldwide and we continue to act in their interest.

H.R. 5143 requires Congress to conduct oversight of international con-

versations focused on insurance standards and establish a series of requirements to be met by our top negotiators at Treasury's Federal Insurance Office.

Furthermore, transparency and accountability is often lacking in international regulatory discussions, something that is fundamental to the State-based system. It is important that Congress takes every opportunity to open doors, not close doors, and allows all interested parties to participate in negotiations with our international counterparts. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will strongly encourage increased transparency and information sharing and bring to light the true objectives.

Just as Congress is routinely involved in international trade negotiations, this should be no different. It is important we work cooperatively and only agree to standards and agreements that benefit U.S. consumers and allow us to maintain a strong insurance marketplace.

Again, I want to thank Chairman LUETKEMEYER for his leadership and the work our committee has done to stand up for U.S. insurers and consumers. I strongly urge passage of this bill. In God we trust.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

The gentleman who just gave testimony indicated that the secret is out. I don't think he described the secret accurately, but let me just say it is out, and, just as Mr. HENSARLING said on the floor the other day, we ain't seen nothing yet. They are out to destroy Dodd-Frank, they are out to destroy the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and they keep coming forward, as they are doing today, to protect Wall Street.

I ask my colleagues to consider the great progress we have made since the enactment of Wall Street reform to fix the blind spots that prevented our regulators from seeing the big picture. Our U.S. financial system is increasingly complex, and the regulatory structure for the oversight of our system was fragmented before the financial crisis. This was particularly true of the insurance industry, which is regulated primarily by the States.

While our State-based system for insurance regulation has many strengths, by its very nature, it is ill-suited to address all of the issues related to large, globally active insurance companies. That is why Dodd-Frank, while continuing to recognize the primacy of State-based regulation, changed many of the ways in which the insurance industry is supervised for consolidated supervision and enhanced regulation.

If we take a look at AIG, of course, one cannot help but ask: What State regulated AIG; and why did we get into the problem that we got into with AIG? It was because of its London-based operation. That is why it is so important to have cooperation between the countries on these big insurance companies that are operating all over the world.

Let's remind everyone what this bill really does. It takes us backward. It says: forget about examining systemic risks across jurisdictions, and, instead, let's continue to leave the largest internationally active insurers in the world off the hook for any risk they may pose to our economy. Not the small, domestic insurers that engage in traditional activities, not the companies that make up such an important part of our economy in rural areas, and certainly not the insurers that had absolutely nothing to do with the financial crisis. We are talking about the biggest and most complex insurers that have operations all over the globe and pose risks to international financial stability.

This bill is not about transparency, as its title would suggest. It is about weakening oversight of these large firms and making it virtually impossible to agree to any kind of international insurance standard. This bill is also not about protecting policyholders. It is about burying our head in the sand and going back to the precrisis days where all of us, including policyholders, were vulnerable to a systemic failure.

So let's call this bill what it is. It is a giveaway to the insurance industry that is trying to escape more oversight. And let's not pretend that this bill would ensure a more unified U.S. posture on the international stage because, under the provisions of this bill, the U.S. will be severely crippled in its ability to negotiate on these issues, which means that the rest of the world will move forward while American interests get left behind.

What are we talking about? We are talking about capitalization. And if we are not willing to engage with other countries in this international community about these big insurance companies that are operating all over the world about capital standards, we are putting our own country at risk. The administration has already issued a strong veto threat for all of these reasons. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Let me share with you exactly what the administration is saying. "The restrictions that this legislation seeks to place on United States representatives in international insurance matters under H.R. 5143 would raise serious constitutional concerns and severely outweigh any potential attendant benefits.

"FIO, the Federal Reserve, and state insurance commissioners are all actively engaged at the IAIS and regularly coordinate with one another, ensuring that each aspect of the unique United States regulatory regime is adequately represented in any international negotiation. Despite their effective coordination and extensive work thus far to improve global insurance regulation, the restrictions which H.R. 5143 seeks to impose would stop this work in its tracks and would put in place cumbersome and counterproductive requirements. . . .

"Because this legislation seeks to tie the hands of U.S. representatives, in an unconstitutional manner, and prevent them from effectively negotiating on international insurance matters, the Administration strongly opposes H.R. 5143."

Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that my colleague, the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, promised me and threatened me and others that we ain't seen nothing yet, I think it is very clear about what is happening on the opposite side of the aisle and how Mr. HENSARLING and the committee are already carrying out the Trump agenda.

They are making sure that before we leave here on break everyone understands that they are not about to support Dodd-Frank in any shape, form, or fashion, but, rather, they are going to take every opportunity to undermine Dodd-Frank because they don't believe in reforming Wall Street.

Mr. Trump said that he was running for the United States President because he wanted to drain the swamp, but Mr. Trump and his leadership are already showing us that they intend to expand the swamp, that they are going to grow the swamp, that they are going to make sure that they have everybody from Wall Street, many of whom have already been fined, been accused of fraud, who are under investigation—somehow he is bringing them close to him, and I wonder why.

This legislation today basically tells you a story. It tells you a story that they are talking about. They are saying, in essence, that we, the United States of America, operate unto ourselves. Yes, we have these big firms, and we don't mind that they have big businesses in other countries, like AIG. We don't mind that they are operating internationally. We have State regulations, and our State regulations will take care of whatever our needs are for oversight of insurance.

But they can't tell you why that didn't happen with AIG. As a matter of fact, they don't mention AIG. They wish the story of AIG would just simply go away. They don't want the American people to be reminded of what happened with AIG that almost brought this country to its knees. They don't want to remind the people that we had to bail them out. They don't want to remind the people that they were undercapitalized, their credit default swaps were fraudulent, and they didn't have anything to back it up. So here we are, and they are asking the American people to ignore all of this, just forget all of this. We are out to protect those who certainly should not be protected.

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

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

Just to recap what we are doing here: We have a bill in front of us here that is basically trying to give leverage to Team USA, which are the representa-

tives from the United States, one of which was created by Dodd-Frank, to represent the United States insurance industry at the negotiating table with regards to the International Association of Insurance Supervisors. Now, this is a group of people from around the world that regulate insurance companies in each of these other countries.

Now, these regulators have a different set of rules and regulations and a different purpose from the standpoint that they regulate insurance at the national level in each one of these countries, where we in this country regulate insurance at the State level.

□ 1630

When the IAIS tries to promulgate rules and regulations, it is like trying to put a square peg in a round hole when they try and put those rules and regulations on our companies here. As a result, this bill is to try and give leverage to our negotiations so that doesn't happen and so they can protect our industry. In fact, the negotiators want this bill because they need that leverage to be able to go and say no to some of the standards that are being proposed so that they can protect our industry.

Now, I will give you a quick example. In my own State, we have a company that provides reinsurance in one of the countries in Europe. That country right now is trying to impose some new standards on that company to be able to do business there.

We need to have the regulators be able to go to the IAIS and say: Look, this is not working. You cannot impact and undermine our own companies in this country with these rules that do not work. They need to be on a level playing field with everybody else.

So this is a way that we can protect our companies and our industries and our consumers from this regulation that is basically out of control sometimes.

Mr. HUIZENGA made a great point. He said: Why would we allow unelected foreign regulators to tell our industry what to do? That is what we have got. We have got a group of bureaucrats from around the world who are trying to tell our companies, our insurance industry—it isn't one company; it is everybody in this country—what to do. They are not elected, but we are in this Congress. Shouldn't we put the people's representatives in charge of this?

Mr. PEARCE made that comment. These regulations need to be decided by the people's representatives. That is us. That is what this bill does. It puts us in charge of saying yes or no to whatever agreements are done over there.

Mr. BARR made the comment that we need to protect the insurance model of our industry. And that is what this does. We in the Congress can look and see if these rules and regulations will protect the industry.

It doesn't mean we throw them all out either. The underlying principle of

everything that the minority ranking member is talking about here is that we are going to throw out every regulation that is being proposed. No, this is not the case.

What we want to do is make sure the ones that are being proposed are okay and will not negatively impact our industry. The ones that are going to be helpful, we will support those. We will let them go through. That is up to Congress. We should be in charge of those decisions, not somebody else around this world.

Mr. WILLIAMS made a good point. He said this is kind of like a trade agreement. We approve all the trade agreements over in the other body, if I am not mistaken. Should we approve an agreement like this where we are going to impact an entire industry? I think so, Mr. Speaker.

Let me just move on to a couple of points that were made by a couple of folks during the discussion on the other side.

They talked about the pay-for in the bill. The pay-for in the bill actually comes from a slush fund of the SEC, which is overfunded at this point and that they are going to use less than 20 percent of that money this year. It is well paid for. It is well within the reason of being able to afford this, and it is not going to impact that regulator at all. So I think we are in great shape.

Somebody made the comment that the Fed does have the authority to make these rules. No, they don't. They don't have authority to make a rule across the board on all insurance companies in this country. That is not a true statement.

The statement was also made about the G-SIFIs and systemic institutions. This bill doesn't do anything to address G-SIFI designation. This bill is about protecting the IAIS, which is a supervisory body. It is not the Federal Stability Board. It is not the international board that decides all of these G-SIFI designations. This is the board that oversees the regulatory structure of insurance companies.

Somebody said it has constitutional concerns. If it has constitutional concerns, then you have just told me that Dodd-Frank is unconstitutional. That is all we are doing is dealing with what has gone on in Dodd-Frank when setting up the FIO office to try and give them the leverage and power they need to do something.

It is interesting because the ranking member last week was railing on a bill that we had on the floor about transparency and oversight of regulators. You know what? We listened to her. This bill today does that very thing. It adds to transparency, and we are providing oversight for the regulators. I would think she would be excited about this legislation and be willing to support it.

One other comment, Mr. Speaker, and I will close.

The ranking member keeps throwing AIG at us. That is a red-herring from

the standpoint that AIG is made up of two separate entities: one is an insurance company; one is the securities and investment company. The company that was in trouble was the securities and investment part. The insurance company stayed solid and solvent. That is not the one that was bailed out.

So, again, the point was made by one of my colleagues—Mr. DUFFY, I believe it was—that in 2008 our system worked. And he is correct; it did work. Our insurance industry in this country withstood one of the largest and most devastating recessions in history since the Great Depression, and it came out of it with very little negative problems that could impact the quality of insurance being provided for our citizens.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me just close by saying this bill does what we would hope that every bill would do in this Congress, and that is that it gives leverage to people who can do good to protect our industries and our people, our way of life and our economy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for general debate has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 PRINTED IN HOUSE REPORT
114-846 OFFERED BY MR. DESANTIS

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 11, before the period insert the following: "and that any such final standard is composed in plain writing (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note))".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 944, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, my amendment is very simple. It requires that any international agreement needs to be written in plain writing as a condition to enter into the agreement.

I am offering this from the perspective of people in Florida, my district, and elsewhere who are small businesses, who are small companies who can't afford to hire large legal teams simply to understand overly complex regulations. They are already beset with way too much, both in terms of the scope, but also in terms of the complexity; and when you have complex agreements or regulations imposed on them, it not only makes life difficult for them, it actually gives them a competitive disadvantage over some of the big companies that we are always hearing about.

So I think writing in plain language, clear and concise, makes it easier for small businesses to comply without amassing huge amounts in legal fees and other overhead costs.

Plain writing doesn't change the regulation. You can have a regulation. It

just requires it to be written in a way that doesn't require you to hire \$500-an-hour attorneys to interpret it for you. So I think it is a commonsense way to help small business with no taxpayer expense.

I would note that the need for plain writing has been something that the Congress, on both sides of the aisle, has embraced over decades.

I appreciate my friend from Missouri's bill. I intend to support it. I think this amendment will be added protection for those who are struggling to do well in an economy in which so much that comes out of Washington seems to be making it more difficult for them to succeed.

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

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, this amendment requires that any final standard agreed to under the terms of this bill be composed in plain writing in accordance with the Plain Writing Act of 2010. That law basically requires that Federal agencies use "clear government communication that the public can understand and use."

As a matter of general policy, I think that makes good sense. We want the public to be able to understand the rules and regulations that impact their daily lives. When government regulations are difficult to comprehend, it undermines rather than enhances our goal of setting clear rules of the road and preventing misconduct. But no amount of clear communication or plain writing will improve the basic issues with the underlying bill.

Of course we support plain writing. I wish that all of us would adopt and carry out and implement the legislation that was passed, supported by both sides of the aisle, for plain writing, for plain English. I wish the State would do it with their propositions, et cetera. We all pay lip service to it, but then we come with the gobbledygook that the American public has to try and understand.

So, yes, I support plain writing. I support the public being able to understand what we do, but I don't want people to be confused. Plain writing has nothing to do with the basic issues in this underlying bill.

While I do not take issue with the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida, I continue to urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. It is a solution in search of a problem, one that certainly does not exist.

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

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that this is an amendment that my friend from California can embrace.

I urge everyone to embrace it and would just urge people to support the amendment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended, and on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

The question is on the amendment by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. 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, this 15-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by 5-minute votes on motions to suspend the rules with respect to H.R. 6076, S. 2971, and H.R. 5790, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 239, nays 170, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 613]

YEAS—239

Abraham	Crenshaw	Heck (NV)
Aderholt	Cuellar	Hensarling
Allen	Culberson	Herrera Beutler
Amash	Curbelo (FL)	Hice, Jody B.
Amodei	Davidson	Hill
Ashford	Davis, Rodney	Holding
Babin	Denham	Hudson
Barletta	Dent	Huelskamp
Barr	DeSantis	Huizenga (MI)
Barton	DesJarlais	Hultgren
Benishek	Diaz-Balart	Hunter
Bilirakis	Dold	Hurd (TX)
Bishop (MI)	Donovan	Issa
Bishop (UT)	Duffy	Jenkins (KS)
Black	Duncan (SC)	Jenkins (WV)
Blackburn	Duncan (TN)	Johnson (OH)
Blum	Ellmers (NC)	Johnson, Sam
Bost	Emmer (MN)	Jones
Boustany	Farenthold	Jordan
Brady (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Joyce
Brat	Fleischmann	Katko
Bridenstine	Fleming	Kelly (MS)
Brooks (AL)	Flores	Kelly (PA)
Brooks (IN)	Forbes	Kind
Buchanan	Fortenberry	King (IA)
Buck	Fox	King (NY)
Bueshon	Franks (AZ)	Kinzinger (IL)
Burgess	Frelinghuysen	Kline
Byrne	Garrett	Knight
Calvert	Gibbs	Labrador
Carter (GA)	Gibson	LaHood
Carter (TX)	Gohmert	LaMalfa
Chabot	Goodlatte	Lamborn
Chaffetz	Gosar	Lance
Clawson (FL)	Gowdy	Latta
Coffman	Graves (GA)	LoBiondo
Cole	Graves (LA)	Long
Collins (GA)	Griffith	Loudermilk
Collins (NY)	Grothman	Lovely
Comer	Guinta	Lucas
Comstock	Guthrie	Luetkemeyer
Conaway	Hanna	Lummis
Cook	Hardy	MacArthur
Costello (PA)	Harper	Marchant
Cramer	Harris	Marino
Crawford	Hartzler	Massie

McCarthy	Posey	Smith (TX)
McClain	Price, Tom	Stefanik
McClintock	Ratcliffe	Stewart
McHenry	Reed	Stivers
McKinley	Reichert	Stutzman
McMorris	Renacci	Thompson (PA)
Rodgers	Ribble	Thornberry
McSally	Rice (SC)	Tipton
Meadows	Rigell	Trott
Meehan	Roby	Turner
Messer	Roe (TN)	Upton
Mica	Rogers (AL)	Valadao
Miller (FL)	Rogers (KY)	Wagner
Moolenaar	Rohrabacher	Walberg
Mooney (WV)	Rokita	Walden
Mullin	Rooney (FL)	Walker
Mulvaney	Ros-Lehtinen	Walorski
Murphy (PA)	Ross	Walters, Mimi
Neugebauer	Rothfus	Weber (TX)
Newhouse	Rouzer	Webster (FL)
Noem	Royce	Wenstrup
Nugent	Russell	Westerman
Nunes	Salmon	Williams
Olson	Sanford	Wilson (SC)
Palazzo	Scalise	Wittman
Palmer	Schweikert	Womack
Paulsen	Sensenbrenner	Woodall
Pearce	Sessions	Yoder
Perry	Shimkus	Yoho
Peterson	Shuster	Young (AK)
Pittenger	Simpson	Young (IA)
Pitts	Smith (MO)	Young (IN)
Poliquin	Smith (NE)	Zeldin
Pompeo	Smith (NJ)	Zinke

NAYS—170

Adams	Fudge	Nadler
Aguilar	Gabbard	Napolitano
Bass	Galleo	Nolan
Beatty	Garamendi	Norcross
Becerra	Graham	O'Rourke
Bera	Grayson	Pallone
Beyer	Green, Al	Pascrell
Bishop (GA)	Green, Gene	Payne
Blumenauer	Grijalva	Pelosi
Bonamici	Gutiérrez	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan	Hanabusa	Peters
F.	Hastings	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Heck (WA)	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Higgins	Polis
Bustos	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Honda	Quigley
Capps	Hoyer	Rangel
Capuano	Huffman	Richmond
Cárdenas	Jackson Lee	Roybal-Allard
Carney	Jeffries	Ruiz
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Cicilline	Kelly (IL)	T.
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Schakowsky
Clay	Kilmer	Schiff
Cleaver	Kuster	Schrader
Cohen	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Scott, David
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Cooper	Lawrence	Sherman
Courtney	Levin	Sinema
Crowley	Lewis	Sires
Cummings	Lieu, Ted	Slaughter
Davis (CA)	Lipinski	Smith (WA)
Davis, Danny	Loebsack	Speier
DeFazio	Lofgren	Swalwell (CA)
DeGette	Lowenthal	Takano
DeLaney	Lowe	Takano
DeLauro	Lujan Grisham	Thompson (CA)
DelBene	(NM)	Thompson (MS)
DeSaulnier	Luján, Ben Ray	Titus
Deutch	(NM)	Tonko
Dingell	Lynch	Torres
Doggett	Maloney,	Tsongas
Doyle, Michael	Carolyn	Van Hollen
F.	Maloney, Sean	Vargas
Duckworth	Matsui	Veasey
Edwards	McCollum	Vela
Ellison	McGovern	Velázquez
Engel	McNerney	Visclosky
Eshoo	Meeke	Walz
Esty	Meng	Walters, Maxine
Evans	Moore	Watson Coleman
Farr	Moulton	Welch
Foster	Murphy (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Frankel (FL)		Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—24

Brown (FL)	Clyburn	Fincher
Chu, Judy	Costa	Granger

Graves (MO)	Miller (MI)	Serrano
Hurt (VA)	Neal	Tiberi
Israel	Poe (TX)	Wasserman
Jolly	Rice (NY)	Schultz
Kirkpatrick	Roskam	Westmoreland
Lee	Sanchez, Loretta	
McDermott	Scott, Austin	

□ 1705

Mr. MESSER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TO RESEARCH, EVALUATE, ASSESS, AND TREAT ASTRONAUTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6076) to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of astronauts, and for other purposes, 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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) 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 413, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 614]

YEAS—413

Abraham	Byrne	Davis (CA)
Adams	Calvert	Davis, Danny
Aderholt	Capps	Davis, Rodney
Aguilar	Capuano	DeFazio
Allen	Cárdenas	DeGette
Amash	Carney	Delaney
Amodei	Carson (IN)	DeLauro
Ashford	Carter (GA)	DelBene
Babin	Carter (TX)	Denham
Barletta	Cartwright	Dent
Barr	Castor (FL)	DeSantis
Barton	Castro (TX)	DeSaulnier
Bass	Chabot	DesJarlais
Beatty	Chaffetz	Deutch
Becerra	Chu, Judy	Dingell
Benishek	Cicilline	Doggett
Bera	Clark (MA)	Dold
Beyer	Clarke (NY)	Donovan
Bilirakis	Clawson (FL)	Doyle, Michael
Bishop (GA)	Clay	F.
Bishop (MI)	Cleaver	Duckworth
Bishop (UT)	Coffman	Duffy
Black	Cohen	Duncan (SC)
Blackburn	Cole	Duncan (TN)
Blum	Collins (GA)	Edwards
Blumenauer	Collins (NY)	Ellison
Bonamici	Comer	Ellmers (NC)
Bost	Comstock	Emmer (MN)
Boustany	Conaway	Engel
Boyle, Brendan	Connolly	Eshoo
F.	Conyers	Esty
Brady (PA)	Cook	Evans
Brady (TX)	Cooper	Farenthold
Brat	Costello (PA)	Farr
Bridenstine	Courtney	Fitzpatrick
Brooks (AL)	Cramer	Fleischmann
Brooks (IN)	Crawford	Fleming
Brownley (CA)	Crenshaw	Flores
Buchanan	Crowley	Fortenberry
Buck	Cuellar	Foster
Bucshon	Culberson	Foxx
Burgess	Cummings	Frankel (FL)
Bustos	Curbelo (FL)	Franks (AZ)
Butterfield	Davidson	Frelinghuysen

Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk

Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)

Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield

NOT VOTING—20
Graves (MO)
Israel
Jolly
Kirkpatrick
Lee
McDermott
Miller (MI)
Poe (TX)
Roskam
Sanchez, Loretta
Serrano
Tiberi
Westmoreland

Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo

Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)

Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Vislosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Price, Tom
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1713

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2971) to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, 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 gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) 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 405, nays 7, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 615]
YEAS—405

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Agular
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farenthold
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx

NAYS—7

Amash	Massie	Sensenbrenner
Harris	Ribble	
Jones	Sanford	

NOT VOTING—21

Brat	Graves (MO)	Rush
Brown (FL)	Jolly	Sanchez, Loretta
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Serrano
Costa	Lee	Tiberi
Doyle, Michael	McDermott	Waters, Maxine
F.	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Fincher	Poe (TX)	
Forbes	Roskam	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1719

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 615.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5790) to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 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 gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) 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 0, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 616]

YEAS—404

Abraham	Boyle, Brendan	Chu, Judy
Adams	F.	Cicilline
Aderholt	Brady (PA)	Clark (MA)
Aguilar	Brady (TX)	Clarke (NY)
Allen	Brat	Clawson (FL)
Amash	Bridenstine	Clay
Amodei	Brooks (AL)	Cleaver
Ashford	Brooks (IN)	Coffman
Babin	Brownley (CA)	Cohen
Barletta	Buchanan	Cole
Barr	Buck	Collins (GA)
Barton	Bucshon	Collins (NY)
Bass	Burgess	Comer
Beatty	Bustos	Comstock
Becerra	Butterfield	Conaway
Benishek	Byrne	Connolly
Bera	Calvert	Conyers
Beyer	Capps	Cook
Bilirakis	Capuano	Cooper
Bishop (GA)	Cárdenas	Costello (PA)
Bishop (MI)	Carney	Courtney
Bishop (UT)	Carson (IN)	Cramer
Black	Carter (GA)	Crawford
Blackburn	Carter (TX)	Crenshaw
Blum	Cartwright	Crowley
Blumenauer	Castor (FL)	Cuellar
Bonamici	Castro (TX)	Culberson
Bost	Chabot	Cummings
Boustany	Chaffetz	Curbelo (FL)

Davidson	Jenkins (KS)	Palazzo
Davis (CA)	Jenkins (WV)	Pallone
Davis, Danny	Johnson (GA)	Palmer
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (OH)	Pascrell
DeFazio	Johnson, E. B.	Paulsen
DeGette	Johnson, Sam	Payne
Delaney	Jones	Pearce
DeLauro	Jordan	Pelosi
DelBene	Joyce	Perlmutter
Denham	Kaptur	Perry
Dent	Katko	Peters
DeSantis	Keating	Peterson
DeSaulnier	Kelly (IL)	Pingree
DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	Pittenger
Deutsch	Kelly (PA)	Pitts
Diaz-Balart	Kennedy	Pocan
Dingell	Kildee	Poliquin
Doggett	Kilmer	Polis
Dold	Kind	Pompeo
Donovan	King (IA)	Posey
Duckworth	King (NY)	Price (NC)
Duffy	Kinzinger (IL)	Price, Tom
Duncan (SC)	Kline	Quigley
Duncan (TN)	Knight	Rangel
Edwards	Kuster	Ratcliffe
Ellison	Labrador	Reed
Ellmers (NC)	LaHood	Reichert
Emmer (MN)	LaMalfa	Renacci
Engel	Lamborn	Ribble
Eshoo	Lance	Rice (NY)
Esty	Langevin	Rice (SC)
Evans	Larsen (WA)	Richmond
Farenthold	Larson (CT)	Rigell
Farr	Latta	Roby
Fitzpatrick	Lawrence	Roe (TN)
Fleischmann	Levin	Rogers (AL)
Fleming	Lewis	Rogers (KY)
Flores	Lieu, Ted	Rohrabacher
Fortenberry	Lipinski	Rokita
Foster	LoBiondo	Rooney (FL)
Foxx	Loeb	Ros-Lehtinen
Frankel (FL)	Loebsack	Ross
Franks (AZ)	Lofgren	Rothfus
Frelinghuysen	Long	Rouzer
Fudge	Loudermilk	Royce
Gabard	Love	Ruiz
Gallego	Lowenthal	Ruppersberger
Garamendi	Lowe	Russell
Garrett	Lucas	Ryan (OH)
Gibbs	Luetkemeyer	Salmon
Gibson	Lujan Grisham	Sánchez, Linda
Gohmert	(NM)	T.
Goodlatte	Luján, Ben Ray	Sanford
Gosar	(NM)	Sarbanes
Gowdy	Lummis	Scalise
Graham	Lynch	Schakowsky
Granger	MacArthur	Schiff
Graves (GA)	Maloney,	Schweikert
Graves (LA)	Carolyn	Scott (VA)
Grayson	Maloney, Sean	Scott, Austin
Green, Al	Marchant	Scott, David
Green, Gene	Marino	Sensenbrenner
Griffith	Massie	Sessions
Grijalva	Matsui	Sewell (AL)
Grothman	McCarthy	Sherman
Guinta	McCaul	Shimkus
Guthrie	McClintock	Shuster
Gutiérrez	McCollum	Simon
Hanabusa	McGovern	Sires
Hanna	McHenry	Slaughter
Hardy	McKinley	Smith (MO)
Harper	McMorris	Smith (NE)
Harris	Rodgers	Smith (WA)
Hartzler	McNerney	Speier
Hastings	McSally	Stefanik
Heck (NV)	Meadows	Stewart
Heck (WA)	Meehan	Stutzman
Hensarling	Meeke	Swalwell (CA)
Herrera Beutler	Meng	Takano
Hice, Jody B.	Messer	Thompson (CA)
Higgins	Mica	Thompson (MS)
Hill	Miller (FL)	Thompson (PA)
Himes	Moolenaar	Thornberry
Hinojosa	Mooney (WV)	Tipton
Holding	Moore	Titus
Honda	Moulton	Tonko
Hoyer	Mullin	Torres
Hudson	Mulvaney	Trott
Huelskamp	Murphy (FL)	Tsongas
Huffman	Murphy (PA)	Turner
Huizenga (MI)	Nader	Upton
Hultgren	Napolitano	Valadao
Hunter	Neal	Van Hollen
Hurd (TX)	Neugebauer	Vargas
Hurt (VA)	Newhouse	Veasey
Israel	Noem	Visclosky
Issa	Norcross	Wagner
Jackson Lee	Nunes	Walberg
Jeffries	O'Rourke	Walden
	Olson	

Walker	Webster (FL)	Woodall
Walorski	Welch	Yarmuth
Walters, Mimi	Wenstrup	Yoder
Walz	Westerman	Yoho
Wasserman	Williams	Young (AK)
Schultz	Wilson (FL)	Young (IA)
Waters, Maxine	Wilson (SC)	Young (IN)
Watson Coleman	Wittman	Zeldin
Weber (TX)	Womack	Zinke

NOT VOTING—29

Brown (FL)	Lee	Schrader
Clyburn	McDermott	Serrano
Costa	Miller (MI)	Sinema
Doyle, Michael	Nolan	Smith (NJ)
F.	Nugent	Smith (TX)
Fincher	Poe (TX)	Stivers
Forbes	Roskam	Tiberi
Graves (MO)	Roybal-Allard	Vela
Jolly	Rush	Velázquez
Kirkpatrick	Sanchez, Loretta	Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1726

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 611 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 1219), 612 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended S. 3028), 613 (on passage of H.R. 5143), 614 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 6076), 615 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended House Amendment to S. 2971), and 616 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 5790) I did not cast my vote due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on all of the votes.

BETTER ONLINE TICKET SALES ACT OF 2016

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (S. 3183) to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3183

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 “Better Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016” or the “BOTS Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO CIRCUMVENTION OF TICKET ACCESS CONTROL MEASURES.

(a) CONDUCT PROHIBITED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any person—

(A) to circumvent a security measure, access control system, or other technological control or measure on an Internet website or online service that is used by the ticket issuer to enforce posted event ticket purchasing limits or to maintain the integrity of posted online ticket purchasing order rules; or

(B) to sell or offer to sell any event ticket in interstate commerce obtained in violation of subparagraph (A) if the person selling or offering to sell the ticket either—

(i) participated directly in or had the ability to control the conduct in violation of subparagraph (A); or

(ii) knew or should have known that the event ticket was acquired in violation of subparagraph (A).

(2) EXCEPTION.—It shall not be unlawful under this section for a person to create or use any computer software or system—

(A) to investigate, or further the enforcement or defense, of any alleged violation of this section or other statute or regulation; or

(B) to engage in research necessary to identify and analyze flaws and vulnerabilities of measures, systems, or controls described in paragraph (1)(A), if these research activities are conducted to advance the state of knowledge in the field of computer system security or to assist in the development of computer security product.

(b) ENFORCEMENT BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of subsection (a) shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or a deceptive act or practice under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(C) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Federal Trade Commission under any other provision of law.

(c) ENFORCEMENT BY STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of the residents of the State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by the engagement of any person subject to subsection (a) in a practice that violates such subsection, the attorney general of the State may, as *parens patriae*, bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate district court of the United States—

(A) to enjoin further violation of such subsection by such person;

(B) to compel compliance with such subsection; and

(C) to obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation on behalf of such residents.

(2) RIGHTS OF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(A) NOTICE TO FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the attorney general of a State shall notify the Commission in writing that the attorney general intends to bring a civil action under paragraph (1) not later than 10 days before initiating the civil action.

(ii) CONTENTS.—The notification required by clause (i) with respect to a civil action shall include a copy of the complaint to be filed to initiate the civil action.

(iii) EXCEPTION.—If it is not feasible for the attorney general of a State to provide the notification required by clause (i) before initiating a civil action under paragraph (1), the attorney general shall notify the Commission immediately upon instituting the civil action.

(B) INTERVENTION BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—The Commission may—

(i) intervene in any civil action brought by the attorney general of a State under paragraph (1); and

(ii) upon intervening—

(I) be heard on all matters arising in the civil action; and

(II) file petitions for appeal of a decision in the civil action.

(3) INVESTIGATORY POWERS.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prevent the attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general by the laws of the State to conduct investigations, to administer oaths or affirmations, or to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary or other evidence.

(4) PREEMPTIVE ACTION BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—If the Commission institutes a civil action or an administrative action with respect to a violation of subsection (a), the attorney general of a State may not, during the pendency of such action, bring a civil action under paragraph (1) against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission for the violation with respect to which the Commission instituted such action.

(5) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—

(A) VENUE.—Any action brought under paragraph (1) may be brought in—

(i) the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or

(ii) another court of competent jurisdiction.

(B) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under paragraph (1), process may be served in any district in which the defendant—

(i) is an inhabitant; or

(ii) may be found.

(6) ACTIONS BY OTHER STATE OFFICIALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to civil actions brought by attorneys general under paragraph (1), any other consumer protection officer of a State who is authorized by the State to do so may bring a civil action under paragraph (1), subject to the same requirements and limitations that apply under this subsection to civil actions brought by attorneys general.

(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit an authorized official of a State from initiating or continuing any proceeding in a court of the State for a violation of any civil or criminal law of the State.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) EVENT.—The term “event” means any concert, theatrical performance, sporting event, show, or similarly scheduled activity, taking place in a venue with a seating or attendance capacity exceeding 200 persons that—

(A) is open to the general public; and

(B) is promoted, advertised, or marketed in interstate commerce or for which event tickets are generally sold or distributed in interstate commerce.

(3) EVENT TICKET.—The term “event ticket” means any physical, electronic, or other

form of a certificate, document, voucher, token, or other evidence indicating that the bearer, possessor, or person entitled to possession through purchase or otherwise has—

(A) a right, privilege, or license to enter an event venue or occupy a particular seat or area in an event venue with respect to one or more events; or

(B) an entitlement to purchase such a right, privilege, or license with respect to one or more future events.

(4) TICKET ISSUER.—The term “ticket issuer” means any person who makes event tickets available, directly or indirectly, to the general public, and may include—

(A) the operator of the venue;

(B) the sponsor or promoter of an event;

(C) a sports team participating in an event or a league whose teams are participating in an event;

(D) a theater company, musical group, or similar participant in an event; and

(E) an agent for any such person.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A CERTAIN CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1635

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 181

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill S. 1635, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In section 113, in the proposed subsection (j)(1) of section 4 of the Foreign Service Buildings Act, 1926, strike “subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary may transfer to, and merge with, any appropriation for embassy security, construction, and maintenance such amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2018 for any other purpose related to the administration of foreign affairs on or after January 1, 2017, if the Secretary determines such transfer is necessary to provide for the security of sites and buildings in foreign countries under the jurisdiction and control of the Secretary” and insert “subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may transfer to, and merge with, any appropriation for fiscal year 2018 under the heading ‘Diplomatic and Consular Programs’, including for Worldwide Security Protection, and under the heading ‘Embassy Security, Construction, and Maintenance’ funds appropriated under such headings if the Secretary determines such transfer is necessary to implement the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board, or to prevent or respond to security situations and requirements”.

(2) In section 113, in the proposed subsection (j) of section 4 of the Foreign Service Buildings Act, 1926, strike the proposed paragraph (2).

(3) In section 113, in the proposed subsection (j) of section 4 of the Foreign Service

Buildings Act, 1926, redesignate the proposed paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(4) In paragraph (7) of section 307, strike "Office of Inspector General of the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors" and insert "offices of inspectors general of relevant United Nations agencies".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1730

REQUIRING A REGIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE THREAT POSED BY BOKO HARAM

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence be discharged from further consideration of the bill (S. 1632) to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1632

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

SECTION 1. REGIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE THREAT POSED BY BOKO HARAM.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a five-year strategy to help enable the Government of Nigeria, members of the Multinational Joint Task Force to Combat Boko Haram (MNJTF) authorized by the African Union, and relevant partners to counter the regional threat of Boko Haram and assist the Government of Nigeria and its neighbors to accept and address legitimate grievances of vulnerable populations in areas affected by Boko Haram.

(2) ELEMENTS.—At a minimum, the strategy must address the following elements:

(A) Enhance, pursuant to existing authorities and restrictions, the institutional capacity, including military capabilities, of the Government of Nigeria and partner nations in the region, as appropriate, to counter the threat posed by Boko Haram.

(B) Provide humanitarian support to civilian populations impacted by Boko Haram's activity.

(C) Specific activities through which the United States Government intends to improve and enhance the capacity of Multinational Joint Task Force to Combat Boko Haram partner nations to investigate and prosecute human rights abuses by security forces and promote respect for the rule of law within the military.

(D) A means for assisting Nigeria, and as appropriate, Multinational Joint Task Force to Combat Boko Haram nations, to counter violent extremism, including efforts to address underlying societal factors shown to contribute to the ability of Boko Haram to radicalize and recruit individuals.

(E) A plan to strengthen and promote the rule of law, including by improving the capacity of the civilian police and judicial system in Nigeria, enhancing public safety, and responding to crime (including gender-based violence), while respecting human rights and strengthening accountability measures, including measures to prevent corruption.

(F) Strengthen the long-term capacity of the Government of Nigeria to enhance security for schools such that children are safer and girls seeking an education are better protected, and to combat gender-based violence and gender inequality.

(G) Identify and develop mechanisms for coordinating the implementation of the strategy across the inter-agency and with the Government of Nigeria, regional partners, and other relevant foreign partners.

(H) Identify the resources required to achieve the strategy's objectives.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit, to the appropriate committees of Congress, an assessment regarding—

(1) the willingness and capability of the Government of Nigeria and regional partners to implement the strategy developed under subsection (a), including the capability gaps, if any, of the Government and military forces of Nigeria that would need to be addressed to enable the Government of Nigeria and the governments of its partner countries in the region—

(A) to counter the threat of Boko Haram; and

(B) to address the legitimate grievances of vulnerable populations in areas affected by Boko Haram; and

(2) significant United States intelligence gaps concerning Boko Haram or on the willingness and capacity of the Government of Nigeria and regional partners to implement the strategy developed under subsection (a).

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that lack of economic opportunity and access to education, justice, and other social services contributes to the ability of Boko Haram to radicalize and recruit individuals.

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to submit statements and extraneous materials for the RECORD on S. 1632.

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

There was no objection.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the

House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

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 additional motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VIETNAM HELICOPTER CREW MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4298) to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4298

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 "Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act".

SEC. 2. PLACEMENT OF MEMORIAL HONORING HELICOPTER PILOTS DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of section (c), the Secretary of the Army shall place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring helicopter pilots and crew members who served on active duty in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era.

(b) DESIGN.—The memorial placed under subsection (a) shall measure 4 feet in height, 5 feet in width, and 1 foot in depth, and shall be based on a design approved by the Secretary of the Army and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.

(c) AGREEMENT FOR UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary of the Army may only place a memorial under subsection (a) if the Secretary enters into an agreement with the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association under which the Association agrees to pay all costs necessary to construct, install, and maintain the memorial, and to such other provisions as the Secretary may require.

(d) APPROVAL OF SITE.—The Secretary of the Army shall approve an appropriate site within Arlington National Cemetery for the memorial under subsection (a) to be placed.

(e) WAIVER OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) shall not apply with respect to the memorial placed under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK) and the gentleman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4298, which directs the Department of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring helicopter pilots and crew members who served on Active Duty in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to think about the Vietnam war without thinking about the significant role both man and machinery played throughout the war effort. The helicopter was the mainstay for operational mobility, with approximately 12,000 helicopters used during the war by the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force.

These helicopters, flown by tremendously skilled pilots and manned by brave and competent crew chiefs, door gunners, and medics, brought a constant stream of troops and supplies to the battlefields and carried the wounded from the battlefields—all while operating under extreme conditions and at tremendous personal risk. Helicopter support to combat operations in Vietnam was not without significant loss. An estimated 5,000 helicopter pilots and crew members made the ultimate sacrifice during the war.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nevada for introducing this bill to permanently honor and remember the sacrifice by the extraordinary helicopter pilots and crew members who served in Vietnam by placing a memorial in their honor in Arlington National Cemetery. Therefore, I strongly urge all Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI), my friend and colleague and the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. AMODEI. I thank my colleague from the Silver State and also the ranking member from the subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I really shouldn't be here talking about this bill right now. The reason this bill was necessitated is that the public law says that the Secretary of the Army can have monuments placed only in those sections of Arlington National Cemetery that are designated by the Secretary for such placement and only on land that the Secretary deems not suitable for burial. There are about 30 million square feet at Arlington National Cemetery when you take the presently under-

construction addition and the planned additional constructed addition—30 million square feet. This bill seeks this amount of space out of 30 million square feet.

For those of you who are challenged by visual numbers, that is 5 square feet that they have asked for for all services—not just the Army but all services—and to commemorate the fact that they were nearly 10 percent of the casualties in the Vietnam war—the Helicopter war.

I understand graves to be the primary mission for Arlington National Cemetery, and I respect that. I understand that there is a concern about being overrun with requests for memorials, and I concur with that concern. My problem is that that public law doesn't say there will be no memorials at Arlington National Cemetery.

By the decision that the administration at Arlington has made that says you can't have 5 square feet, they have basically changed the law effectively to: there are no memorials. The high bar that there should be for memorials, in effect, has been set up there, touching the ceiling. If these folks—for all services and for nearly 10 percent of the casualties in the Vietnam war—can't qualify, I wonder who can. So the necessity for this legislation: 5 square feet.

By the way, in the last quarter of a century, do you know how many memorials have been approved for placement at Arlington? You don't need all of the fingers on one hand. Four. You need all of the fingers; you just don't need the thumb. Four. We are not overrun with memorials.

As we sit here on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor and as we talk again about some Vietnam veterans, isn't it funny that we now have to come to Congress and run a bill to respect those folks who, by the way, probably kept a heck of a lot more names off that wall a little farther down the Mall from here.

I thank the bipartisan support that I have received from Members in both Houses—nationwide support. My request is this: if we want to say “no more memorials at Arlington,” then we ought to say that in the law. We shouldn't talk about space not being available for graves, and we shouldn't talk about people who represent almost 10 percent of the casualties in a conflict not being entitled to 5 square feet. By the way, at no cost to the government and with maintenance at no cost to the government.

With that in hand, I urge bipartisan nationwide support to do the right thing for almost 5,000 people who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Helicopter war in the service, in these—what were then—cutting-edge iconic machines.

I thank my colleagues.

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

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague stated, the service, commitment, and dedication of the heli-

copter pilots during the Vietnam war were critical to saving many lives. As somebody who was an Army flight surgeon, who spent hundreds of hours in the back of a helicopter, and who served as the chief of aeromedical evacuation for the 325th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq in 2008, I can personally attest to the dedication, bravery, and commitment of the helicopter pilots and of the crew members and what they do for our men and women in uniform. Therefore, I strongly urge the House to support this bill and provide this memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I include the following exchange of letters in the RECORD during consideration of H.R. 4298:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, December 6, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. “MAC” THORBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4298, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. I do with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 4298 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you.

Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,

Washington, DC, December 6, 2016.

Hon. JEFF MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4298, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act. As you noted, the bill contains subject matter that falls within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

I am most appreciative of your decision to waive formal consideration of H.R. 4298 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you waived formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. I will urge the Speaker to appoint Members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to any conference committee named to consider this legislation.

I will include a copy of our letters in the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. “MAC” THORBERRY,
Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4298.

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.

HOLOCAUST EXPROPRIATED ART RECOVERY ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6130) to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6130

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 “Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) It is estimated that the Nazis confiscated or otherwise misappropriated hundreds of thousands of works of art and other property throughout Europe as part of their genocidal campaign against the Jewish people and other persecuted groups. This has been described as the “greatest displacement of art in human history”.

(2) Following World War II, the United States and its allies attempted to return the stolen artworks to their countries of origin. Despite these efforts, many works of art were never reunited with their owners. Some of the art has since been discovered in the United States.

(3) In 1998, the United States convened a conference with 43 other nations in Washington, DC, known as the Washington Conference, which produced Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art. One of these principles is that “steps should be taken expeditiously to achieve a just and fair solution” to claims involving such art that has not been restituted if the owners or their heirs can be identified.

(4) The same year, Congress enacted the Holocaust Victims Redress Act (Public Law 105-158, 112 Stat. 15), which expressed the sense of Congress that “all governments should undertake good faith efforts to facilitate the return of private and public property, such as works of art, to the rightful owners in cases where assets were confiscated from the claimant during the period of Nazi rule and there is reasonable proof that the claimant is the rightful owner.”

(5) In 2009, the United States participated in a Holocaust Era Assets Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, with 45 other nations. At the conclusion of this conference, the participating nations issued the Terezin Declaration, which reaffirmed the 1998 Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art and urged all participants “to ensure that their legal systems or alternative processes, while taking into account the different legal traditions, facilitate just and fair solutions with regard to Nazi-confiscated and looted art, and to make certain that claims to recover such art are resolved

expeditiously and based on the facts and merits of the claims and all the relevant documents submitted by all parties.” The Declaration also urged participants to “consider all relevant issues when applying various legal provisions that may impede the restitution of art and cultural property, in order to achieve just and fair solutions, as well as alternative dispute resolution, where appropriate under law.”

(6) Victims of Nazi persecution and their heirs have taken legal action in the United States to recover Nazi-confiscated art. These lawsuits face significant procedural obstacles partly due to State statutes of limitations, which typically bar claims within some limited number of years from either the date of the loss or the date that the claim should have been discovered. In some cases, this means that the claims expired before World War II even ended. (See, e.g., *Detroit Institute of Arts v. Ullin*, No. 06-10333, 2007 WL 1016996 (E.D. Mich. Mar. 31, 2007).) The unique and horrific circumstances of World War II and the Holocaust make statutes of limitations especially burdensome to the victims and their heirs. Those seeking recovery of Nazi-confiscated art must painstakingly piece together their cases from a fragmentary historical record ravaged by persecution, war, and genocide. This costly process often cannot be done within the time constraints imposed by existing law.

(7) Federal legislation is needed because the only court that has considered the question held that the Constitution prohibits States from making exceptions to their statutes of limitations to accommodate claims involving the recovery of Nazi-confiscated art. In *Von Saher v. Norton Simon Museum of Art*, 592 F.3d 954 (9th Cir. 2009), the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit invalidated a California law that extended the State statute of limitations for claims seeking recovery of Holocaust-era artwork. The Court held that the law was an unconstitutional infringement of the Federal Government’s exclusive authority over foreign affairs, which includes the resolution of war-related disputes. In light of this precedent, the enactment of a Federal law is necessary to ensure that claims to Nazi-confiscated art are adjudicated in accordance with United States policy as expressed in the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, the Holocaust Victims Redress Act, and the Terezin Declaration.

(8) While litigation may be used to resolve claims to recover Nazi-confiscated art, it is the sense of Congress that the private resolution of claims by parties involved, on the merits and through the use of alternative dispute resolution such as mediation panels established for this purpose with the aid of experts in provenance research and history, will yield just and fair resolutions in a more efficient and predictable manner.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To ensure that laws governing claims to Nazi-confiscated art and other property further United States policy as set forth in the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, the Holocaust Victims Redress Act, and the Terezin Declaration.

(2) To ensure that claims to artwork and other property stolen or misappropriated by the Nazis are not unfairly barred by statutes of limitations but are resolved in a just and fair manner.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ACTUAL DISCOVERY.**—The term “actual discovery” means knowledge.

(2) **ARTWORK OR OTHER PROPERTY.**—The term “artwork or other property” means—

(A) pictures, paintings, and drawings;

(B) statutory art and sculpture;

(C) engravings, prints, lithographs, and works of graphic art;

(D) applied art and original artistic assemblages and montages;

(E) books, archives, musical objects and manuscripts (including musical manuscripts and sheets), and sound, photographic, and cinematographic archives and mediums; and

(F) sacred and ceremonial objects and Judaica.

(3) **COVERED PERIOD.**—The term “covered period” means the period beginning on January 1, 1933, and ending on December 31, 1945.

(4) **KNOWLEDGE.**—The term “knowledge” means having actual knowledge of a fact or circumstance or sufficient information with regard to a relevant fact or circumstance to amount to actual knowledge thereof.

(5) **NAZI PERSECUTION.**—The term “Nazi persecution” means any persecution of a specific group of individuals based on Nazi ideology by the Government of Germany, its allies or agents, members of the Nazi Party, or their agents or associates, during the covered period.

SEC. 5. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law or any defense at law relating to the passage of time, and except as otherwise provided in this section, a civil claim or cause of action against a defendant to recover any artwork or other property that was lost during the covered period because of Nazi persecution may be commenced not later than 6 years after the actual discovery by the claimant or the agent of the claimant of—

(1) the identity and location of the artwork or other property; and

(2) a possessory interest of the claimant in the artwork or other property.

(b) **POSSIBLE MISIDENTIFICATION.**—For purposes of subsection (a)(1), in a case in which the artwork or other property is one of a group of substantially similar multiple artworks or other property, actual discovery of the identity and location of the artwork or other property shall be deemed to occur on the date on which there are facts sufficient to form a substantial basis to believe that the artwork or other property is the artwork or other property that was lost.

(c) **PREEXISTING CLAIMS.**—Except as provided in subsection (e), a civil claim or cause of action described in subsection (a) shall be deemed to have been actually discovered on the date of enactment of this Act if—

(1) before the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) a claimant had knowledge of the elements set forth in subsection (a); and

(B) the civil claim or cause of action was barred by a Federal or State statute of limitations; or

(2)(A) before the date of enactment of this Act, a claimant had knowledge of the elements set forth in subsection (a); and

(B) on the date of enactment of this Act, the civil claim or cause of action was not barred by a Federal or State statute of limitations.

(d) **APPLICABILITY.**—Subsection (a) shall apply to any civil claim or cause of action that is—

(1) pending in any court on the date of enactment of this Act, including any civil claim or cause of action that is pending on appeal or for which the time to file an appeal has not expired; or

(2) filed during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2026.

(e) **EXCEPTION.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any civil claim or cause of action barred on the day before the date of enactment of this Act by a Federal or State statute of limitations if—

(1) the claimant or a predecessor-in-interest of the claimant had knowledge of the elements set forth in subsection (a) on or after January 1, 1999; and

(2) not less than 6 years have passed from the date such claimant or predecessor-in-interest acquired such knowledge and during which time the civil claim or cause of action was not barred by a Federal or State statute of limitations.

(f) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to create a civil claim or cause of action under Federal or State law.

(g) **SUNSET.**—This Act shall cease to have effect on January 1, 2027, except that this Act shall continue to apply to any civil claim or cause of action described in subsection (a) that is pending on January 1, 2027. Any civil claim or cause of action commenced on or after that date to recover artwork or other property described in this Act shall be subject to any applicable Federal or State statute of limitations or any other Federal or State defense at law relating to the passage of time.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. **GOODLATTE**) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. **COHEN**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **GOODLATTE**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 6130, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

From 1933, when Hitler took power in Germany, until 1945, when the Allied Forces liberated Europe, the Nazis and their collaborators stole countless works of art and cultural objects from museums and private collections throughout Europe.

Indeed, according to the American Alliance of Museums, the Nazi regime orchestrated a system of theft, confiscation, coercive transfer, looting, pillage, and the destruction of objects of art and other cultural property in Europe on a massive and an unprecedented scale. Millions of such objects were unlawfully and often forcibly taken from their rightful owners. This systematic looting and confiscation of the cultural property of the Jews and of other persecuted groups has been described as the greatest displacement of art in human history.

In order to provide the victims of the Holocaust and their heirs a fair opportunity in our courts to recover artwork that had been confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis, Representative **NADLER** and I, along with several other bipartisan cosponsors, introduced the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act, or **HEAR** Act. Companion legislation has been introduced by Senators **CORNBY** and **SCHUMER** in the Senate.

Since World War II ended, the United States has pursued policies to help Holocaust victims reclaim artwork and other cultural property that was unlawfully taken.

In recent years, the United States has joined with other nations to declare the importance of restoring Nazi-looted and confiscated art to its rightful owners. For instance, in the 1998 Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, the United States and 43 other nations declared that Holocaust victims and their heirs should be encouraged to come forward and make known their claims to art that was confiscated by the Nazis and not subsequently restituted and that steps should be taken expeditiously to achieve a just and fair solution to such claims.

In 2009, we joined with 48 other countries in declaring that governments should ensure that their legal systems facilitate just and fair solutions with regard to Nazi-confiscated and looted art and make certain that the claims to recover such art are resolved expeditiously and based on the facts and merits of the claims.

The enactment of the **HEAR** Act is an important step in following through on these principles. The vast majority of victims whose property was misappropriated during the Holocaust simply lacked the information, resources, and sometimes wherewithal to pursue litigation to recover their property. Even for those with the resources, locating and proving ownership of Nazi-looted art proved to be extremely difficult. Moreover, the psychological trauma of the Holocaust often prevented victims from pursuing lost property.

Those who have seen the recent movie “*Woman in Gold*,” which tells the story of Maria Altmann’s arduous legal battle to recover her family’s possessions that were seized by the Nazis, including the famous portrait of her aunt by Gustav Klimt, can understand just how difficult litigation to reclaim Nazi-confiscated art can be.

□ 1745

Ms. Altmann was in litigation for many years before her family’s artwork was recovered from the Austrian Government in 2006. At least in Ms. Altmann’s case, litigation was successful.

However, as the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has observed: “Many obstacles face those who attempt to recover Holocaust-era art through lawsuits,” including “procedural hurdles, such as statutes of limitations” that prevent the merits of claims from ever being adjudicated.

Given the unique and horrific circumstances of World War II and the Holocaust, State statutes of limitations can be an unfair impediment to the victims and their heirs and contrary to the stated policy of the United States.

Accordingly, the **HEAR** Act’s uniform, 6-year Federal limitations period

is needed to ensure that the United States fulfills its promises to “facilitate just and fair solution with regard to Nazi-confiscated and looted art” and to “make certain that claims to recover such art are resolved expeditiously and based on the facts and merits of the claims.”

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that cases involving Nazi-confiscated artwork are resolved in our courts in a just and fair manner on the merits of those claims.

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

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

I appreciate the work Mr. **CONYERS**, the ranking member, has done on this bill; Mr. **GOODLATTE**, the chairman and the sponsor; and Mr. **NADLER**, our Democratic colead.

I rise in support of H.R. 6130, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016. H.R. 6130 creates a new 6-year Federal statute of limitations for civil claims filed in Federal or State court to allow a claimant to recover artwork and other cultural property that was stolen, seized, sold under duress, or otherwise lost as a result of Nazi persecution during the period from January 1, 1933, to December 31, 1945.

The bill provides that this limitation period begins upon a claimant’s “actual discovery” of the identity and location of the art that was unlawfully lost, and information or facts sufficient to indicate that the claimant has a possessory interest in the art.

In addition, the bill specifies that this new limitations period applies to cases filed prior to December 31, 2026. Finally, the bill’s provisions sunset on January 1, 2027.

The new Federal limitations period established by H.R. 6130 is necessary because State statutes of limitations often bar claims if they are not filed within some specified number of years from the date of the loss.

For Holocaust-era claims concerning stolen art, this means that most statutes of limitations would bar cases even before victims are able to have actual knowledge of whether their art or other cultural property had been stolen by the Nazis and been located and still was present.

Importantly, H.R. 6130 restores the claims that were barred by existing State statutes of limitations by deeming the bill’s date of enactment as the moment of “actual discovery” for purposes of triggering the bill’s new 6-year limitations period.

This critical legislation reinforces longstanding American policy, encouraging restitution for victims of the Nazi government or its allies and agents, including with respect to Nazi-confiscated or looted art.

As recently as this morning, a feature article was in *The New York Times*: “*Jewish Dealer’s Heirs File Suit Over Art in Bavarian State Collection*.” Indeed, that case is about the facts, but it shows that there are still

active cases where it has been discovered that there was art that was owned by Jewish people that was taken by others and put in the hands of the Nazis, and there is an issue about whether or not there is a right to recovery.

This would guarantee that those people who discover art—and this art was discovered some person's house that had been hidden for years in a person's house behind walls, and all of this valuable art that had been stolen and hidden was only discovered about 3 years ago—that the rightful owners, or heirs to the owners, would have a right in American courts to pursue justice.

In recognition of the Nazi government's deliberate campaign to steal artwork and other cultural property from its victims, H.R. 6130 rightfully ensures victims are given a chance to have their day in court to pursue justice.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes and 36 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6130, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act. This legislation will help restore artwork and heritage stolen by the Nazis during the Holocaust to the rightful owners or heirs.

I was proud to join Chairman GOODLATTE in introducing this bill, and I appreciate his efforts in moving it forward.

In addition to their crimes of genocide and mass murder, the Nazis engaged in comprehensive, systemic theft of art and property mostly, but not entirely, from Jews all across Europe. The scope of their theft was massive, and the damaging effects remain with us today, with victims still seeking justice and some form of compensation.

Nearly 20 years ago, in 1998, the United States brought together 44 nations to produce a set of principles on Nazi confiscated art. They agreed that steps should be taken expeditiously to achieve a just and fair solution to the outstanding claims.

In 2009, the United States joined 45 other nations in Prague to issue what was known as the Terezin Declaration, which reaffirmed these principles.

Unfortunately, today, 71 years after the defeat of the Nazis and the liberation of Europe, many American victims are still unable to pursue their claims in court because of restrictive statutes of limitations in the States. These laws generally require a claimant to bring a case within a limited number of years from when the loss occurred or should have been discovered; but in many instances, the information required to file a claim regarding artwork stolen

by the Nazis was not brought to light until many years later, forcing courts to dismiss cases before they could be judged on the merits. In some cases, the law would have required a claim to be brought even before World War II ended. This is obviously unjust.

Some States have attempted to make an exception to their statutes of limitations to accommodate these claims, but such efforts have been ruled unconstitutional, as an infringement on the Federal Government's exclusive authority over foreign affairs. Federal legislation, therefore, is needed to bring justice to this area.

This bill would set a uniform 6-year Federal statute of limitations for the claims of Nazi-confiscated art from the time that the identity and location of the artwork and the ownership interests of the claimant are actually discovered. It would also restore the claims of those claimants whose cases were dismissed previously because of a statute of limitations.

This bill would finally ensure that the rightful owners and their decedents can have their claims properly adjudicated.

I thank Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, for his determined efforts to see that this issue is resolved; and Chairman GOODLATTE for working with me and our colleagues to bring this legislation forward.

While no legislation or act of contrition will ever reverse the many horrors committed by the Nazis, one thing we can do is establish a fair judicial process so that some victims can achieve some small measure of justice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support for this legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the carrier of the spirit of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the manager, Mr. COHEN; the chairman of the committee; both sponsors; the lead sponsor, Mr. NADLER of New York; and I thank the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 6130, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016. I am very grateful that my colleagues have brought this to the attention of the House. This important legislation tries to bring some remedy and solace to a devastating era of genocide, the Holocaust. It provides the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and genocide and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis, and there were many.

People wishing to claim ownership of art lost or confiscated during the Holocaust would have the proper time necessary to do so under H.R. 6130. The bill would apply to art and other antiquities, such as books, that were stolen

from Jewish people and other persecuted groups by the German Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945.

In the times that I visited Israel, I have spent much time in the Holocaust Museum, as I have spent time in the Holocaust exhibit and tribute here in Washington, and our own Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas.

I have been on the advisory board of the Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas, and have participated in the Holocaust ceremonies here.

This is a very important legal remedy. While the United States is a signatory of the 2009 Terezin Declaration, which states legal systems can facilitate claims of ownership of items lost during the Holocaust, the claims of potential owners in the U.S. have, however, faced barriers because of State statutes of limitation, which in some cases would have expired even before the end of World War II.

Under this legislation, individuals would have as much as 6 years from the time they discover the identity and location of a piece of art or other property or learned that they may have ownership of such art or property to file an ownership claim.

The bill's findings would express the sense of Congress that setting one Federal statute of limitations will allow claims to be settled through alternative dispute resolution methods that will produce more just and fair outcomes.

The actual bottom line of this legislation, as we were able to see in the Academy Award-winning actress in the film "Woman in Gold," which many of us saw, is that it is a fair and just relief for those so persecuted.

What more can be taken from you—your life, your liberty, your lost loved ones—and then those special artifacts, antiquities that would bring back the memories of your family and your history?

This legislation is well needed. It is a relief for those who are in pain. I support and ask my colleagues to support the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6130, the "Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016".

I thank our colleague, Chairman GOODLATTE for his work in guiding this legislation through the people's House.

This legislation provides the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and genocide and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

People wishing to claim ownership of art lost or confiscated during the Holocaust would have the proper time necessary to do so under H.R. 6130.

The bill would apply to art and other antiquities, such as books, that were stolen from Jewish people and other persecuted groups by the German Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945.

While the United States is a signatory of the 2009 Terezin Declaration, which urged legal systems can facilitate claims of ownership of items lost during the Holocaust, the claims of

potential owners in the U.S. have, however, faced barriers because of state statutes of limitation, which in some cases would have expired even before the end of World War II.

In a 2009 case, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that a law in California that sought to extend the statute of limitations for Holocaust art recovery infringed on federal authority over foreign affairs.

Under this legislation, individuals would have as many as six years from the time they discovered the identity and location of a piece of art or other property, or learned that they may have ownership of such art or property, to file an ownership claim.

The bill's findings would express the sense of Congress that setting one federal statute of limitations will allow claims to be settled through alternative dispute resolution methods that will produce more just and fair outcomes.

Pre-existing claims would be considered discovered on the date of the bill's enactment, including claims that had previously been barred by federal or state statutes of limitation.

While we can never erase the horrors of the Holocaust from human history, we can do our part to bring these treasures back to the families of those who suffered and sacrificed so much during that dark time.

I join the American Society of Appraisers, B'nai B'rith International, the Federal Bar Association, the World Jewish Congress, and the World Jewish Restitution Organization in supporting this important legislation.

Academy Award-winning actress Helen Mirren, who starred in the 2015 film "Woman in Gold," about the real life Maria Altmann's fight to reclaim a painting taken from her family during this horrific atrocity, has pledged her support as well, testifying on behalf of companion bi-partisan legislation introduced in the Senate Judiciary Committee by the Senior Senator from Texas, my friend JOHN CORNYN.

We know there are many cases that still cry out for justice.

For 75 years, since the start of World War II, these unremedied claims have seared festering wounds into the lives of brave survivors and their families.

This legislation will finally allow us to celebrate the heirlooms and artifacts of varied heritage that stitch together the diversity of American culture with the thread of age-old and integral property rights we still cherish today.

The legislation before us is intended to help us remove that stain once and for all.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

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

This legislation is supported by many, including the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith International, the Commission for Art Recovery, the World Jewish Congress, the World Jewish Restitution Organization, and the Association of Art Museum Directors.

I do applaud Chairman GOODLATTE and Mr. NADLER for their work on this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Just kind of parenthetically, I watched a movie called "Race," which was put out last fall, about Jesse Owens. It was a movie about the 1936 Olympics and how Hitler didn't want him to participate and how there were

two Jewish runners who were supposed to participate and they were scratched by our American Olympic chairman because he didn't want the Jewish men to run in front of Hitler and win—because they would have—and the Americans won by a large amount of space and time, and that was not allowed.

Things that happened there should never be forgotten. Elie Wiesel was remembered at the Holocaust Museum recently, after he passed earlier this year. He told us that we can never forget, and we always should bear witness.

We should bear witness and remember and try to do justice for the victims of the Holocaust, as we should to the people who have been disenfranchised and damaged and hurt by our periods of Jim Crow and slavery. Keep us attuned and aware and alert.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation. I commend my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as well as Members on this side of the aisle, for their bipartisan spirit in passing this.

This will only do a small thing relative to trying to right the wrongs of the history of the Nazi regime, but it is an important step in that process. I strongly support the bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6130, the "Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016."

This bill creates a new uniform Federal 6-year statute of limitations for Nazi-stolen artwork and other cultural property and would allow Nazi-era stolen art claims currently barred by existing statutes of limitations to proceed in court. It also makes clear that the statute of limitations begins only after a claimant makes an actual discovery of his or her claim to artwork of disputed provenance.

Victims of Nazi theft of artwork deserve access to the courts so that they can try to get some justice for the wrongs committed against them. This bill is critical to giving them that chance. The Nazis were notorious for, among other things, stealing hundreds of thousands of artworks from Europe during their reign of terror in the 1930's and 1940's, in what has been described as the greatest displacement of art in human history.

The American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith International, and the Association of Art Museum Directors, among others, support this bill.

While nothing we do can ever fully compensate victims of the Nazis, we can at least take this modest step towards helping those victims get some measure of restitution.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6130.

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.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2028, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 612, GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-849) on the resolution (H. Res. 949) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 612) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse", which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

□ 1800

KEVIN AND AVONTE'S LAW OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4919) to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4919

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 "Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016".

TITLE I—MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Missing Americans Alert Program Act of 2016".

SEC. 102. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181) is amended—

(1) in the section header, by striking "ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT" and inserting "AMERICANS"; and

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) GRANT PROGRAM TO REDUCE INJURY AND DEATH OF MISSING AMERICANS WITH DEMENTIA AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the Attorney General, through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

“(1) shall award competitive grants to health care agencies, State and local law enforcement agencies, or public safety agencies and nonprofit organizations to assist such entities in planning, designing, establishing, or operating locally based, proactive programs to prevent wandering and locate missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments, including programs that—

“(A) provide prevention and response information, including online training resources, and referrals to families or guardians of such individuals who, due to their condition, wander from a safe environment;

“(B) provide education and training, including online training resources, to first responders, school personnel, clinicians, and the public in order to—

“(i) increase the safety and reduce the incidence of wandering of persons, who, due to their dementia or developmental disabilities, may wander from safe environments;

“(ii) facilitate the rescue and recovery of individuals who, due to their dementia or developmental disabilities, wander from safe environments; and

“(iii) recognize and respond to and appropriately interact with endangered missing individuals with dementia or developmental disabilities who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments;

“(C) provide prevention and response training and emergency protocols for school administrators, staff, and families or guardians of individuals with dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, to help reduce the risk of wandering by such individuals; and

“(D) develop, operate, or enhance a notification or communications systems for alerts, advisories, or dissemination of other information for the recovery of missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or with developmental disabilities, such as autism; and

“(2) shall award grants to health care agencies, State and local law enforcement agencies, or public safety agencies to assist such agencies in designing, establishing, and operating locative tracking technology programs for individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or children with developmental disabilities, such as autism, who have wandered from safe environments.”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “competitive” after “to receive a”;

(B) by inserting “agency or” before “organization” each place it appears; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: “The Attorney General shall periodically solicit applications for grants under this section by publishing a request for applications in the Federal Register and by posting such a request on the website of the Department of Justice.”; and

(4) by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

“(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under subsection (a)(1), the Attorney General shall give preference to law enforcement or public safety agencies that partner with nonprofit organizations that appropriately use person-centered plans minimizing restrictive interventions and that have a direct link to individuals, and families of individuals, with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

“(e) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.—All grants awarded by the Attorney General under this section shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

“(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘unresolved audit finding’ means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

“(B) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this section to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

“(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this section that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this section during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in subparagraph (A).

“(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible applicants that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this section.

“(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this section during the 2-fiscal-year period during which the entity is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Attorney General shall—

“(i) deposit an amount equal to the amount of the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

“(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

“(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—For purposes of this paragraph and the grant programs under this part, the term ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

“(B) PROHIBITION.—The Attorney General may not award a grant under this part to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a grant under this section and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees, shall disclose to the Attorney General, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Attorney General shall make the information disclosed under this subparagraph available for public inspection.

“(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

“(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts made available to the Department of Justice under this section may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or entity awarded

discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this section, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in funds made available by the Department of Justice, unless the head of the relevant agency or department, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host the conference.

“(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food, beverages, audio-visual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and entertainment.

“(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all conference expenditures approved under this paragraph.

“(4) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall submit, to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, an annual certification—

“(A) indicating whether—

“(i) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

“(ii) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued; and

“(iii) all reimbursements required under paragraph (1)(E) have been made; and

“(B) that includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (1) from the previous year.

“(f) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Attorney General awards a grant to an applicant under this section, the Attorney General shall compare potential grant awards with other grants awarded by the Attorney General to determine if grant awards are or have been awarded for a similar purpose.

“(2) REPORT.—If the Attorney General awards grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(A) a list of all such grants awarded, including the total dollar amount of any such grants awarded; and

“(B) the reason the Attorney General awarded multiple grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose.”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the Missing Americans Alert Program, as amended by subsection (a), which shall address—

(1) the number of individuals who benefited from the Missing Americans Alert Program, including information such as the number of individuals with reduced unsafe wandering, the number of people who were trained through the program, and the estimated number of people who were impacted by the program;

(2) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that applied for funding under the Missing Americans Alert Program;

(3) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that received funding under the Missing Americans Alert Program, including—

(A) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that used such funding for training; and

(B) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that used such funding for designing, establishing, or operating locative tracking technology;

(4) the companies, including the location (city and State) of the headquarters and local offices of each company, for which their locative tracking technology was used by State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies;

(5) the nonprofit organizations, including the location (city and State) of the headquarters and local offices of each organization, that State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies partnered with and the result of each partnership;

(6) the number of missing children with autism or another developmental disability with wandering tendencies or adults with Alzheimer's being served by the program who went missing and the result of the search for each such individual; and

(7) any recommendations for improving the Missing Americans Alert Program.

(c) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents in section 2 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 is amended by striking the item relating to section 240001 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 240001. Missing Americans Alert Program.”.

TITLE II—EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

SEC. 201. ACTIVITIES BY THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

Section 404(b)(1)(H) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773(b)(1)(H)) is amended by inserting “, including cases involving children with developmental disabilities such as autism” before the semicolon.

TITLE III—PRIVACY PROTECTIONS

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **CHILD.**—The term “child” means an individual who is less than 18 years of age.

(2) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given that term in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

(3) **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**—The term “law enforcement agency” means an agency of a State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe that is authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(4) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(5) **UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**—The term “unit of local government” means a county, municipality, town, township, village, parish, borough, or other unit of general government below the State level.

(6) **NON-INVASIVE AND NON-PERMANENT.**—The term “non-invasive and non-permanent” means, with regard to any technology or device, that the procedure to install the technology or device does not create an external or internal marker or implant a device or other trackable items.

SEC. 302. STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR USE OF NON-INVASIVE AND NON-PERMANENT TRACKING DEVICES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and leading research, advocacy, self-advocacy, and service organizations, shall establish standards and best practices relating to the use of non-invasive and non-permanent tracking technology, where a guardian or parent, in consultation with the individual's health care provider, has determined that a non-invasive and non-permanent tracking device is the least restrictive alternative, to locate individuals as described in subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In establishing the standards and best practices required under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall—

(A) determine—

(i) the criteria used to determine which individuals would benefit from the use of a tracking device;

(ii) the criteria used to determine who should have direct access to the tracking system; and

(iii) which non-invasive and non-permanent types of tracking devices can be used in compliance with the standards and best practices; and

(B) establish standards and best practices the Attorney General determines are necessary to the administration of a tracking system, including procedures to—

(i) safeguard the privacy of the data used by the tracking device such that—

(I) access to the data is restricted to law enforcement and health agencies determined necessary by the Attorney General; and

(II) collection, use, and retention of the data is solely for the purpose of preventing injury or death to the patient assigned the tracking device or caused by the patient assigned the tracking device;

(ii) establish criteria to determine whether use of the tracking device is the least restrictive alternative in order to prevent risk of injury or death before issuing the tracking device, including the previous consideration of less restrictive alternatives;

(iii) provide training for law enforcement agencies to recognize signs of abuse during interactions with applicants for tracking devices;

(iv) protect the civil rights and liberties of the individuals who use tracking devices, including their rights under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(v) establish a complaint and investigation process to address—

(I) incidents of noncompliance by recipients of grants under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, with the best practices established by the Attorney General or other applicable law; and

(II) use of a tracking device over the objection of an individual; and

(vi) determine the role that State agencies should have in the administration of a tracking system.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The standards and best practices established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall take effect 90 days after publication of such standards and practices by the Attorney General, unless Congress enacts a joint resolution disapproving of the standards and practices.

(b) **REQUIRED COMPLIANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, shall comply with any standards and best practices relating to the

use of tracking devices established by the Attorney General in accordance with subsection (a).

(2) **DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.**—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall determine whether an entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, acts in compliance with the requirement described in paragraph (1).

(c) **APPLICABILITY OF STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES.**—The standards and best practices established by the Attorney General under subsection (a) shall apply only to the grant programs authorized under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act.

(d) **LIMITATIONS ON PROGRAM.**—

(1) **DATA STORAGE.**—Any tracking data provided by tracking devices issued under this program may not be used by a Federal entity to create a database.

(2) **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.**—Nothing in this Act may be construed to require that a parent or guardian use a tracking device to monitor the location of a child or adult under that parent or guardian's supervision if the parent or guardian does not believe that the use of such device is necessary or in the interest of the child or adult under supervision.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 401. NO FUNDS AUTHORIZED FOR BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION PROGRAM.

For fiscal year 2017, no funds are authorized to be appropriated for an Edward Byrne Memorial criminal justice innovation program.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore** (Mr. HULTGREN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. **GOHMERT**. Mr. Speaker, I am inquiring whether anyone is in opposition to the bill. If not, I would like to claim the time.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. The Chair would inquire if the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is opposed to the bill.

Ms. **JACKSON LEE**. Mr. Speaker, I support the bill.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. The gentleman from Texas will control 20 minutes in opposition to the bill.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **GOODLATTE**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4919, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that 60 percent of the 5.3 million individuals

with Alzheimer's disease and 49 percent of children with autism are susceptible to wandering or leaving safe areas and the protection of a responsible caregiver. The results of wandering can be devastating to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and children with developmental disabilities.

The legislation we are considering today is named in honor of two boys with autism who wandered away from their caregivers and tragically drowned. The special circumstances surrounding cases of wandering individuals are circumstances that people in local communities such as first responders and school personnel are often not specifically trained to handle.

The cost to local communities for a search for a missing person is extremely expensive, even in instances where the local law enforcement agency is trained. That is why we are considering Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016. It reauthorizes the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program and broadens the program to protect children with autism.

This legislation authorizes DOJ to make grants to law enforcement agencies, public safety agencies, and non-profit organizations to provide educational wandering prevention programming to families and caretakers of individuals who wander, as well as training to first responders and school personnel to facilitate rescue and recovery.

The bill also enables parents and caregivers to apply for voluntary, noninvasive tracking technology that can be used to help locate a person who has wandered away from the care and safety of his or her home. While these devices are already in widespread use, there are many families that simply can't afford them. The result is oftentimes an expensive search borne by State and local enforcement agencies that all too frequently results in tragic consequences.

We have worked hard to address the privacy concerns that some have raised about this bill. The updated language makes it explicitly clear that this is a completely voluntary program, that all tracking devices must be noninvasive, and that the Federal Government may not store location data related to the devices.

Finally, we make it clear that such devices are only to be recommended where they are the least restrictive alternative. American communities are safer when they are equipped with the training to prevent tragedies from happening. This legislation will assist communities in receiving valuable education on how to prevent individuals with Alzheimer's disease and children with autism from wandering and to respond quickly and appropriately in cases in which they do. I urge all Members to support this important legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise, but I actually do so with a heavy heart. The level of respect I have for the people involved in this bill is really off the charts. These are wonderful people. I appreciate their mental clarity, their intellect, and their big hearts all involved in pushing this legislation in Congress. I can't attribute motive outside Congress, but in Congress, I know it is with the best of intentions and best of hearts.

When we start a Federal program, things that will be only temporary—things that were going to be only temporary come to mind like the income tax, and it was going to be small and temporary. Well, it is still going on, and it has gotten bigger. I have read the bill, and I want to thank the people involved. I have ultimate respect for both Chairman GOODLATTE and my friend CHRIS SMITH. I just couldn't have stronger feelings for people. And my friend across the aisle, it would surprise some people, but we get along quite well, and I appreciate the care she has for people.

Though there have been provisions added—there have been changes made to try to deal with some of the concerns that people like me have had—it is still a problem. If you look at page 21, the last page of the bill, it has this language added: "Voluntary participation. Nothing in this Act may be construed to require that a parent or guardian use a tracking device to monitor the location of a child or adult under that parent or guardian's supervision if the parent or guardian does not believe the use of such device is necessary."

Frankly, I looked at making a provision like that and asking that it be in the bill, and then I realized: Wait a minute. There are back doors. There are things the Attorney General could do that could satisfy the language we have for "voluntary." Okay. No, the parent or guardian won't have to do that or monitor that, but we have the system in place. It is a Federal system.

So now we have the capability to monitor and track people so, you know, gee, this person is a problem. The definition of who could have this procedure or implement used is, as we are told, people with Alzheimer's, people with autism, people who may wander off or, and the words are, a developmental disability. Well, developmental disability, that is a severe or chronic disability of an individual 5 years or older that is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of those. And so then we get over into the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and we have seen the evolution of the DSM through 1, 2, 3—major changes at 3—4, 5. Personality disorders like antisocial disorder were once called sociopath or psychopath, but there is an argument that they are a developmental disorder, and they are chronic for so many people.

So then you begin to see, well, we don't have a very tight definition of what a developmentally disabled per-

son is, and we look to the bill, and of course in trying to make this bill broader so it would include autism and other developmental disabilities, we see, on page 2, in the section header, we want to make clear this isn't just Alzheimer's disease patients so we insert the word "Americans," which is a little broader than "Alzheimer's disease patient."

Again, that is in the header, so it is not necessarily language, and people like me that have had to review language as a judge or a chief justice and write opinions on what words mean, how they apply to these circumstances, I see where this goes. We will have a Federal tracking program, but it is only for people with Alzheimer's or autism that wander off. Well, yeah, or developmental disabilities, and that is pretty far reaching where we go with that. But it is just a mental health issue and it is a physical issue because we know—and I know this is what has driven my friend supporting this bill, we have had people wander off and be found dead. All of us have seen stories like that.

The question is: Is it the job of the Federal Government to start a tracking program? And since it is mental disease, obviously the person who would be in charge of such a wonderful program that would help us track people with Alzheimer's, autism, or other developmental disability, it would be the Secretary of Health and Human Services. But wait. The bill gives the authority to the Attorney General of the United States. We are talking Department of Justice.

It does say a couple of places the AG will get with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and collaborate, but ultimately these decisions are the decisions of the Attorney General. The Attorney General will make the call. The bill specifically says that the Attorney General will also, basically, make all the rules and regulations with regard to this tracking system. And then it also says that the Attorney General will formulate the "best practices." So maybe to me or someone in this body, developmental disability would mean one thing, and we do have definition in Federal law, but there, too, it is quite broad.

I so much appreciate the insertion of the word "noninvasive" for the tracking device or system, and nonpermanent. Well, I know tattoos are nonpermanent if you go through what I understand is a pretty painful process. I had felony judge friends who would order people to have tattoos removed, so I guess you could say those were nonpermanent. But when you look at definitions of what noninvasive is—and I don't find it in the bill. Perhaps it is somewhere in Federal law. But even then, you have the word "noninvasive" subject to interpretation. Whose interpretation? The Attorney General, the Department of Justice's head, to make the determination of what is noninvasive.

A definition in medicine, this or some similar are often used, that noninvasive would be a process that does not violate the integrity of the mucocutaneous barriers. Well, if you insert a chip just above the subcutaneous barriers, would that be noninvasive? If you go a little bit under the subcutaneous barriers, would that be noninvasive? Well, there is only one way to find out, and that is once the Attorney General formulates the regulations and the best practices, then we find out what is actually noninvasive.

There is a procedure, and this indicates the people who prepared this bill—and I am not being sarcastic. They were really trying to figure out a way to protect an overoppressive government. You have to have a procedure of appeal, and the Attorney General will help set that up. If you have a complaint, you think something is not being done properly, well, the Attorney General is going to help create the rules that allow you to complain or appeal on that.

□ 1815

Oh, and by the way, I never wanted to be in a football, basketball, or baseball game—and I love all those sports and played them all—but I never wanted to be in the game where the referee is the one that wrote the rules for our league, because they didn't yield and their opinion was better than the rules on the page, no matter what the page said. So the Attorney General can tell us what he really meant or she really meant.

Voluntary, I appreciate that part, but we have a Federal tracking system and it says here in the bill it is to prevent violence or injury or even death to one's self, to the person, or injury to someone else.

Now, why would this be a concern today, other than the fact that we have seen reports come out of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Department of Homeland Security who think that people who deny manmade climate change are committing, basically, a law against nature. They are violating a law against nature.

We see now where there are people who just put in your search engine religious beliefs, mental disorders, and you will have all kinds of investigations come up. There are people in this government, like those in the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that think that those who claim to be Christians and use code words like 'religious liberty,' that that is code for Islamophobia, homophobia, xenophobia, not understanding that a true Christian is basing their beliefs and their trust in Jesus Christ, who is love incarnate.

Nonetheless, we have government officials that think that religious beliefs are a problem, and that the even bigger problem is, if you are a veteran—that is what Homeland Security has said—and you believe in the strict interpre-

tation of the words on the pages of the Constitution, that makes you a bigger threat.

So when we are talking about terms that we have seen change over the years, we have seen the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual have massive change. Why? Sometimes it is because medicine, psychology, or psychiatry has made great discoveries and improvements, and sometimes it is because one group has a better lobbying group than others.

Mr. Speaker, by the way, other good language here is that none of the money can be used for conferences that may cost more than \$20,000, unless they do certain things. Another good provision is that none of the money may be used to create a Federal database, but the money will be used for State, local, nonprofit organizations.

I can't find anything that says that we in the Federal Government cannot fund State and local databases of individuals that have developmental disabilities such as they are too religious and, therefore, they are deemed to have a developmental disability, antisocial personalities. It is just too open and there are too many loopholes.

I like the idea; and the more I thought about it, the more I read the language, the more I saw the open loopholes that could result in a Federal tracking system that George Orwell would have been embarrassed about.

So, with brotherly and appeared appreciation for those pursuing this bill out of the best of intentions—just wanting to stop death and harm to one's self because you have autism, Alzheimer's—Mr. Speaker, I humbly submit this is a dangerous door for any government to open, a door that Orwell would have warned about.

People told me, well, gee, there is ink that you can use in a tattoo that can be tracked. I don't know. It is a door that we should not open at the Federal level to begin a program of tracking, no matter whether it is State or local officials that have the database and we get it and look at it or what.

So I hope that the bill doesn't pass and we can work together to find ways to help those who cannot help themselves.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 17 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding and let me thank the sponsor of this bill.

Five minutes certainly will not be enough time to refute my good friend from Texas, but let me start by saying to my colleagues that this bill is about saving lives. Let me say it again. It is

squarely, on its face, simply about saving lives.

I support this bipartisan measure because it addresses an urgent need, one with which I have had firsthand experience. As a Member of the United States Congress, I take great concern, as we all do, with the individual lives of our constituents. I have had at least two occasions to deal with missing adults whose families have been in pain. Those adults have been missing because of dementia or Alzheimer's. Out of their plight, we have sought law enforcement to be of help to look for these loved ones.

This bill would amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize and expand the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program. Across our Nation, there are millions of children who suffer from autism or mental developmental disorders, as well as individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

What is the crux of this bill? A few years ago, Congresswoman WATERS and myself introduced amendments to the Elder Justice Act and Elder Abuse Victims Act, which reauthorized and expanded the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program's key provisions.

The Department of Justice program supports the use of new technologies to help local communities and law enforcement officials quickly locate and identify people with Alzheimer's disease who wander or are missing and reunite them with their families, providing vital assistance to a vulnerable population.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it is about saving lives. We know, in 2016, one in nine older Americans have Alzheimer's disease; 6 in 10 people with dementia will wander. Alzheimer's was the sixth leading cause of death in 2013 in Texas alone.

As it relates to children and autism, nearly half of the children with autism engage in wandering behavior. More than one-third of children with autism who wander are never or rarely able to communicate their name, address, or phone number. Accidental drowning accounts for approximately 90 percent of lethal outcomes as relate to children with autism who wander.

Let me speak specifically to the legislation before us and answer the concerns. There is no evidence in this bill that any invasive activity will occur. No chip will be put in an adult or a child who is suffering either from autism as a child—a wanderer—or an adult.

It clearly says that this is a collaboration between the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, who will only focus on leading research advocacy, self-advocacy, and service organizations to help establish standards and best practices relating to the use of noninvasive, nonpermanent tracking technology where the guardian or parent, in consultation with the individual's

healthcare provider, has determined that a noninvasive and nonpermanent tracking device is the least restrictive alternative to locate individuals. Nothing will occur, Mr. Speaker, to any loved ones without the permission of that loved one's guardian or parent, and it is only to be able to save lives. The Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services will have no further input, other than to make sure that whatever is utilized is noninvasive, best practices, and will do no harm.

What is the role of the Federal Government? It is to solve problems. We are attempting to come here today for the loved ones all over America. Meet the family of an autistic child—a loving child, a loving family. They know that is a talented and wonderful, beautiful child, but they have a tendency to wander.

Come, for example, and stand in the shoes of a family in Houston, Texas. During a wonderful holiday season, the Thanksgiving season, a time of joy and family gathering, a beautiful little 9-year-old boy walked out of the house. They said he may have his iPad with him, he may have his earphones, he might not have any shoes on, but don't call his name, don't bother to chase him, because the likelihood is he will run away from you.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Texas an additional 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Just think, if there had been that acceptable tracking device, noninvasive.

Mr. Speaker, I am as concerned about privacy as my good friend from Texas. We have sat on the Judiciary Committee together and we have supported, first, when we were dealing with the issues of terrorism after 9/11, the PATRIOT Act. We came together. We were standing strong against the invasiveness that violates the privacy of the American people and violates the Constitution. This is not that case.

There are families out there who are suffering the loss of their loved ones, whether it is an elderly person or whether it is that beautiful, young child who happens to be autistic, who is in a world of their own and who decided to wander. Just think of the wonderful device that would help save lives.

I ask my colleagues to vote on this bill as a lifesaving bill that needs the love and affection of every Member of Congress to give love and affection to those families that are suffering and need our help. We are problem solvers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4919, the "Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016," as amended.

I support this bipartisan measure because it addresses an urgent need. The bill would amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize and expand the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program.

Across our Nation, there are millions of children who suffer from autism or mental developmental disorders as well as individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

These children and adults are often at serious risk of injury or even death when they wander away from their caregivers. In many cases, they are disoriented and unable to seek help for themselves. They may not even remember their name or where they live. Worse yet, they can be seriously injured or worse.

This bill, in fact, is named for two young boys—Kevin and Avonte—who died tragically after wandering away from their caregivers.

To address this problem, H.R. 4919 would significantly improve the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program in several significant respects.

First, the bill would expand the scope of the Program to authorize grants to locally based organizations to fund initiatives, activities, and services related to children with autism and developmental disabilities.

Second, the bill would authorize grants for the development and operation of location tracking services in appropriate circumstances.

H.R. 4919 also expands the grant program authorized by the Missing Children's Assistance Act specifically for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to provide technical assistance and training in cases involving children with developmental disorders.

Although H.R. 4919 expands the existing grant system and renames it as the Missing Americans Alert Program, the central purpose of the Program will remain the same.

Grants would continue to be provided to the many agencies and organizations that protect and locate missing individuals suffering from disorders that result in wandering with the goal of reducing incidences of wandering and the resultant risk of injury and death.

To ensure these efforts are done effectively, prevent abuse with respect to any use of tracking technology, and protect privacy interests, the bill establishes standards and best practices.

While H.R. 4919 will help address an important issue, I am concerned that the suspension version of the bill will reduce the authorization for funding for another grant program in order to satisfy the "cut-go" requirements of the Majority.

I do not see the need to reduce the authorization for one good program to fund another, and I hope we will be able to address this issue as we work with the Senate on final legislation for enactment.

Nevertheless, H.R. 4919 overall is an important measure that will provide real assistance to those who are among the most vulnerable in our society.

As this Congress comes to a close, I am pleased that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have worked together in a spirit of compromise to address a critical issue that unfortunately affects so many Americans.

It is my hope that this spirit of cooperation will continue into the next Congress, particularly in the area of criminal justice reform.

I am pleased to support H.R. 4919 because this bill would reauthorize and expand the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program and authorize grants to establish and operate programs that provide location tracking services for children with autism or other

developmental and adults with Alzheimer's or dementia—something I have long advocated for and worked to make law.

Thousands of adults and children go missing each year.

While we must be concerned for all individuals who go missing, adults and children, with mental deficiencies or disabilities, require more particularized consideration due to their vulnerability.

Adults who suffer from Alzheimer's or dementia and children with autism spectrum disorders, or other developmental disorders, are prone to wander away from safe places.

A study published this year by researchers at Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York reported that more than 250,000 school-age children with autism or other developmental disorders wander away from adult supervision each year.

The National Crime Information Center reported that, between 2011 and 2015, roughly 16–17 percent of adults reported missing suffered from a mental or physical disability or senility.

When these individuals wander away, they are oftentimes at great risk of serious injury or even death.

This bill is named for two children who wandered away and drowned.

Sadly, each one of us has a similar story about a constituent.

I have pushed so hard for this type of legislation so that we do not have to tell more stories like the one of Mr. Sammy Kirk, a native of Houston, whose family called me for help in locating him.

Mr. Kirk was 76 years old and suffered from dementia when he wandered away.

His family searched for him for days to no avail.

In their desperation, they called on me to lend my services to them to help find him.

We searched together for Mr. Kirk for three days and nights.

When we found him, he had succumbed to dehydration.

His body lay alongside a bayou, many miles away from his home.

I have advocated for so long, along with my colleague, Rep. MAXINE WATERS, in attempting to establish a pilot program during the 109th and 110th Congresses to provide voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in locating such individuals when they are reported missing.

Mr. Kirk and many others might have been saved if such a program already existed.

The need for individual location tracking is just as critical as it was in 2008, when I and Congresswoman WATERS offered amendments to several bills providing for such programs, including the Elder Justice Act and the Elder Abuse Victims Act.

I am pleased that the key provisions of the Jackson Lee-Waters Amendments have been incorporated into the bill before us today.

More than 5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease and 1 in 68 children has an autism spectrum disorder.

Almost half of wandering Alzheimer's patients will be seriously injured or die if they are not found within 24 hours of their departure.

Like their older counterparts, almost half of autistic children are expected to wander away from their caregivers.

Several studies predict that many of these children will be at risk of drowning or sustaining a traffic injury.

The number of citizens suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia, autism, or developmental disorders is expected to grow rapidly and exponentially.

The time has come for us to offer all that we have available to prevent any more stories like that of Kevin Curtis Wills, or Avonte Oquendo, Mr. Sammy Kirk, or just as recently as this Thanksgiving holiday, Marcus McGhee.

Let us focus our efforts on assisting state and local governments in the development of alert systems and technology to protect some of our most vulnerable constituents and locate them, if the time ever comes.

This bill would provide for a host of entities and measures that work together to protect, locate, and recover loved ones, including education and training.

This bill would also expand the grants that can be awarded to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to provide technical assistance and training in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases to also include children with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see this bill before us today.

It is a good piece of legislation that responds to a need that has reached a tipping point.

I am concerned about the cutting of funds for the Byrne Innovation program for 2017, however the Continuing Resolution will provide funding until April 2017.

CHILDREN WITH AUTISM FACT SHEET

Autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disorders in the U.S.

Nearly half of children with autism engage in wandering behavior.

More than 1/3 of children with autism who wander are never or rarely able to communicate their name, address or phone number.

Accidental drowning accounts for approximately 90% of lethal outcomes among children with autism who wander.

Other dangers include dehydration; heat stroke; hypothermia; traffic injuries; falls; physical restraint encounters with a stranger.

After intellectual disabilities, autism is the most common developmental disorder.

A white child with autism is almost 3 times more likely to receive an accurate diagnosis of autism on their first visit to a specialist, than a black child.

Children diagnosed as early as 18 months to 3 years have the benefit of preschool intervention programs in their most formative years.

The average African-American child with autism is not diagnosed until they are 5 years old.

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control released a 2016 report, announcing an increase in autism from one child in 88 to one in 42.

Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average.

Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism.

Half of families report they have never received advice or guidance about elopement from a professional.

AMERICANS WITH ALZHEIMER'S FACT SHEET

In 2016, 1 in 9 older Americans had Alzheimer's disease.

6 in 10 people with dementia will wander.

Alzheimer's was the 6th leading cause of death in 2013 in Texas.

Of the 5.4 million Americans with Alzheimer's, an estimated 5.2 million people are

age 65 and older, and approximately 200,000 individuals are under age 65 (younger-onset Alzheimer's).

Almost 2/3 of Americans with Alzheimer's were women in 2014.

Among people age 70, 61% of those with Alzheimer's are expected to die before the age of 80 compared with 30% of people with Alzheimer's—a rate twice as high.

In 2015, 15.9 million family and friends provided 18.1 billion hours of unpaid care to those with Alzheimer's and other dementias—an estimated \$221.3 billion.

In 2016, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation \$236 billion.

Studies have shown that early diagnosis and the creation of a stimulating and supportive environment can be beneficial in slowing the progression of Alzheimer's.

In addition to looking for a cure, researchers are focusing more and more on supporting the caregivers who spend upwards of 13 hours a day caring for loved ones.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, for his enormous efforts and those of his staff to, out of an abundance of caution, address some of the issues that were raised by my friend from Texas. I don't think some of his concerns were included or at risk in the bill, but we clarified and made very clear about voluntary participation and the issue of noninvasiveness and nonpermanent, which is now clearly defined in the legislation. So it is an improvement. Mr. GOODLATTE was the one who came up with that language. The language that deals with the collection, use, and retention of data is solely for the purpose of preventing injury or death to the patient.

Mr. Speaker, in the year 2000, I co-founded two caucuses: the Autism Caucus and the Alzheimer's Caucus. I wrote three laws on autism, including the most recent Autism CARES Act, which not only provides \$1.3 billion for autism and research at NIH, CDC, and HRSA, but also looks at the aging out issue.

Law enforcement is not ready to deal with severely autistic children who, when you approach them, need a certain approach so that they don't react violently, especially if they have a sense of threat.

As my good friend and colleague from Virginia, the distinguished chairman said, about 50 percent of autistic children wander. We know at least 100 children since 2011 have died. The bill is named after two of them who drowned.

□ 1830

A benign tracking device that is noninvasive, there is no collection or use other than for the prevention of injury or death, and, of course, there is no national storage. If you ask, I say to my colleagues, your local sheriffs, your law enforcement about the lifesaving program, some have it, some don't. Within about one-half hour of an Alzheimer's patient or an autistic patient

being lost, wandering, they find them. Those who are not found in 24 hours, not only have got a 50 percent chance of getting hurt themselves, but can hurt other people. About 60 percent of the Alzheimer's community wander at some point. This is a way of protecting and preventing injury.

I say to my colleague, my good friend from Texas, he is reading into the things that are not there. One of the groups put out an alert suggesting a vote against this and hadn't even read the clarifications out of an abundance of caution, again, put in there by Mr. GOODLATTE.

So I would hope that Members would support this. This will save lives. And we are not reinventing the wheel. The Alzheimer's program was in effect without any parade of horrors occurring as a result.

I check with Alzheimer's patients all the time, Alzheimer's Association and, of course, Autism Speaks, and others who are all for this. They want this desperately because wandering is a serious problem.

We want to get our loved ones, find our loved ones who have developmental disabilities or have Alzheimer's, and make sure they get back to a safe and secure environment as quickly as possible. That is all this does.

So I urge my colleagues to support it. I, again, thank the chairman. I thank Mr. CONYERS and others. This is a bipartisan bill. Senators GRASSLEY and SCHUMER sponsored it on the Senate side, Ms. MAXINE WATERS—it is the left, right, middle, everybody in between. This is about helping people who are at grave risk when they wander.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers other than myself, and I believe I have the right to close, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

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

I will not bow to anyone who may think they have greater love or care or commitment to people who suffer from dementia or other developmental disabilities. I have spent an awful lot of time with people I love.

But let me just tell you, Mr. Speaker—let me finish that. The people I love, I don't know if they knew where they were. I have spent time with family and people I love who struggle with these very issues. I know there is a danger of death. There is a danger of injury.

Whether Franklin said it or not, those who will give up a little liberty to get security deserve neither. Whoever said it, I think it was Franklin, some say it wasn't, but it is true.

We are told, this is strictly for all those people out there that have autistic kids or people with developmental disability. Well, they haven't used—nobody here has used developmental disability but me.

But the truth is, the reason I heard about this bill, my staff tells me, is we

just got a call from someone who has an autistic child, and they are scared to death that the Federal Government is going to start a tracking program for kids with autism.

And yeah, they will provision in here that it is supposed to be voluntary, but once you have the system in place—I can guarantee you, I have seen programs like this get started. And when I am a judge and law officers come in and say, this person is a threat, they swear to it, the evidence is in the affidavit then, yes, I will give them a warrant to go use whatever they say they believe will be the best way to handle the situation.

Once it is in place, it is going to be used by more than parents; you can count on it. And if you look at Page 17: The Attorney General shall determine the criteria. The Attorney General shall determine the criteria for determining who should have direct access to the tracking system and determine what is noninvasive, what is nonpermanent. The Attorney General shall make sure that the tracking device access to data is restricted to law enforcement and health agencies, but whoever the Attorney General determines.

I am telling you, this is opening Pandora's box. And as a parent said to us, we can track our child using our own resources. And if we don't have the resources, there are charities that will help us. Please don't let the government start a tracking program because people in this room could end up being on the list of people who end up having developmental disabilities; and they are a threat, as Homeland Security says, so many of our veterans and our constitutionalists are today.

This is about using resources that people have, and if they don't then let's use charitable money so that the government doesn't invade our privacy any more than it already has, already does.

I care about the injuries. I have devoted so much of my life to punishing those who violate people's space; that harm others; that kill others. I have not backed away from that commitment. But the government's job is not to be a dictator or to be a big brother. We never do that well.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would say to my good friend from Texas, and he is my good friend from Texas, that I know that he loves people with developmental disabilities, people with Alzheimer's, families that face the challenge of autism, and I know that his heart is in the right place. But I also know that we have just an honest difference of opinion about what we are doing here and the best way to save the lives of people when they are lost.

I know in my community of Roanoke, Virginia, that we have people, both with Alzheimer's and with autism, who wander off. Sometimes families are able to provide other means of

keeping them safe, and sometimes they are not.

But I would argue to you that a tracking device that is not federally administered, that does not have data that is stored by the Federal Government, that is simply a program that already exists and is simply being changed to allow it to apply to families with autistic members of the family who want to voluntarily participate in this, and is something that not only saves lives but also creates more freedom, not more government surveillance or more government intervention in people's lives, as the gentleman is concerned about, but actually more freedom, more freedom so that people can move about a little more freely, and others can know, family members can know where they are.

I think that this is an important change in this law that is going to make life better for families and give them peace of mind, more freedom of movement, and the ability to find them if they do wander off, as has happened so often, as happened in the case of Kevin and Avonte, the children for whom this legislation is named.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his hard work over a long period of time on this. I think the Judiciary Committee has done good work to improve this.

I want to thank the ranking member. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas. I want to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work to make this bill, a good bill, even better.

To address the concerns raised by the gentleman from Texas, again, this is voluntary. We are not starting a program. It already exists.

And the authority of the Attorney General, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services, because it is primarily a training and education program to State and local law enforcement, so that when first responders and law enforcement personnel and so on are called to look for someone whose life is endangered, as it happens every day, unfortunately, somewhere in this great country, they will have a new, good, noninvasive tool to help protect the lives of the innocent, the lives of those who don't know where they might be headed or where they might be and, therefore, can help families find them, help first responders find them, bring them back to safety, save their lives. That is what this bill is about.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4919, 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.

Mr. GOHMERT. 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.

PROMOTING TRAVEL, COMMERCE, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6431) to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6431

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 "Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. JURISDICTION OVER OFFENSES COMMITTED BY CERTAIN UNITED STATES PERSONNEL STATIONED IN CANADA.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the chapter heading, by striking "**TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**"; and

(2) by adding after section 3272 the following:

"§ 3273. Offenses committed by certain United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever, while employed by the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice and stationed or deployed in Canada pursuant to a treaty, executive agreement, or bilateral memorandum in furtherance of a border security initiative, engages in conduct (or conspires or attempts to engage in conduct) in Canada that would constitute an offense for which a person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States had the conduct been engaged in within the United States or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, as provided for that offense.

"(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'employed by the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice' means—

"(1) being employed as a civilian employee, a contractor (including a subcontractor at any tier), or an employee of a contractor (or a subcontractor at any tier) of the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice;

"(2) being present or residing in Canada in connection with such employment; and

"(3) not being a national of or ordinarily resident in Canada."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Part II of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the table of chapters, by striking the item relating to chapter 212A and inserting the following:

"212A. Extraterritorial jurisdiction over certain offenses 3271";

and

(2) in the table of sections for chapter 212A, by inserting after the item relating to section 3272 the following:

"3273. Offenses committed by certain United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives."

(c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to infringe upon or otherwise affect the exercise of prosecutorial discretion by the Department of Justice in implementing this section and the amendments made by this section.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. **GOODLATTE**) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. **JACKSON LEE**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **GOODLATTE**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 6431, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today we consider on suspension H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016. The bill's origin stems from an international agreement entered into between Canada and the United States in March 2015, known as the agreement on Land, Rail, Marine, and Air Transport Preclearance. This agreement established an immigration and trade preclearance system to strengthen economic competitiveness and national security.

Preclearance facilities permit travelers to pass through U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspections at a particular foreign port prior to entering the United States. This process expedites a traveler's arrival in the U.S., while also protecting national security by preventing from entry those individuals deemed a threat.

CBP officers currently conduct preclearance operations at airports around the world, including various Canadian airports, marine ports, and a rail station in British Columbia.

H.R. 6431 helps implement the foregoing agreement by ensuring that U.S. Government personnel who are stationed in Canada, particularly CBP preclearance officers, may be held accountable in U.S. courts if they commit a crime while performing their official duties, assuming their actions would constitute a crime, if committed in the United States.

Strengthening our Nation's relationship with our northern neighbor is important for both our economy and national security. H.R. 6431 helps pave the way for increased cooperation with Canada to spur economic growth here at home and prevent those who shouldn't be coming to the United States from arriving in the first place.

I want to thank Representatives **KUSTER** and **STEFANIK** for their work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. **JACKSON LEE**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my first order of business is to thank Congresswoman **KUSTER** for her leadership on this legislation; and then to make mention of a bill just an hour or two ago that bears mentioning, that I want to take note of the importance of its passage, and that is S. 1632. In the House it was H.R. 3833. The Senate bill has now passed, a bill to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

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As I begin to discuss this bill, the issue of security is on all of our minds, certainly the tragedy of the Boko Haram onslaught in Nigeria, the missing Chibok girls should be on our mind, and this bill that I just mentioned that was passed and supported by Congresswoman **WILSON** of Florida will be a very, very important initiative, one of which I cosponsored and will continue to work on this issue.

Now I rise in strong support of H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016. The bill would establish U.S. criminal jurisdiction over offenses committed by Federal employees conducting border security duties in Canada. In so doing, H.R. 6431 will strengthen our national security as well as promote the safe and efficient flow of travelers and goods between the United States and Canada, one of the United States' strongest allies.

In addition, it will facilitate the expansion of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities in Canada, which is our Nation's largest trading partner. Each day, our countries trade billions of dollars of goods, services, and stock investments. Annually this relationship generates in excess of \$1.4 trillion in value. This partnership also creates millions of jobs for both Canadians and Americans.

To protect this incredibly important relationship, the Beyond the Border agreement between the United States and Canada created a plan to enhance national security and promote efficient travel and trade.

This agreement is intended to facilitate the expansion of U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities in Canada, which prevents inadmissible people and items from entering the United States before they reach a U.S. entry point.

The United States, as a result of this agreement, saves millions of dollars in processing costs, and our national security is strengthened because potential threats are stopped before they access U.S. soil.

In addition, preclearance facilities help alleviate congestion for millions of travelers and traders arriving at

U.S. airports from Canada. That is a very, very important aspect of this legislation, along with its very strong security commitment. The expansion will include rail preclearance facilities for the first time, thereby creating another safe and efficient way to travel between each country. This bill is intended to resolve a final procedural impediment to the full expansion of the preclearance facilities in Canada by ensuring that U.S. personnel who work at these facilities are held accountable under U.S. law.

Again, I thank my good friend, Congresswoman **KUSTER**. Her leadership is one that we are greatly appreciative of. I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 6431.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6431, the "Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016."

This bill would establish U.S. criminal jurisdiction over offenses committed by federal employees conducting border security duties in Canada.

In so doing, H.R. 6431 will strengthen our national security as well as promote the safe and efficient flow of travelers and goods between the United States and Canada.

In addition, it will facilitate the expansion of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities in Canada, which is our Nation's largest trading partner.

Each day, our countries trade billions of dollars of goods, services and stock investments. Annually, this relationship generates in excess of \$1.4 trillion in value. And, this partnership also creates millions of jobs for both Canadians and Americans.

To protect this incredibly important relationship, the "Beyond the Border Agreement" between the United States and Canada created a plan to enhance national security and promote efficient travel and trade.

This Agreement is intended to facilitate the expansion of U.S. Customs and Border Protection pre-clearance facilities in Canada, which prevents inadmissible people and items from entering the United States before they reach a U.S. entry point.

The United States, as a result of this Agreement, saves millions of dollars in processing costs and our national security is strengthened because potential threats are stopped before they access U.S. soil.

In addition, pre-clearance facilities help alleviate congestion for millions of travelers and traders arriving at U.S. airports from Canada. And, the expansion will include rail pre-clearance facilities for the first time, thereby creating another safe and efficient way to travel between each country.

This bill is intended to resolve a final procedural impediment to the full expansion of the preclearance facilities in Canada by ensuring that U.S. personnel who work at these facilities are held accountable under U.S. law.

H.R. 6431 is an important bill that will advance the interests of the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, which will allow the expansion of preclearance facilities in Canada and thereby enhance national security and promote trade and travel in the United States.

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

Mr. **GOODLATTE**. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to

the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), who is one of the chief sponsors of this legislation.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act.

First I want to take a moment to thank my colleague, Congresswoman KUSTER, for all of her efforts on this important bill. As you can see, the need for preclearance and this bill stretches across party lines and across our great Nation.

In my district and communities in northern New York, Canada is more than just a bordering nation. They are our neighbors, our friends, and our largest trading partner. Plattsburgh, a city in my district, has even branded itself as Montreal's U.S. suburb, home to more than 100 U.S. subsidiaries of Canadian companies with 15 percent of our area workforce working for a Canadian or border-related employer.

That is why I helped lead the efforts to craft H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act—a necessary step to solidify the preclearance agreement between the U.S. and Canada, which was reached over a year ago.

This significant, bipartisan legislation is great news for U.S.-Canadian relations. It maintains a positive working relationship with border officials, especially in rural regions like ours in the north country, and it allows for facility sharing along the border. This bill also expands U.S. preclearance operations to help provide expedited screening for Amtrak passengers prior to traveling. This process will allow for an easier and accelerated trip while ensuring necessary protections for our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this vital legislation to maintain a secure northern border and facilitate travel and commerce between the U.S. and Canada. I urge the Senate to act quickly to send this measure to the President.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER), who is the author of this legislation.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas, and I thank the chair, Mr. GOODLATTE.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016.

In my home State of New Hampshire, Granite Staters understand the special relationship that Americans have with Canada. For families in the north country and my district, many of their relatives live just across the border in Quebec, and many of our businesses rely on cross-border trade to grow and expand their operations.

According to the State Department, the United States and Canada share the single longest international border in the world and trade over \$1.8 billion

every day in goods and services, supporting millions of jobs in the U.S.

Furthermore, approximately 380,000 people cross our border every day, and can do so safely because of the close coordination between U.S. and Canadian border security officials. Many of these travelers save time by utilizing preclearance facilities that are operated by Customs and Border Protection officials at nine different Canadian airports.

Preclearance has numerous security, travel, and trade benefits that present the United States and Canada with a win-win opportunity. First and foremost, preclearance enhances our national security efforts by detecting threats early before they reach U.S. soil. Because travelers go through customs and border inspection prior to boarding their plane, preclearance can intercept inadmissible travelers before they reach the U.S. In fact, in 2014 alone, preclearance operations prevented more than 10,000 inadmissible travelers from coming to the United States, saving American taxpayers more than \$20 million in detention, processing, and repatriation costs.

Second, preclearance boosts cross-border trade by increasing foreign direct investment, creating new jobs and opening up high value tourism to regional markets in the United States.

Third, preclearance improves the overall experience for travelers—particularly those who travel frequently for work—by reducing wait times at border crossings. Because passengers undergo screening prior to travel, they are not subjected to long lines when they arrive in the United States.

To build upon the existing benefits of preclearance, the United States and Canada signed a new, groundbreaking preclearance agreement in 2015 that will pave the pathway for the expansion of these facilities at land, rail, marine, and air ports of entry.

This new agreement represents a 21st century approach to border security, but in order for the 2015 preclearance agreement to be finalized, we must pass legislation in both the United States Congress and the Canadian Parliament, which is what brings us to the floor today.

My bipartisan legislation, H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act, will finalize the 2015 preclearance agreement by ensuring that the United States has the legal authority to fairly hold CBP officials accountable if they engage in wrongdoing abroad. Under the new preclearance agreement, the United States secured the right to prosecute U.S. officials if they commit crimes on the job while stationed in Canada. Our legislation gives the United States the ability to prosecute any cases of wrongdoing on our own soil and ensures that we are holding all officials accountable.

I am so proud of the bipartisan efforts to get this bill across the finish line. I thank my colleague, Congress-

woman ELISE STEFANIK, for her tireless efforts to advance this critical piece of legislation. I would also thank the 23 bipartisan cosponsors who have championed this bill and supported our efforts to pass the bill before the close of the 114th Congress.

I ask for immediate passage of the bill. I thank the chair and the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I will close at this time.

It is my pleasure to indicate what an important bill H.R. 6431 is because it will advance the interests of the United States. I thank the two leading cosponsors for their collaboration and for their leadership: the gentlewoman from New York and the gentlewoman from New Hampshire. I thank the gentlewomen so very much for bringing this bill forward and working so hard on it to improve the relationships and the ability for travel and commerce between Canada and the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, which will allow the expansion of preclearance facilities in Canada, thereby enhance national security and promote trade and travel in the United States. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I would just like to say congratulations and good work to the gentlewoman from New York and the gentlewoman from New Hampshire. This is a good bill, and we should pass it right now.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6431, the "Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016."

The United States and Canada have enjoyed a long and fruitful trade relationship which has created millions of jobs and pumped trillions of dollars into both economies.

This bill protects and supports this relationship by taking the final step necessary to expand the U.S. Customs and Border Protection pre-clearance facilities in Canada.

It does this by establishing U.S. criminal jurisdiction over offenses committed by federal employees conducting border security duties in Canada.

Pre-clearance facilities help expedite travel between the United States and Canada by allowing the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to inspect people before they leave Canada. This helps travelers avoid the backlog at our Nation's airports. And helps stop potential threats to our national security before they reach the United States.

Moreover, this joint effort each year saves the United States millions of dollars by repatriating individuals and items that are not allowed in the United States.

This bill, which is required for the expansion of pre-clearance operations in Canada, simply ensures that U.S. personnel who work at

these facilities are accountable under federal criminal law for their conduct.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 6431, which ensures a safer and more efficient trade relationship with Canada.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STEFANIK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6431.

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.

EMMETT TILL UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2854) to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2854

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 “Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) meet regularly with eligible entities to coordinate the sharing of information and to discuss the status of the Department’s work under this Act;

“(4) support the full accounting of all victims whose deaths or disappearances were the result of racially motivated crimes;

“(5) hold accountable under Federal and State law all individuals who were perpetrators of, or accomplices in, unsolved civil rights murders and such disappearances;

“(6) express the condolences of the authority to the communities affected by unsolved civil rights murders, and to the families of the victims of such murders and such disappearances;

“(7) keep families regularly informed about the status of the investigations of such murders and such disappearances of their loved ones; and

“(8) expeditiously comply with requests for information received pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’) and develop a singular, publicly accessible repository of these disclosed documents.”;

(2) in section 3—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”;

(iii) by adding after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) REVIEW OF CLOSED CASES.—The Deputy Chief may, to the extent practicable, reopen and review any case involving a violation described in paragraph (1) that was closed prior to the date of the enactment of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 without an in-person investigation or review conducted by an officer or employee of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice or by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(4) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Department shall hold meetings with representatives of the Civil Rights Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Community Relations Service, eligible entities, and where appropriate, state and local law enforcement to discuss the status of the Department’s work under this Act.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts made available to carry out this Act under section 6, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2017 and each of the next 10 subsequent fiscal years to carry out this paragraph.”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(II) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(IV) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

“(H) the number of cases referred by an eligible entity or a State or local law enforcement agency or prosecutor to the Department within the study period, the number of such cases that resulted in Federal charges being filed, the date the charges were filed, and if the Department declines to prosecute or participate in an investigation of a case so referred, the fact that it did so, and the outreach, collaboration, and support for investigations and prosecutions of violations of criminal civil rights statutes described in section 2(3), including murders and including disappearances described in section 2(4), within Federal, State, and local jurisdictions.”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and a description of the activities conducted under subsection (b)(3)”;

(3) in section 4(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”;

(4) in section 5—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each of the 10 subsequent fiscal years”;

(5) in section 6—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each of the 10 subsequent fiscal years”;

(ii) by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(B) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Using funds appropriated under section 3(b)(4)(B), the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice shall provide technical assistance by bringing together law enforcement agencies

and communities to address tensions raised by Civil Rights era crimes.”;

(6) in section 7—

(A) in the heading, by striking “DEFINITION OF ‘CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES’” and inserting “DEFINITIONS”;

(B) in paragraph (6), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses accordingly;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs accordingly;

(D) by striking “In this Act, the term” and inserting: “In this Act:

“(1) CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES.—The term”;

(E) by inserting at the end the following:

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means an organization whose primary purpose is to promote civil rights, an institution of higher education, or another entity, determined by the Attorney General to be appropriate.”;

(7) by striking section 8.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 2854, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this bill is an important step in continuing to investigate the crimes and terror inflicted on so many involved in the civil rights movement. This bill will help to right those past wrongs and help to find justice for the families who lost loved ones in the civil rights effort.

Specifically, this bill reauthorizes and updates the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act that was passed 10 years ago. It responds to concerns that victims’ families and those working in this area have had about the implementation of the original legislation. In doing so, it strengthens the collaboration between the FBI, the Department of Justice, and local law enforcement to make sure that the goals of this legislation are met. By providing clearer direction and improved coordination between all the relevant stakeholders, this bill will help to ensure that these crimes will be solved and families who lost loved ones will be able to find justice.

This legislation also addresses some of the concerns with the Senate-passed language by making sure that the bill is fully offset, that a sunset provision is included, and by providing greater clarity regarding the collaboration between various stakeholders.

Finally, I thank both Ranking Members CONYERS and LEWIS—civil rights leaders and icons on these issues—for working with Senator BURR and other stakeholders to reach agreement on this bill, as well as for their tireless work on the underlying legislation.

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It is important that the Federal Government investigates and prosecutes these crimes to the greatest extent possible, and this important legislation will give the Department of Justice the ability and the direction to do just that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, in June of 2007, this body passed, and the President subsequently signed, the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act. Since that time, the Department of Justice and cold case advocates have reviewed hundreds of cases in a search for justice and a sense of closure for the families of those who fell victim to racial violence in one of the most tumultuous periods of this Nation's history.

For those who did not live through the civil rights era, it is difficult to understand the combined climate of excitement for change that coexisted with one of fear and violence. Simply for acting on their ideals of racial equality, innocent people—young and old, Black and White—were struck down.

In some cases, unfortunately, State and local law enforcement colluded with the perpetrators of anti-civil rights violence; and attempts at justice often proved to be a charade, ending with jury nullification or tampering by racist citizens' councils.

The civil rights community has reported that for every infamous killing that tore at the South in the 1950s and 1960s, there were many more that were barely noted or investigated. We, I am proud to say, passed the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act in 2007 to help bring these cases to light and seek justice for victims and their families.

Even after nearly a decade of effort by advocates in the Justice Department, it remains clear that much work remains to heal the wounds of this period of history. To that end, the Emmett Till Reauthorization Act will create a formal framework for public engagement between the Department of Justice and cold case advocates to share information and review the status and closure of cases through 1980.

The legislation further authorizes appropriations and tasks the Department's Community Relations Service with bringing together law enforcement agencies and communities to address the tensions raised by civil rights era crimes.

The title of this bill serves as a reminder of one of the many lives that was cut much too short as a result of

racially motivated hate and violence. Emmett Till was a 14-year-old African American young man from Chicago who allegedly whistled at a White woman. Shortly thereafter, he was found murdered and tortured.

Though his accused killers were tried, they were acquitted by an all White jury. Despite attempts at gaining a Federal indictment in the case, his torture and murder remain unpunished. While his family still grieves, they have channeled their sorrow into activism for those victims still seeking justice.

I believe that it remains important that the perpetrators of civil rights era crimes be brought to justice, even 50 years later. While justice has been delayed for the victims of these crimes, the fact that we are raising these cold cases breathes new life into our new justice system. I am thankful to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Chairman GOODLATTE.

Ultimately, that commitment bodes well for our collective future and reconciliation within these communities. So I, accordingly, urge my colleagues to join those of us who are leading in this movement and effort and support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the dean of this institution. Anyone who has had the privilege of working with JOHN CONYERS and JOHN LEWIS have nothing but admiration and understanding through their teachings of the lives which they lived. This important legislation is a reflection of their commitment to these families and their personal knowledge of the pain that so many families still now experience through unsolved civil rights crimes.

Emmett Till was one of the most noteworthy and violent, and many of us still are able to see in our vision the picture of the open casket, of brutalized and beaten young Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy, and what he had to suffer. His mother was willing to go through what might have been considered absolute humiliation in terms of seeing her son's body open to the world; but because it was such a heinous crime, she was willing for the world to see.

This legislation is enormously important because it extends, until 2027, the authority of the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute unsolved criminal civil rights cases and expands, by a decade, the time period for which the Department can reopen cases to investigate. Under current law, the cut-off date was 1970. The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 remains necessary legislation intended to complete some of the Nation's most important unfinished business.

I will just say, in concluding, this legislation will have to be a document which the Members of Congress will have to breathe life into. We will have to insist, regardless of the changing of the guard at the Department of Justice, that this section have the kind of funding that is necessary. So the task of this Congress is not finished by the authorization; it must be funded.

Many families have come to my office in deep pain needing more resources for that section, more lawyers, more energetic activity. And so I say to those who may be assigned to this at the Department of Justice, take this as a special cause. It is not just unsolved cold cases. It is a smear on the democracy of this Nation. It is a stain. It is a taint that we should live above by insisting that every family have justice for the murder of their loved ones, particularly those who were in the battle of civil rights when many in this country lived in the second-class shadow of racism and discrimination.

The civil rights battles were real; they were violent in some instances; but thank God there were leaders like JOHN LEWIS, JOHN CONYERS, many in this Congress, and certainly the late Dr. Martin Luther King, who always believed, as I do, that we can do this through peace and nonviolence. This is a tool of nonviolence. We must insist that they do their task and that we solve these unsolved murderous civil rights cases, and we do so to heal the Nation and to continue to promote our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Amendment to S. 2854, the "Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act."

I thank our colleague, JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, who is widely recognized as the moral conscience of the House for sponsoring the original legislation and I thank Chairmen GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS, for their work in shepherding this reauthorization through the Congress.

This legislation reauthorizes the "Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act of 2007," which I co-sponsored and strongly support when it was reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee, passed by the House and Senate, and signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 7, 2008 as Public Law 110-344.

The legislation before extends until 2027 the authority of the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute unsolved criminal civil rights crimes, and it expands by a decade the time period for which the department can reopen cases to investigate; under current law the cut-off date is 1970.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act of 2007 is and remains necessary legislation intended to complete some of the nation's most important unfinished business.

And that is to solve some of the most depraved acts of violence against persons belonging to a racial group that was vulnerable, politically powerless, and innocent, and against those persons who risked life and limb to help them secure the rights promised in the Declaration of Independence and made real in the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, in 1989, the Civil Rights Memorial was dedicated in Montgomery, Alabama, the birthplace of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

The Memorial honors the lives and memories of 40 martyrs who were slain during the movement from 1954 to 1968, including Emmett Till.

But we know that many more people lost their lives to racial violence during that era.

In fact, at the time the Memorial was dedicated, the killers of 13 of the 40 martyrs whose names are inscribed on the Memorial had not been prosecuted or convicted.

In 10 of the 40 deaths, defendants were either acquitted by all-white juries or served only token prison sentences.

We also know there are many cases that still cry out for justice.

These unsolved crimes represent a continuing stain on our nation's honor and mock its commitment to equal justice under law.

The legislation before us is intended to help us remove that stain once and for all.

The 40 victims selected for inclusion in the Civil Rights Memorial fit at least one of three criteria: (1) they were murdered because they were active in the civil rights movement; (2) they were killed by organized hate groups as acts of terror aimed at intimidating blacks and civil rights activists; or, (3) their deaths, like the death of Emmett Till, helped to galvanize the movement by demonstrating the brutality faced by African Americans in the South.

The 40 persons who fit the selection criteria ranged in age from 11 to 66.

Seven were white, and 33 were black.

They were students, farmers, ministers, truck drivers, a homemaker and a Nobel laureate.

But Madam Speaker, there are many, many other victims besides the 40 who are remembered on the Memorial.

The Southern Poverty Law Center reports that its research uncovered approximately 75 other people who died violently between 1952 and 1968 under circumstances suggesting that they were victims of racial violence.

For most of them the reason their names were not added to the Memorial is because not enough was known about the details surrounding their deaths.

Sadly, the reason so little is known about these cases is because they were not fully investigated or, in some cases, law enforcement officials were involved in the killings or subsequent cover-ups.

And because the killings of African Americans were often covered up or not seriously investigated, there is little reason to doubt that many slayings were never even recorded by the authorities.

The reason justice had not been served was the callous indifference, and often the criminal collusion, of many white law enforcement officials in the segregated South.

There simply was no justice for African Americans during the civil rights era.

The whole criminal justice system—from the police, to the prosecutors, to the juries, and to the judges—was perverted by racial bigotry.

African Americans were routinely beaten, bombed and shot with impunity.

Sometimes, the killers picked their victims on a whim.

Sometimes, they targeted them for their activism.

In other cases, prominent white citizens were involved and no consequences flowed.

Herbert Lee of Liberty, Mississippi, for example, was shot in the head by a state legislator in broad daylight in 1961.

It is, of course, fitting and proper that this legislation bears the name of Emmett Till, whose slaying in 1955 and his mother's decision to have an open casket at his funeral stirred the nation's conscience and galvanized a generation of Americans to join the fight for equality.

Sadly, hundreds of them were killed in that struggle, and many of the killers, like those of Emmett himself, were never successfully prosecuted.

Madam Speaker, the heart of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Cases Act is sections 3 and 4.

Section 3 establishes a Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division.

Section 3 now requires the Attorney General to designate a Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights division who will be responsible for coordinating the investigation and prosecution of violations of criminal civil rights statutes that occurred before December 31, 1979, and ended in death.

Section 3 also requires a study and report to Congress about the number of cases opened, the number of federal prosecutions commenced, the number of cases of state and local prosecutions where the DOJ assisted, the number of cases that have been closed, and the number of open pending cases.

Section 4 of the bill establishes a parallel component in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be headed by a Supervisory Special Agent designated by the Attorney General.

This Supervisory Special Agent in the Civil Rights Unit is responsible for investigating violations of criminal civil rights statutes that occurred not later than December 31, 1979, and resulted in death.

The Supervisory Special Agent should, where appropriate, coordinate investigations with State and local law enforcement officials.

Madam Speaker, over the past half century, the United States has made tremendous progress in overcoming the badges and vestiges of slavery.

But this progress has been purchased at great cost.

Examples of unsolved cases include the 1968 "Orangeburg Massacre" at South Carolina State University where state police shot and killed three student protesters; the 1967 shooting death of Carrie Brumfield, whose body was found on a rural Louisiana road; the 1957 murder of Willie Joe Sanford, whose body was fished out of a creek in Hawkinsville, Georgia; the 1946 killing of a black couple, including a pregnant woman, who was pulled out of a car in Monroe, Georgia, and dragged down a wagon trail before being shot in front of 200 people.

Solving these cases like these is part of the great unfinished work of America.

Madam Speaker, 53 years ago, Medgar Evers was murdered in Jackson, Mississippi; justice would not be done in his case for more than twenty years.

But that day was foretold because the evening before the death of Medgar Evers, on June 11, 1963, President John F. Kennedy addressed the nation from the Oval Office on the state of race relations and civil rights in America.

In his historic speech to the nation President Kennedy said:

We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution.

One hundred years of delay have passed since President Lincoln freed the slaves, yet their heirs, their grandsons, are not fully free. They are not yet freed from the bonds of injustice. They are not yet freed from social and economic oppression. And this Nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be flung free until all its citizens are free.

S. 2854 will help ensure that justice is received by those for whom justice has been delayed for more than two generations.

In doing so, this legislation will help this Nation fulfill its hopes and justify its boast that in America all persons live in freedom.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume simply to say to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that this is a quest for justice that needs to be ongoing. I am pleased to support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2854, the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act.

This is the Senate companion to H.R. 5067, the bill I introduced with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER). This has been a bipartisan, bicameral effort from the first day, and I ask each and every one of our colleagues to support this important legislation.

Ten years ago, I stood on the House Floor and promised to work tirelessly to pass this legislation. Two years later, we were successful in passing the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act. That legislation created a Federal strategy to bring justice and healing to the victims, survivors, and families.

When the bill was signed into law, family members, academics, historians, lawyers, advocates started working towards a full accounting for these gross human and civil rights atrocities. The reauthorization that we are considering today responds to their appeals to Congress to make the law whole—to ensure that their thoughtful, tireless work did not fall on deaf ears and end up in a forgotten drawer.

So many people have died; so many families have mourned; so many communities have suffered. Mr. Speaker, as you know this bill is named for a 14-year-old boy who was brutally murdered 61 years ago for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Many people here tonight will recognize the names of Emmett Till, Medgar Evers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, but few know of the countless other possible victims of racially motivated crimes during this period.

This bill restores hope for the families of so many who have unanswered questions—like the Atlanta Five in my congressional district. In 1974, five African-American men—Lee Roy Holloway, Robert Walker, Marvin Walker, John Sterling and Lonnie Merritt—left Atlanta for a

fishing trip near Pensacola Florida. Their families never saw them alive again. Their pain and that of so countless others is real.

I said before, and I will say it again—we have a mission, an obligation, and a mandate to restore faith in the cornerstones of our democracy and accountability in the pursuit of truth and justice whenever possible. This bill does just that.

In developing this legislation, we took the time to research and study what happened after the original bill was signed into law. We listened to and were guided by the advocates, by law professors, by families, and by the press. We worked across the aisle and across the Dome to develop a bill that fulfills our promise to never give up on this effort—to never abandon the pursuit of truth.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I would like to thank the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project at Northeastern University School of Law; the Cold Case Justice Initiative at Syracuse University College of Law; the Emmett Till Justice Campaign; the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation; the Georgia Civil Rights Cold Case Project at Emory University; the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR); the Mamie Till Mobley Memorial Foundation; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the NAACP-Legal Defense Fund (NAACP-LDF); the National Urban League; and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). The leadership and staff of these institutions fought long and hard for this legislation. They deserve recognition and appreciation.

I would also like to thank the thousands of people across the country who signed petitions, called, emailed, and urged for Congress to act. Mr. Speaker, we must thank them for their determination, their passion, and their commitment to justice.

In closing, I would like to thank the Chair, the Ranking Member, the lead sponsors, our House Leadership, the staff, and all the Members who supported this effort. I ask each and every one of my colleagues to support this important legislation and let it become law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend

the rules and pass the bill, S. 2854, 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, December 7, 2016.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On December 7, 2016, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider six resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs.

The Committee continues to work to reduce the cost of federal property and leases. Of the six resolutions considered, the two construction projects include a federal courthouse consistent with existing funding, and the four lease prospectuses include significant reductions of leased space. In total, these resolutions represent \$56 million in avoided lease costs and offsets.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on December 7, 2016.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

CONSTRUCTION—FBI HEADQUARTERS
CONSOLIDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, \$834 million in appropriations are authorized for the site acquisition, design, management and inspection, and construction of a new federally-owned headquarters facility for the Federal Bureau of Investigation of not more than 2.1 million rentable square feet in the National Capital Region for the General Services Administration, for which a prospectus is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, the total funds made available through appropriations, including funds transferred to the "Federal Bureau of Investigation, Construction" account, do not exceed \$2.11 billion (excluding the value realized from the exchange of the J. Edgar Hoover building, outfitting, and decommissioning costs).

Provided further, the Administrator considers transportation impacts, including National Capital Planning Commission recommendations on parking and proximity to metro rail.

Provided further, the Administrator considers the total costs to the government for relocations, site preparation, and site acquisition.

Provided further, that such appropriations are authorized only for a project that results in a fully consolidated FBI Headquarters facility.

Provided further, that the Administrator of General Services shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on the construction of a new headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The report transmitted under this provision shall include a summary of the material provisions of the construction and full consolidation of the FBI in a new headquarters facility, including but not limited to, a schedule, the square footage, proposed costs to the Government, and a description of all buildings and infrastructure needed to complete the project.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator's authority to make an award of this project expires two years from the date of the adoption of this resolution.

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**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
VA 8

FY 2017 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes construction of a new federally owned facility of approximately 2.1 million rentable square feet (RSF)¹ to provide a consolidated Headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the National Capital Region (NCR). The FBI Headquarters facility will bring together employees from the J. Edgar Hoover Building (JEH) and 13 leased locations across the NCR into a new, modern and secure facility tailored to fully support FBI’s national security, intelligence and law enforcement missions. The proposed GSA construction funding in this prospectus will partner with construction funding requested in appropriations to the FBI, FY 2016 enacted appropriations, the value of the JEH exchange and other available FBI resources to support the construction cost of the FBI Headquarters facility.

FY 2017 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, Construction, and Management and Inspection).....\$759,000,000

Overview of Project

As an intelligence-driven and a threat-focused national security organization with both national security and law enforcement responsibilities, the mission of the FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States, and to provide leadership and criminal justice services to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies and partners.

The proposed FBI Headquarters facility will consolidate FBI personnel from the JEH and 13 leased locations. The proposed facility will accommodate approximately 11,000 personnel, resulting in an open-plan workspace environment to include state-of-the-art IT infrastructure as required by the FBI’s national security mission. The facility will be built to meet ISC Level V security specifications on one of three previously identified sites. Initial programming provides 6,697 to 8,155 structured and unstructured parking spaces² for official vehicles, employees, and visitors.

At the time of project initiation, the FBI was housed in 21 locations throughout the NCR, including JEH, occupying an aggregate total of 3,029,709 rentable square feet. Over the

¹ This prospectus references an estimated total rentable square feet. The total rentable square footage will vary depending upon the final rentable to usable factor which will be determined by the winning bid, design and selected site.

² The actual amount of parking required will be dependent upon final site selection and the availability of alternate means of transportation.

GSA

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**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCRI7
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
VA 8

intervening years, FBI has taken a number of actions resulting in a decrease in the agency’s footprint. Today, FBI Headquarters functions in the NCR are housed in 14 locations, totaling 2,930,552 rentable square feet. Staff in each of these 14 locations will be consolidated into the new FBI Headquarters facility. The precise RSF for the new FBI Headquarters facility will vary based on the final R/U factor which is dependent upon the winning bid, design and selected site.

Location and Site Area

The project includes conveying title to JEH to the winning bidder in exchange for a newly constructed FBI Headquarters facility at one of the three previously identified potential sites in Greenbelt, MD, Landover, MD, and Springfield, VA.

- Greenbelt..... 61 acres
Greenbelt – Comprised of approximately 61 acres of land owned by the State of Maryland and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and controlled by GSA pursuant to a purchase option agreement. Located at the Greenbelt Metrorail Station, in Prince George’s County, Maryland.
- Landover 80 acres
Landover – Comprised of approximately 80 acres, privately owned, and controlled by GSA pursuant to a purchase option agreement between GSA and the current site owner. Located at the site of the former Landover Mall, in Prince George’s County, Maryland.
- Springfield..... 58 acres
Springfield - Comprised of approximately 58 acres of federally owned land under the custody and control of GSA. Located at the current site of the GSA Franconia Warehouse Complex in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Building Area

The proposed transaction allows the bidders to submit proposals to construct the FBI Headquarters facility on one of the three sites described above. Bidders have the opportunity to submit proposals on one, two or all three of the identified potential sites.

Building (excluding parking)..... 2,100,000 RSF

Bidders are required to accommodate parking consistent with the number of spaces required for each location: 6,697 spaces for Greenbelt; 8,155 spaces for Landover; 7,039

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**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
VA 8

spaces for Springfield, each inclusive of 425 official vehicles (including Bureau Cars and FBI police). Distribution between structured and unstructured parking will be dependent upon the site and the proposal made by the bidder.

Project Budget

The costs of the consolidated FBI Headquarters facility will be supported by: (1) FY 2016 enacted funds from the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, which included \$180 million in FBI construction funding, \$135 million in resources made available from the FBI's prior year balances, and \$75 million in GSA FBF construction funding; (2) the value realized from the exchange of the JEH; (3) the President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal of \$759 million in construction funding within the GSA FBF; and (4) the President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal of \$646 million in the FBI's Construction account. Combined, these funds should ensure that GSA is in a position to award the project on schedule in FY 2017, and support the design and construction of the full consolidation. It is anticipated that outfitting and transition costs will be addressed by the FBI in future years.

Schedule

	Start	End*
GSA Construction Management/Oversight Activities	FY 2016	FY 2022
Design and Construction	FY 2017	FY 2022

(*Identified end dates for both management and oversight, and design and construction are estimates. Actual schedules will be established following award with the winning bidder during design development.)

Tenant Agencies

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Justification

The FBI is in urgent need of a consolidated Headquarters facility to support information sharing, collaboration, and integration of strategic priorities. Currently, FBI Headquarters elements are dispersed over 14 locations in the greater Washington, DC area. This dispersion and fragmentation has created significant challenges to effective command and control and to facilitating organizational change. Dispersion diverts time and resources, hampers coordination, decreases flexibility, and impedes the FBI's ability to rapidly respond to ever changing, asymmetric threats. The FBI needs a consolidated Headquarters facility and operations center to support information sharing, collaboration and integration of strategic priorities. By consolidating into a single location, FBI will

GSA

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**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
VA 8

realize significant mission synergies, and greatly increase workforce and mission security compared to the varying risk scenarios existing throughout the current facilities.

The FBI has occupied JEH since 1974. The approximately 1.8 million rentable square foot (2.4 million gross square foot) JEH sits on 6.7 acres of land fronting Pennsylvania Avenue and is a prime location for office, retail, and residential uses. The building was designed at a time when FBI operated differently, and it cannot be redeveloped to provide the necessary space to consolidate the FBI Headquarters components or to meet the agency's physical security and current and projected operational requirements. Furthermore the IT infrastructure in JEH has reached capacity and cannot be expanded further. These challenges can best be addressed through consolidation and by providing a flexible infrastructure capable of supporting multiple IT systems. The JEH was not designed to support today's FBI mission that includes an increased emphasis on national security.

JEH and virtually all of the 13 offsite leased facilities do not meet the applicable Interagency Security Committee (ISC) Standards. Senate Report 110-397 – Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2009, concluded that JEH does not meet the ISC physical security criteria. As the central facility for the management of intelligence and national security programs, the FBI Headquarters facility must have high reliability and survivability of utilities and infrastructure.

Due to the critical need for continuous operations of the FBI, the consolidated FBI Headquarters must be resilient to safeguard the mission it houses and remain operational and capable in the event of local or regional emergency. The facility must provide the FBI the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions. In order to achieve resilience, the program includes utility and building systems redundancy, back-up power generation and water storage requirements, and energy and water efficiency targets. Requirements for utility redundancy include dual feeds for communications, electric service, potable water, and natural gas. Where appropriate, delivery of building services must also be redundant to ensure continued operability in the event of a disruption internal to the facility.

Summary of Energy Compliance

The consolidated FBI Headquarters facility will be designed to attain a Gold rating in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Building Design and Construction (BD+C) rating system, as required by GSA policy for new Federal

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**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
VA 8

facilities. Furthermore, it will be LEED Operations and Maintenance (O+M) “ready” to ensure that the building systems are operated and maintained efficiently over the long term, protecting the government’s investment.

Energy and Resources – Design, construction, and ongoing operation of the facility will minimize the impact on the environment and the utilization of energy and other scarce and non-renewable resources. The project will consider operational requirements, and focus on strategies that support energy surety goals, incorporating principles of energy source diversity, onsite renewable energy, energy storage, net-zero energy readiness, and micro-grids, as appropriate, informed by mission goals and life-cycle cost analyses.

Sustainability – Design and construction of the facility will achieve a minimum of LEED Gold rating in the BD+C v4 rating system. The new facility will comply with all applicable federal sustainability requirements. It will also consider operational requirements, and incorporate principles of passive design, onsite management of storm-water and waste, resource efficiency, human health and well-being, and life cycle costing.

Reliability and Resilience – The facility will be designed to have high reliability and survivability of utilities and infrastructure. It will include efficient, state-of-the-art HVAC, lighting, power, security, and telecommunications systems and equipment that require minimal maintenance and are designed with backup capabilities to ensure minimal loss of service or downtime. Design of the site and buildings will include principles of energy and water surety, and resistance and resilience to climate change. Incremental climate change impacts, extreme weather conditions, and/or other extreme events, will result in minimal disruption to the mission of the FBI Headquarters complex and the safety of its occupants. The building enclosure systems and critical building systems will be designed to optimize performance and resilience in response to potential extreme events and conditions.

Prior Appropriations

Prior Appropriations			
Public Law	Fiscal Year	Amount	Purpose
114-113	2016	\$75,000,000	Construction Management and oversight activities and other project support costs
Appropriations to Date		\$75,000,000	

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
VA 8

Prior Committee Approvals

None

Alternatives Considered

The proposed state-of-the-art FBI Headquarters facility is a unique asset, built to the Government's specifications in the form of a detailed Program of Requirements. The proposed facility will meet the long term needs of the FBI. GSA analyzed the modernization and redevelopment of JEH, but in addition to being cost prohibitive, the current facility as sited is not capable of meeting the square footage, security setback, or operational requirements of the FBI. A leased alternative is not cost-effective given FBI's 46 year history in the current location and the stated 50+ year requirement for the proposed facility. A leased alternative is not considered to be cost effective and the 30 year present value of such alternative was not analyzed.

Recommendation

CONSTRUCTION

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**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
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Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

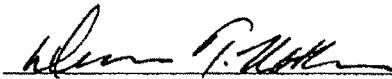
Submitted at Washington, DC, on February 8, 2016

Recommended:



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:



Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE—ANNISTON, AL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for the site acquisition, design and construction of a new U.S. Courthouse of approximately 63,000 gross square feet, including approximately 13 parking spaces, in Anniston, Alabama at an additional site and design cost of \$2,414,000, a

total estimated construction cost of \$32,527,000, and total management and inspection cost of \$3,234,000 for a total estimated project cost, including prior authorizations, of \$42,575,000, for which a prospectus is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends prior authorizations of July 24, 2002 and July 23, 2003.

Provided, that the Administrator of General Services shall ensure that construction of the new courthouse complies, at a minimum, with courtroom sharing requirements

adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Provided further, that the Administrator of General Services shall ensure that the construction of the new courthouse contains no more than two courtrooms, including one for Senior District Judges and one for Bankruptcy Judges.

Provided further, that the design of the new courthouse shall not deviate from the U.S. Courts Design Guide.

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**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-ANI6
Congressional District: 03

FY 2016 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes the acquisition of a site, and the design and construction of a new U.S. Courthouse of approximately 63,000 gross square feet (gsf), including 13 inside parking spaces in Anniston, AL. GSA will construct the courthouse to meet the 10-year space needs of the court and court-related agencies and the site will accommodate the anticipated 30-year needs of the court. The Judiciary's Courthouse Project Priorities list (approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States on September 17, 2015) includes a courthouse project in Anniston, AL.

FY 2016 House and Senate Committee Approval Requested

(Additional Site and Design, Construction, Management & Inspection).....\$38,175,000

FY 2016 Funding Requested (as outlined in the FY 2016 Spend Plan)

(Additional Site and Design, Construction, Management & Inspection).....\$38,175,000

Overview of Project

The courts and related agencies are currently located in the Federal Building-Courthouse (FB-CT) as well as one leased location in Anniston. The FB-CT, built in 1906, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The new courthouse will provide two courtrooms and three chambers consistent with the application of courtroom sharing policies and limitation on the provision of space for projected judgeships. The site for the new courthouse will be in the central business area of Anniston.

Site Information

To Be Acquired..... Approximately 3 acres

Building Area¹

Gross square feet (excluding inside parking).....57,000

Gross square feet (including inside parking)63,000

Inside parking spaces 13

¹ Square footages and number of parking spaces are approximate. The actual project may contain a variance in gross square footage from that listed in this prospectus.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

Estimated Project Budget

Site Cost (FY 2004).....	\$2,500,000
Estimated Additional Site.....	\$554,000
Design (FY 2004).....	\$1,900,000
Estimated Additional Design.....	\$1,860,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC) (\$516/gsf, including inside parking).....	\$32,527,000
Estimated Management and Inspection (M&I).....	\$3,234,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....	\$42,575,000²

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by GSA.

<u>Schedule</u>	Start	End
Design & Construction	FY 2016	FY 2021

Tenant Agencies

U.S. District Court, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, U.S. Probation Office, U. S. Department of Justice - Marshals Service, trial preparation space for the U.S. Department of Justice - Office of the U.S. Attorney, and GSA.

Justification

The existing FB-CT, constructed in 1906 and expanded in 1935, does not meet the U.S. Courts Design Guide standards, does not provide for future expansion, and lacks adequate security. There is no separate circulation for judicial officers and prisoners, and no secure elevators in the building. Further, there are no courtroom holding cells, central cellblock, prisoner sallyport, and no secured parking available to the courts. The new courthouse will provide separate circulation for the public, judges, and prisoners, thereby improving security, as well as the efficiency of court operations. Relocation of agencies from leased space to the new courthouse will result in savings of approximately \$195,000 in future annual lease payments to the private sector.

Due to changes in program since previous project approval, courtroom sharing, and exclusion of projected new judgeships, the proposed project has decreased in size and scope (from the previously approved 65,482 gsf).

² GSA requests approval for a total project cost. As noted in the estimated project budget above, GSA identified sub-totals comprising the estimated project budget are intended to provide a breakdown in support of the ETPC. The actual total cost to perform the entire project may differ from what is represented in this prospectus by the various subcomponents.

GSA

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**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

Space Requirements of the U.S. Courts

	Current		Proposed	
	Courtrooms	Judges	Courtrooms	Judges
District				
- Active	1	1	0	0
- Senior	0	0	1	1
- Visiting	0	0		1
Bankruptcy	1	1	1	1
Total:	2	2	2	3

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Future of Existing Federal Building³

The Federal tenancy in Anniston does not support the need for two courthouses; therefore, GSA will explore alternatives associated with the disposal of the existing courthouse. Some of these alternatives include donation or exchange.

³ This section is included to address recommendations in the following GAO Report: Federal Courthouses: Better Planning Needed Regarding Reuse of Old Courthouses (GAO-14-48).

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

Prior Appropriations

Prior Appropriations			
Public Law	Fiscal Year	Amount	Proposed Project
108-199	2004	\$4,400,000	Site and Design
114-113*	2016	\$38,175,000	Additional Site & Design, ECC & M&I
Appropriations to Date		\$42,575,000	

*Public Law 114-113 funded \$947,760,000 for new construction projects of the Federal Judiciary as prioritized in the Federal Judiciary Courthouse Project Priorities list, of which Anniston is included. GSA's Spend Plan describes each project to be undertaken with this funding. The FY 2016 need for Anniston is \$38,175,000.

Prior Committee Approvals

Prior Committee Approvals			
Committee	Date	Amount	Proposed Project
House T&I	7/24/2002	\$3,090,000	Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
Senate EPW	9/26/2002	\$3,090,000	Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
House T&I	7/23/2003	\$1,291,000	Additional Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
Senate EPW	6/23/2004	\$1,291,000	Additional Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
House Approvals to Date		\$4,381,000	
Senate Approvals to Date		\$4,381,000	

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

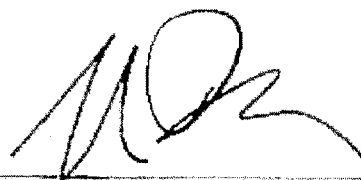
Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on

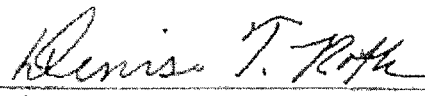
JUN 16 2016

Recommended:



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:



Administrator, General Services Administration

Housing Plan
New U.S. Courthouse

Locations	CURRENT						PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
New Courthouse												
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (courtrooms/chambers)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	2,663	-	2,590	5,253
U.S. Bankruptcy Court - Clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15	6,288	-	750	7,038
U.S. Bankruptcy Administrator	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1,965	-	1,800	3,765
U.S. District Court (courtrooms/chambers)	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	4,534	-	4,290	8,824
U.S. District Court - Clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2,594	-	-	2,594
U.S. Probation Office	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1,005	-	200	1,205
DOJ - U.S. Marshals Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	14	4,741	-	2,880	7,621
DOJ - Office Of U.S. Attorneys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	500
GSA - Public Buildings Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	300	300	-	600
Joint Use	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	880	880
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	44	24,590	300	13,390	38,280
Anniston FB-CT, 1129 Noble Street												
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (courtrooms/chambers)	3	3	72	-	3,287	3,359	-	-	-	-	-	-
U.S. District Court (courtrooms/chambers)	4	4	-	-	5,680	5,680	-	-	-	-	-	-
DOJ - U.S. Marshals Service	7	7	270	-	40	310	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congress - House of Representatives	2	2	1,145	-	59	1,204	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vacant Unassigned Space	-	-	2,862	-	1,455	4,317	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	16	16	4,349	-	10,521	14,870	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bankruptcy Building (Lease)												
U.S. Bankruptcy Clerk	15	15	7,707	-	-	7,707	-	-	-	-	-	-
U.S. Bankruptcy Administrator	4	4	1,521	-	-	1,521	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	19	19	9,228	-	-	9,228	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	35	35	13,577	-	10,521	24,098	44	44	24,590	300	13,390	38,280

Special Space	
Holding Cell	920
Restroom	590
Conference	2,830
ADP	150
Courtroom	4,200
Judicial Chambers	1,800
Food Service	400
Physical Fitness	800
Mailroom	880
Sallyport	820
Total:	13,390

The project may contain a variance in gross square footage from that listed in this project upon measurement and review of the completed project.

USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, NORTHERN VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 562,000 rentable square feet of space, including 4 official parking spaces, for the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, Office of Information Technology currently located in 11 separate buildings dispersed across six locations including six buildings in the VA-95 complex located at Boston Boulevard and Fullerton Road in Springfield, Virginia and other locations at 1801 N. Beauregard Street in Alexandria, 6350 Walker Lane in Springfield, 7799 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church, 13990 Park East Circle in Chantilly, and 5971 Kingstowne Village Parkway in Alexandria, Virginia at a proposed total annual cost of

\$21,918,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 124 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in

an overall utilization rate of 124 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NORTHERN, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease for approximately 562,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Information Technology (OIT), currently located in leased space in 11 separate buildings dispersed across six locations including six buildings in the VA-95 complex located at Boston Boulevard and Fullerton Road in Springfield, VA. Other locations are 1801 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA; 6350 Walker Lane, Springfield, VA; 7799 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA; 13990 Park East Circle, Chantilly, VA; and 5971 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Alexandria, VA.

The lease will enable DHS/CBP/OIT to provide continued housing as well as more modern, streamlined, and efficient operations. It will significantly improve space utilization, as the office utilization rate will be improved from 113 to 64 usable square feet (USF) per person, and the overall utilization rate from 184 to 124 USF per person, reducing the DHS/CBP/OIT footprint for this occupancy by approximately 67,680 RSF.

Description

Occupant:	Customs and Border Protection
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	629,680 (Current RSF/USF = 1.08)
Proposed Maximum RSF ¹ :	562,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	67,680 (Reduction)
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	184
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	124
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	09/30/19, 08/01/20, 12/07/20, 12/31/20, 5/31/21, 08/10/21
Delineated Area:	Northern Virginia
Number of Official Parking Spaces ² :	4
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ³ :	\$39.00/RSF

¹ The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.08; however, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.20 is used for the proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

² OIT security requirements may necessitate control of the parking at the leased location. This may be accomplished as a lessor-furnished service, as a separate operating agreement with the lessor, or as part of the Government's leasehold interest in the building.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
 CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
 OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
 NORTHERN, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
 Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

Proposed Total Annual Cost ⁴ :	\$21,918,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$17,079,000 (Leases effective: 10/01/94, 12/08/00, 01/17/02, 07/15/02, 08/02/05, 11/14/07, 11/21/08, 02/02/09, 06/01/11, and 08/11/11)

Background

OIT is responsible for implementation and support of information technology, research and development functions, and automation and technological strategies for meeting mission-related needs. OIT is responsible for automated information systems, management of the research and development functions, and all forensic and laboratory support of CBP. OIT personnel manage all computer and related resources and establish requirements for computer interfaces between CBP and various trade groups and Government agencies. OIT is responsible for managing all aspects of tactical communications, including the 24/7 operations of the National Law Enforcement Communications Center and Continuity of Operations Planning.

Justification

OIT’s mission is to be responsible for all aspects of technology support across all mission areas within CBP. This CBP component designs, develops, programs, tests, implements, trains, and maintains the agency’s automated systems. OIT is responsible for managing CBP computer facilities, including all the hardware, software, data, video and voice communications, and related financial resources. OIT develops and maintains the Enterprise Information System Architecture and administers the operational aspects of the CBP Computer Security Program. OIT also represents CBP on matters related to automated import, export, and interagency processing and systems development.

³ These estimates are for fiscal year 2017 and may be escalated by 1.95 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rates are fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

⁴ New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NORTHERN, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

The current leases are for space in 11 separate buildings in Northern Virginia and expire between September 30, 2019 and August 10, 2021. OIT requires continued housing to carry out its operational mission and functions. The total space requested will reduce the OIT footprint by 67,680 RSF or more than 10 percent of the 629,680 RSF currently occupied. In the absence of this reduction, the status quo cost of continued occupancy at the proposed market rental rate would be at least \$24.6 million per year.

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility and competition in acquiring space to house the DHS/CBP/OIT elements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA

PBS


PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NORTHERN, VA


Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
 Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 15, 2016

Recommended:  _____
 Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:  _____
 Administrator, General Services Administration

Housing Plan
 Department of Homeland Security
 Customs and Border Protection
 Office of Information Technology

Leased Locations	CURRENT						PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
1801 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria VA	541	541	75,427	870	9,102	85,399						
6350 Walker Lane, Springfield, VA	472	472	65,647	98	8,681	74,426						
7799 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA	315	315	73,104	160	12,638	85,902						
7375 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	112	112	13,270	167	2,562	15,999						
7451 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	78	78	12,397	61	3,293	15,751						
7435 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	86	86	14,771	-	2,705	17,476						
7501 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	411	411	59,272	215	16,269	75,756						
7400 Fullerton Road, Springfield, VA	126	126	18,029	522	4,635	23,186						
13990 Parkeast Circle, Chantilly, VA	144	144	38,984	284	3,740	43,008						
5971 Kingstowne Village Pkwy, Alexandria, VA	427	427	41,125	433	3,128	44,686						
7681 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	527	527	57,061	-	42,094	99,155						
Proposed							3,783	3,783	310,327	17,576	140,388	468,291
Total	3,239	3,239	469,087	2,810	108,847	580,744	3,783	3,783	310,327	17,576	140,388	468,291

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	113	64

UR=average amount of office space per person
 Current UR excludes 103,199 usf of office support space
 Proposed UR excludes 68,272 usf of office support space

Overall UR ³		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	184	124

R/U Factor ⁴			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	580,744	1.08	629,680
Proposed	468,291	1.20	562,000

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people

³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.

⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

Special Space	USF
Conference	21,382
Training	8,516
LAN / Telco	13,741
File Room	5,980
Break / Food	8,057
Shower / Locker	906
Supply / Copy / Print Rooms	8,516
Lab	13,335
Reception	1,812
Lactation Room	544
HSDN/SCIF	2,748
Data Center	37,124
Security	2,899
TOC / Sit Rooms	6,054
Mail Room	2,174
EOC	6,600
Total	140,388

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
ATLANTA, GA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 162,000 rentable square feet of space, including 27 official parking spaces, for the Food and Drug Administration currently located at the FDA Atlanta complex consisting of three leased buildings; Crawford Building, Annex I and Annex II, and an additional lease location in College Park, Georgia at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,994,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 322 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 322 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ATLANTA, GA**

Prospectus Number: PGA-01-AT17
Congressional District: 5

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 162,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), currently housed at the FDA Atlanta complex consisting of three leased buildings; The Crawford Building, Annex I and Annex II, and an additional lease location in College Park, Georgia, at the Gateway Center Building One.

The proposed lease will provide continued housing for FDA and will improve the office utilization rate from 176 to 103 usable square feet (USF) per person.

Description

Occupant:	Food and Drug Administration
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	134,491 (Current RSF/USF = 1.15)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	162,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.15)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	27,509 (expansion)
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	292
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	322
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	20 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	11/24/2017, 12/30/2017, and 7/31/2022
Delineated Area:	Atlanta Midtown Business District
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	27 secured
Scoring:	Operating lease
Estimated Rental Rate ¹ :	37.00/RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost ² :	\$5,994,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$5,863,625 (Leases effective 11/25/2005, 12/31/1997, 8/1/2012)

¹This estimate is for Fiscal Year 2019 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the government.

²New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ATLANTA, GA**

Prospectus Number: PGA-01-AT17
Congressional District: 5

Justification

The current leases are unable to provide the FDA Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta District Office, and Southeast Regional Laboratories (SRL) with the necessary office and special space to efficiently carry out its mission. The new lease will provide a more modern and streamlined office layout and improve office utilization from 176 square feet per person to 103 square feet per person.

SRL testing includes foods, ceramics, meats, cosmetics, drugs, and other products falling under the purview of the FDA. In addition, the SRL has specialized capabilities and is home to the Atlanta Center for Nutrient Analysis, which is the servicing laboratory to all FDA districts for nutrient analysis on domestic and imported foods that bear nutrition labeling. The size of the existing SRL causes the FDA to constantly retro-fit the aging space, leading to higher maintenance costs. A modern laboratory is needed to properly carry out its mission.

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility in acquiring space to house the FDA elements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ATLANTA, GA**

Prospectus Number: PGA-01-AT17
Congressional District: 5

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed lease is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on SEP 13 2016

Recommended: 
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: 
Administrator, General Services Administration

Housing Plan
Food and Drug Administration

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
Crawford and Annex I	104	177	28,224	5,927	28,649	62,800	-	-	-	-	-	-
Annex II	-	159	-	-	44,470	44,470	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gateway Center Building One	65	65	9,821	-	-	9,821	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease							437	437	57,477	-	83,365	140,842
Total	169	401	38,045	5,927	73,119	117,091	437	437	57,477	-	83,365	140,842

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	176	103

UR=average amount of office space per person
 Current UR excludes 73,119 usf of office support space
 Proposed UR excludes 65,039 usf of office support space

Overall UR ³		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	292	322

R/U Factor ⁴			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	117,091	1.15	134,491
Estimated/Proposed	140,842	1.15	162,000

Special Space	USF
Laboratory	73,345
Conference/Training	6,850
Food Service/Break Areas	2,220
Health Unit	100
Fitness Center	400
Lockerroom	450
Total	83,365

NOTES:

- ¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
- ²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
- ³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
- ⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

AMENDED COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
LEASE—NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 806,794 rentable square feet of space, including 142 official parking spaces, for the National Archives and Records Administration, Federal Records Center currently located at 200 NW Space Center in Lee's Summit, Missouri at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,647,558 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends the resolution adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 14, 2016.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an office utilization rate of 129 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the office utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an office utilization rate of 129 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
 NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
 JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
 COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
 Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 806,794 rentable square feet (RSF) for the National Archives and Records Administration – Federal Records Center (NARA-FRC), currently located at 200 NW Space Center, Lee’s Summit, MO.

The lease will provide continued housing for NARA-FRC, will maintain its current office utilization rate of 129 usable square feet (USF) per person, and allow for continued temporary and permanent record storage capabilities for Federal agencies.

Description

Occupant:	National Archives and Records Administration
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	806,794 (Current RSF/USF = 1.00)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	806,794 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.00)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	129
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	129
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	20 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	8/14/2017
Delineated Area:	Jackson and Clay Counties, Missouri, and Johnson County, Kansas
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	142
Scoring:	Operating lease
Estimated Rental Rate ¹ :	\$7.00 / RSF

¹This estimate is for fiscal year 2017 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Estimated Total Annual Cost ² :	\$5,647,558
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$3,211,969 (Lease effective 8/15/1997)

Acquisition Strategy

The NARA-FRC is currently located in subterranean space. In order to maximize competition, GSA will consider aboveground and subterranean space for this procurement and will relocate the agency if economically advantageous to the Federal Government.

Justification

NARA-FRC is one of 18 Federal Records Centers across the nation used by Federal agencies for records-related services. The FRCs work together to provide temporary and permanent record storage services. The facility storage services are full at this location and any new incoming client boxes are accommodated by moving existing records to other Federal Records Centers or by the disposal of eligible records. The current location provides storage conditions that meet permanent or archival requirements, which accounts for 57 percent of permanent record storage.

NARA-FRC requires space to accommodate the movement, processing, and retrieving of large quantities of client record boxes into its computer systems, along with the ability to store client records in an environment that meets regulations for Federal Records Storage (36 CFR 1234). The movement of client record boxes is accommodated using eight-foot carts, which require ample circulation space for maneuvering. Although Federal agencies are attempting to convert to electronic storage, the demand for paper record storage still remains and since 2000 has grown by 2.38 percent per year.

²New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on August 9, 2016



Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service



Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

Housing Plan
National Archives And Records Administration

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
200 NW Space Center	58	65	9,586	2,600	794,608	806,794						
Estimated/Proposed Lease							58	65	9,586	2,600	794,608	806,794
Total	58	65	9,586	2,600	794,608	806,794	58	65	9,586	2,600	794,608	806,794

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	129	129

UR=average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 2,109 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 2,109 usf of office support space

Overall UR ³		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	N/A	N/A

R/U Factor ⁴			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	806,794	1.00	806,794
Estimated/Proposed	806,794	1.00	806,794

Special Space	USF
Warehouse	787,705
Automatic Data Processing	512
Conference/Training	1,252
Food Service	2,109
Janitorial Closet	186
Laboratory	301
Restrooms	1,315
Mail Receiving	702
Workroom	209
File & Copy	317
Total	794,608

NOTES:

- ¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
- ²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people. Circulation requirement of 40% for movement/processing of client storage above the normal 22%, moved extra circulation to storage.
- ³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
- ⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH,
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTIES,
MD

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 238,000 rentable square feet of space, including 5 official parking spaces, for the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health currently located at 6001 and 6101 Executive Boulevard in Rockville, Maryland at a proposed total annual cost of \$8,330,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 183 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 183 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17
Congressional District: 8

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 238,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Department of Health and Human Services - National Institutes of Health (NIH), currently located at 6001 and 6101 Executive Boulevard in Rockville, MD, under five NIH direct leases. The four leases at 6001 Executive Boulevard expire on January 31, 2019, and the one lease at 6101 Executive Boulevard expires on August 31, 2019.

The proposed lease will enable NIH to provide continued housing. The lease will significantly improve space utilization, as the office utilization rate will be reduced from 172 to 133 usable square feet (USF) per person, and the overall utilization rate from 221 to 183 USF per person, resulting in NIH being housed in approximately 31,632 RSF less space than it has at the current locations.

Description

Occupant:	National Institutes of Health
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF):	269,632 (Current RSF/USF = 1.22)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	238,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	31,632 (Reduction)
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	221
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	183
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	15 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	1/31/2019, 8/31/2019
Delineated Area:	Portions of Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties proximate to the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	5
Scoring:	Operating lease
Estimated Proposed Rental Rate ¹ :	\$35.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost ² :	\$8,330,000

¹This estimate is for fiscal year 2018 and may be escalated by 1.95 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17
Congressional District: 8

Current Total Annual Cost: \$8,314,990

Justification

The multiple NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) located at 6001 and 6101 Executive Boulevard include the National Institute of Drug Abuse, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders, Office of Director-Office of Strategic Coordination, and the Office of Research Services, and are integral components of NIH’s mission. The current leases expire on January 31, 2019, and August 31, 2019. NIH ICs have a continuing need for space and efficient transportation access to the NIH campus in Montgomery County. The lease will streamline operations and improve NIH’s footprint by 31,632 rsf. In the absence of this reduction, the status quo cost of continued occupancy at the existing footprint would be \$9,437,120.

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility in acquiring space to house the NIH elements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation in up to two proximate buildings that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

²New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17
Congressional District: 8

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
 NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
 MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17
 Congressional District: 8

Certification of Need


The proposed lease is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on August 19, 2016



Recommended: _____

Commissioner, Public Buildings Service



Approved: _____

Administrator, General Services Administration

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
6001 Executive Boulevard	905	905	203,000	-	-	203,000						
6101 Executive Boulevard	93	93	16,843		1,205	18,048						
Estimated/Proposed Lease							1,084	1,084	184,280		14,000	198,280
Total	998	998	219,843	-	1,205	221,048	1,084	1,084	184,280	-	14,000	198,280

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	172	133

UR=average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 48,365 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 40,542 usf of office support space

Special Space	USF
Data Center and Support Center	4,000
Conference Center	10,000
Total	14,000

Overall UR ³		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	221	183

R/U Factor ⁴	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	221,048	1.22	269,632
Estimated/Proposed	198,280	1.20	238,000

NOTES:

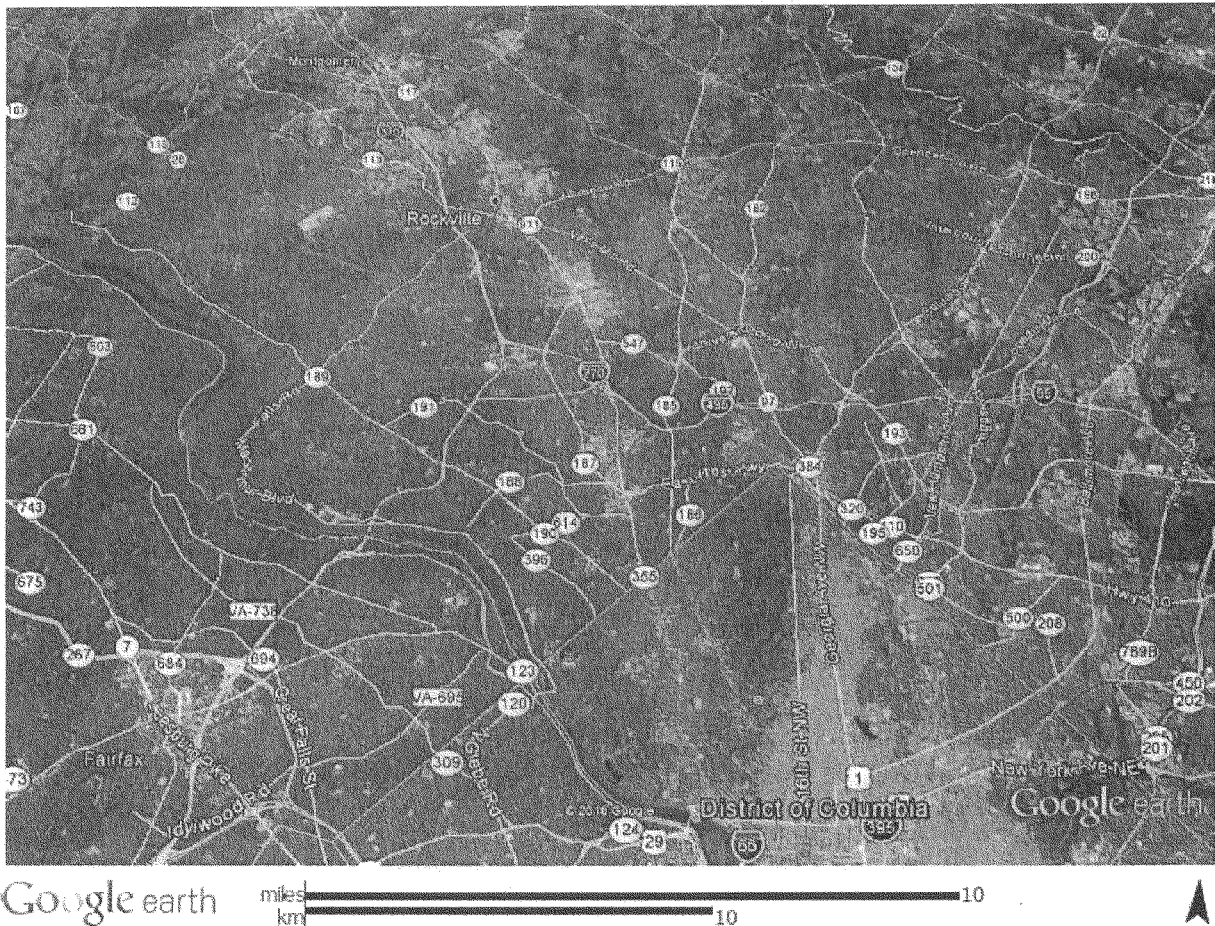
¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people

³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.

⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

Prospectus PMD-01-WA17 Map and Narrative



Within Montgomery and Prince George's counties as further delineated as follows:
 Beginning at the intersection of the Potomac River and the W city boundary of Washington, DC (POB); NW along the Potomac River to Riley's Lock Road; North on Riley's Lock Road to River Road; East along River Road and continuing along Seneca Road (aka Rte 112); NE along Seneca Road to Darnestown Road (aka Rte 28); NE then SE along Darnestown Road to Muddy Branch Road; North along Muddy Branch Road to Great Seneca Highway (aka Rte 119); SE along Great Seneca Highway to Sam Eig Highway (aka I-370); NE along Sam Eig Highway and continuing E along the Intercounty Connector to Baltimore Avenue (aka Rte 1); SW along Baltimore Avenue to Powder Mill Road (Rte 212); East along Powder Mill Road to Edmonston Road (Rte 201); S along Edmonston Road, becoming Kenilworth Avenue (Rte 201) to Annapolis Road (Rte 450); W along Annapolis Road to Bladensburg Road (Alt Rte 1); W on Bladensburg Road to the E city boundary of Washington, DC; NW along the E city boundary of Washington, DC becoming Eastern Avenue NE to Western Avenue NW and the W city boundary of Washington, DC; SW along Western Avenue NW to with POB.

There was no objection.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH
R. PITTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE).

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, what an honor it is to join my colleagues this evening in taking a moment to honor my good friend and fellow alum from Asbury College, Pennsylvania Congressman JOE PITTS.

My friend, JOE PITTS, has spent his life literally engaged in serving those around him. In fact, early in his career, JOE and his wife worked as teachers to educate the next generation until he joined the Air Force in 1963. He answered the call of duty, serving three tours in Vietnam, where he completed 116 combat missions and earned the Air Medal with five oakleaf clusters.

Just a few years after returning home from the war effort, JOE continued his service in his State and our Nation as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, spending some 24 years assisting his fellow Pennsylvanians.

In 1997, JOE brought his leadership skills and his servant's heart right here to the Halls of Congress, where he has now served for 20 years.

□ 1915

In this role and through his service as chairman of the Values Action Team, JOE has been a guiding force for bringing our Judeo-Christian ethics and moral values to Washington, D.C., and he has literally been a champion for the cause of life.

In Mark, chapter 10, the Lord tells us that those who aspire to leadership must be great servants. Further, in Matthew, chapter 7, we find that we are recognized by our fruits.

In other words, you can tell who someone is not merely by what one says, but by what one does.

JOE, I would just say to you, sir, thank you. You have been tested, and you have shown yourself approved.

We are all going to sincerely and deeply—genuinely—miss JOE PITTS.

I hope, JOE, that as you continue in your next chapter that, in your absence here, we may each have a portion of your servant's heart, and how blessed this body will be if we do so.

I just thank the gentleman so much for the opportunity to take a moment to say "thank you" to this giant of a leader here in Congress and how we will deeply miss him.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for his very eloquent remarks about our great friend and colleague, the distinguished JOE PITTS.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama, ROBERT ADERHOLT.

Mr. ADERHOLT. I appreciate the time to come to honor JOE PITTS. Congressman SMITH, I appreciate your organizing this evening so we could thank JOE PITTS for his many years of service to not only this Chamber, but also to the public in general.

Madam Speaker, of course, JOE is retiring after 20 years of service to this institution and to the American people. He served, as has been said, 24 years in the Pennsylvania Legislature. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, JOE PITTS, is a hero for conservatives. He fights daily for families, for unborn children, and for persecuted Christians around the world.

I know firsthand about his work for persecuted Christians because one of the first overseas trip opportunities that I had as a Member of Congress was to travel with JOE PITTS to the country of Egypt to advocate on behalf of persecuted Christians. I had the chance to sit there with JOE as we both talked about the plight of the Coptic Christians in the country of Egypt. We sat across the table from Hosni Mubarak, who, at the time, was the President of Egypt, and we let him know of the concerns that we had and that the American people had for Christians who were treated unfairly for no other reason than because of their beliefs and their faith.

JOE PITTS has been a friend and a colleague since we were first elected. He and I were first elected back in 1996. We started here in January of 1997. He has worked tirelessly as chairman of the Values Action Team since the late 1990s. That was when Newt Gingrich had asked him to work on pro-life, pro-family issues. He has been an active, leading member of the Pro-Life Caucus, along with Congressman SMITH, since that time.

I also had the opportunity to work with JOE on OSCE issues, the Organization for Security and Co-operation of Europe. We would meet in the parliamentary assembly once a year with other parliamentarians to try to work on issues. I can tell you the pro-life issue and trying to protect the unborn and the family has been at the forefront of those issues with him as well with the OSCE.

I want to take a minute to thank his staff. Over the years, they have worked hand in glove with Congressman PITTS. They have been champions for the conservative causes over the last 20 years alone here in the House of Representatives, and we will certainly miss working with them as they go on to the next chapters of their lives.

Again, I wish JOE PITTS all the best as he moves on to the next phase of his life. I certainly pray that he and his wife, Ginny, will have, maybe, a slightly slower pace as they go back to Pennsylvania. I know that JOE, in whatever next chapter of life he is involved, will be involved in protecting families; he will be protecting the unborn—the most vulnerable—and he will be making sure that he does what he feels is in

the best interest of this country. I wish JOE PITTS and his family all the best in the many years to come.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Tennessee, DIANE BLACK.

Mrs. BLACK. I thank the gentleman for yielding, my good friend, who is also very involved in protecting life and families, and I appreciate his work in this area as well.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and colleague, Congressman JOE PITTS, on his upcoming retirement from the House of Representatives.

As a former teacher, Congressman PITTS spent years investing in the next generation of leaders, and as an Air Force captain, with three tours of duty in Vietnam, he was on the front lines of protecting the freedoms that we talk about in this Chamber every day.

His service in Congress, now spanning nearly 20 years, will be marked by a quiet strength and a steady leadership that always sought solutions over attention, and that ran towards answers instead of running to the cameras. Congressman PITTS was never the loudest person in the room, but oftentimes he may very well have been the wisest.

As the founder of the Values Action Team, Congressman PITTS created a platform to build stronger relationships between value-oriented Members of Congress and grassroots organizations that shared those same principles. Through his appointment as the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, Congressman PITTS worked to advance real-world healthcare solutions that empowered patients, not bureaucrats.

I will always be most grateful to Congressman PITTS for his fearless, unflinching defense of our Nation's unborn. From his own legislation, like Protect Life Act, to his invaluable leadership in the fight to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, to his work on the Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives, Congressman PITTS has been a champion for the voiceless and vulnerable at every turn.

I thank Congressman PITTS for his service, for his friendship, for his guidance. I wish him and his wife, Ginny, and his beautiful family all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentlewoman very much for those very, very eloquent remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois, RANDY HULTGREN.

Mr. HULTGREN. I thank my very good friend, CHRIS SMITH, for doing this.

Madam Speaker, it is such a privilege to serve in this amazing place. Some of us have the opportunity—really, the blessing—to be able to meet our heroes. Some of us have the greater blessing of being able to actually not only get to meet them, but to work with our heroes; and those very special few get to

become friends with our heroes. That is the feeling I have with JOE PITTS.

JOE PITTS is truly a mentor to me, a hero to me, someone who has served so well in every step of his lifetime. I am here to honor him tonight, to thank him for his service, and to let him know that we are forever grateful.

JOE PITTS is known for many things. Clearly, he is a man of faith. Faith is such a part of his life—his love for God, his love for Jesus Christ. His passion for serving Him influences everything he does. I also love JOE PITTS' commitment and love for his family. JOE and his wife have had a long tradition—for many years—of having grandkids camp, where they will have grandkids—no parents allowed—come and be with them for a week. They will take special trips, do special training, raise up the grandkids to love God, to love this Nation, and to share the values that are so important to JOE and his family.

I am also so grateful for his service here in this Congress. JOE has been faithful over his years. He was tapped early on to be the leader of the Values Action Team so as to recognize that our values are so important. We need champions every single day to be looking out and to be making sure that we are passing legislation that reflects our values—the values of our Founders, the values of so many who have led throughout our Nation—and to be making sure that we are going in the right direction as we go forward. JOE has been faithful there as well—a champion for life, a champion for the persecuted, especially for the religious persecuted around the world. He has been fighting for them, stepping up for them, making sure that their voices are heard. Fighting for the unborn is something that is a passion—a big part—of JOE's life as well.

I am forever grateful to have had the privilege not only to meet JOE PITTS, to get to know JOE PITTS, but to say that JOE is a friend of mine.

JOE, thank you for your service to America. Thank you for your love for your God and for your family. Thank you for all that you have done to make America this wonderful place and for leaving not only a heritage, but such a rich challenge as we go forward to protect the wonderful values that we enjoy. We appreciate you. God bless you, JOE, and God bless America.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman from Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. I thank Mr. SMITH. I really appreciate his efforts in honoring JOE PITTS here tonight and all of the gentleman's efforts over the many years in sticking up for the values that really are important; so I thank the gentleman for that.

Madam Speaker, indeed, it is a night to recognize our leader of the Values Action Team, Mr. JOE PITTS, and all of his dedication to these important causes for our values, which are the

things that, I like to say, are going to be remembered long past all the other stuff we do—the fiscal-related things and some other things—that nobody will remember. I like to think they will remember that we stood up for the things that were truly important to families, to the things that endure over time; so being able to join in tonight in recognizing our friend from Pennsylvania is a privilege for me as it was to be able—and it is—to work with JOE.

Over the few short years I have been in the House, I have gotten to know what he is about, and I respect him greatly as a man of faith and courage in standing against the tide that is pretty unpopular these days, a lot of times, in this era of political correctness where what is up and what is down is up. He stood in there on some very difficult issues—on life, on basic liberties, on moral conscience, and even on religious conscience. He joined in on some issues from crazy California sometimes, where I come from, in helping to fight a battle there that would allow people to have religious freedom and freedom of conscience. Again, I think a cornerstone of the founding of this country has been lost a lot of times here, in recent reinterpretations, as to what I think true, traditional values are.

He has given that voice to the unborn. He stood side by side with the Little Sisters of the Poor in their direct fight for religious liberty. He defended the conscience of Americans who should never be forced to finance something that goes against one of the very principles our Nation was founded on—life—with their religious convictions.

JOE PITTS, when it comes down to protecting conservative values in our government or outside of it, there was no issue too small, too insignificant, or anything that he would shy away from. Indeed, he inspires us to be bold, to stand up for those who can't always speak for themselves or who have been beaten down by political correctness to even be able to speak for themselves. We need these conservative values. We need visions like JOE PITTS has always exhibited. To have been able to have worked beside him these years I have been here in the House, it has been a privilege, and I appreciate his work and his courage in being fearless against a tide that sometimes I can't understand.

At the end of all of this, I think some of the most rewarding words and the ones that we can try and express here tonight—but that will be expressed in a bigger place—is: well done, good and faithful servant.

God bless JOE PITTS. Again, we thank him for his service on the Values Action Team and for all he has stood for, and I am proud to be able to stand beside him.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend from California for his very, very fine remarks.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, as there are a number of Members who would like to submit, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, it is hard to imagine a Congress without the incomparable JOE PITTS—a remarkable and highly accomplished lawmaker, a distinguished statesman, a man of principle and bedrock moral conviction and a Christian, who faithfully seeks to do God's will on Earth as it is in Heaven no matter the cost, no matter the sacrifice, no matter the hardship.

□ 1930

As I think some of my colleagues know—particularly those who know him well—JOE was born in Kentucky into a family of strong Christian faith, a faith that has been passed on to his own three children; Carol, Karen, and Daniel.

JOE's father was an Army chaplain during World War II, serving in the South Pacific after the war. The elder Pitts returned to the Philippines with his wife and children to serve as a missionary in a war-ravaged country. It was there that JOE saw the after effects of war; and that so profoundly affected him, he developed a heart there for human rights and a commitment to a strong national defense.

After high school, JOE attended Asbury College in Kentucky, as my friend and colleague earlier pointed out. He met Virginia—Ginny, as we know her—a wonderful lady. My wife Marie and I and JOE and Ginny have traveled and have been together many times. She is just a wonderful wife of a half a century. Again, they not only have three children but a number of grandchildren as well.

JOE taught math, science, English, and physical education, as well as coached basketball. He served 5½ years in the United States Air Force, including three tours in Vietnam. He was the EW officer, electronic warfare officer, on a B-52 and completed 116 combat missions and earned the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters.

Here in Washington, JOE has worked hard helping political prisoners, including people like Saeed Abedini and other Christian and non-Christian—Jewish and other religious and political prisoners around the world.

He has been tenacious in promoting prayer breakfasts all around the world so that members of parliaments and congresses from many countries would know the blessings of fellowship and prayer and being in touch with God.

He even traveled to Mongolia for the first prayer breakfast in the late 1990s.

JOE leads an ambassadors' prayer breakfast fellowship at the Cedars, right nearby in northern Virginia. I have had the privilege to join him for those breakfasts on occasions. It is a time for ambassadors to get together from all over the world—different regions meeting at different times, sometimes many from many regions—to break bread, to talk about the Scriptures with some emphasis on policy but mostly about how God does minister to us, how forgiving He is, and how all of us are in need of reconciliation. And JOE PITTS is there leading that fellowship and has been doing it for decades.

JOE has been a leader in the fight against ongoing human rights abuses in Western Sahara and elsewhere. He is co-chair of the Lantos Human Rights Commission. And in Congress, of course, we know he has served in a number of key leadership positions, including his current position as chairman of the Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, obviously working on so many important issues on diseases and disabilities. Top officials from the healthcare system present themselves before his committee for his review and oversight. He has been a problem-solver—he and his staff, working across the aisle to try to find solutions to these often vexing issues of health care.

On the greatest human rights issue of our time—protecting unborn babies and their mothers from the violence of abortion—JOE PITTS has not only saved countless precious lives and fostered reconciliation and hope for post-abortive women, but he has also been an extraordinary inspiration to all of us in Congress.

The way he comports himself. He never gets angry. He deals with the issue in a way that reaches out to people who may have a different view in the hopes that they will see the wisdom of protecting the innocent and most vulnerable.

JOE has been a leader on every pro-life congressional policy—bills, amendments, administrative actions—since he won his seat in Congress in 1996. We are grateful for his powerful voice and vote on ending the hideous method called partial birth abortion; enacting multiple annual abortion funding bans; proscribing sex selection abortion, which is the ultimate violation of women's rights to say: you are susceptible to killing because you happen to be female; protecting pain-capable unborn children as well as born-alive infants; and enforcing the conscience rights of pro-life Americans has been remarkable. His leadership has been remarkable.

Had the Senate adopted the House-passed Pitts-Stupak amendment, ObamaCare, with all of its egregious flaws, would have at least been abortion-free.

JOE PITTS has been the greatest friend and ally of persons with disabilities, including his robust defense of Terri Schiavo.

His service in the Pennsylvania General Assembly from 1973–1997, including

his chairmanship of the powerful Appropriations Committee, to which he was elected by his peers, was filled with accomplishments, including his bold leadership in enacting the Abortion Control Act.

Someday future generations will look back on America's culture of death and wonder how and why a seemingly enlightened society, so blessed with civil rights protections, wealth, educational opportunities, information, medical breakthroughs, a free press, and a strong and diverse faith community could have allowed 60 million unborn children to be killed by abortion.

When the day comes and legal protections for the weak and the most vulnerable are restored, I believe future generations of Americans will remember and celebrate the tenacious heroes, the human rights heroes of today, people like Henry Hyde, compassionate women like Mother Teresa, and JOE PITTS, who persevered, prayed, and worked tenaciously on behalf of the least of these.

St. Francis once famously said: Always preach the gospel, and when necessary, use words.

By his example, by his perpetual radiating of Christ—just look at his eyes; there is kindness and compassion and empathy in JOE PITTS' eyes—he has inspired all of us to strive to do His will on Earth, as it is in Heaven. And it is a distinct privilege and honor to be known as one of JOE PITTS' friends.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. ROTHFUS. Madam Speaker, JOE PITTS is a man whose faith and values, I believe, animate him to protect life in all its stages. Through his decades of service both in the military and public office—and as a dedicated husband and dad—Congressman JOE PITTS has nurtured, protected, and preserved the lives of others.

First, as a young married man and a public school teacher, he nurtured the intellectual life of his students.

Then, so that he could better support his wife and children, he signed up for Officer Training School.

As an Air Force Captain, he did three tours in Vietnam over a five and a half year period, completing 116 combat missions throughout that time, and earning an Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters. Once again, JOE risked his own life to protect the lives of others.

After retiring from military service, JOE returned to teaching, and in 1972, he commenced his 24-year tenure as a PA State Representative, where he was known for being a key advocate of the 1990 Abortion Control Act.

In 1997, JOE became a member of Congress, and understanding that from the family springs new life, he was asked to chair the pro-family Values Action Team.

Throughout his service at the state and federal level, he has worked to improve the lives of others by exercising fiscal responsibility. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, he fought to improve our military readiness, so that our service members can better protect American lives.

I know that each of us here today honoring JOE feel that he has touched our lives, both as a colleague and as a friend. He has touched the lives of countless others through his service.

I wish him all the best in the years to come, and, after decades of serving the lives of others, that he enjoys time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

RETIRING MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to be here this evening to talk about the remarkable records of five individuals who are retiring from the Congress. I have had the honor of chairing the California Democratic delegation for many years; and these five Members—Representative SAM FARR, Representative LOIS CAPPAS, Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ, Representative MIKE HONDA, and Representative Janice Hahn—are going home to California after serving distinguished careers here in the House.

THE HONORABLE SAM FARR

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I will start with my near neighbor, who has served since 1993. He came in in a special election, and that is Congressman SAM FARR. He has honorably represented the central coast of California for more than 40 years and here in Congress for the last 23.

SAM was born and raised in the Monterey County area. Before his service here in the House, he early on served in the Peace Corps in Colombia, and his wonderful fluent Spanish is a product of his Peace Corps service in Colombia. To this day, he has a special soft spot for that country.

As the ranking member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, he has championed safe and nutritious food for consumers, farmers, and producers. He has made sure that the need of getting fresh food into school lunches has never been far from our thoughts, and he has had remarkable success there, which has served the health of children across the country.

After serving in the Peace Corps, SAM represented his constituents on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors for 6 years. As a member of the Board of Supervisors, he continued to fight for environmental issues and for people who were disadvantaged. After that, he served in the California Legislature.

SAM founded the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus and authored the Oceans Act, which created the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

He is the longest serving Democrat on the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. And while he served on that subcommittee, he did something simply remarkable. We all know that

bases across the United States were closed under the BRAC system, and one of those bases was the Fort Ord military base. It is the biggest California base, and it left a hole in that county. What SAM did was, he worked with the local community to make sure that that base could be repurposed to good use, and he led the effort to make the Cal State University at Monterey a reality at Fort Ord.

SAM is a former chair of the congressional Democratic delegation and did such a great job when he chaired this group. He stands for peace, for diplomacy. SAM is always standing up for the little guy. And one of the things in addition to that is that he has been the photographer for House Democrats. Whenever we go anywhere, SAM is there with his camera, and we really don't know who is going to keep track of our activities when SAM retires.

We wish him well. We know he is going to have a great time in the serene beauty of the region where he grew up. He said: It is time to go home and be a grandpa. And we know that he is a wonderful grandpa.

THE HONORABLE LOIS CAPPIS

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, LOIS CAPPIS is also retiring. LOIS was sworn in on March 17, 1998. But I remember the day that her late husband, Walter Capps, passed away unexpectedly. She and Walter were on their way to the Capitol, and Walter passed away.

We had an unplanned Special Order here. We were all so shocked that that had happened. And LOIS was here with us. She later went on to run for the seat that her husband had represented really for a short time: Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and parts of Ventura County. She has represented that area with tremendous distinction.

You know, she will be the first to tell you, she never expected to be a Member of Congress. She is a former nurse, a public health advocate. She was a school nurse and still talks about the work she did as a school nurse with children. And when she got elected to Congress, she was committed to improving schools, to quality health care, and a cleaner environment. She built a legacy of commonsense solutions that have helped make her district, her State, and our country cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable.

And here is something not everyone knows; but when they hear it, it makes so much sense. She has been voted the nicest Member of Congress over and over again, and so she is.

She serves on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee and sits on the Health Subcommittee, the Energy and Power Subcommittee, as well as the Environment and the Economy Subcommittee. She has focused on Medicare reform, the nursing shortage, mental health, the protection of our air and water. She also serves on the House Natural Resources Committee.

LOIS is someone who not only serves with distinction but who is a warm friend. We will miss her greatly next

Congress, but we know that she deserves the retirement that she has earned, and she will be going home to her beautiful district.

THE HONORABLE LORETTA SANCHEZ

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, our colleague LORETTA SANCHEZ is a true trailblazer. Beginning with her election in 1996, where in then-Republican Orange County, she had an upset victory against former Representative Bob Dornan. She defeated Representative Dornan by less than 1,000 votes.

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When she got here, she immediately tried to do what she could for the defense of this Nation. She has served honorably as a senior member on the House Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Homeland Security and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces. She is considered a leader on military and national security issues.

She is also the co-chair of the Congressional Women in the Military Caucus, where she advocated for female servicemembers to serve in combat roles, and she fought to end sexual assault in the Armed Forces.

She served on the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, where she made sure our Nation is prepared for anything, any missile or nuclear attack.

Another thing that I know so well about LORETTA is how much she cares about human rights, and specifically her advocacy for human rights in Vietnam. She and I have co-chaired the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam. She has gone to Vietnam, and she is a reliable, vocal, smart, and dedicated advocate for human rights, for religious freedom and labor rights for people in Vietnam.

Obviously a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, she served in the past as co-chair of the Immigration Task Force. She is a spectacular person. I will miss her a great deal, and I am thinking about who do I go to on the committee to talk about the nerdy but important things like the National Ignition Facility and big science projects that are also part of the armed services. She has served her country so well.

THE HONORABLE MIKE HONDA

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, MIKE HONDA will also be going home. I have had the honor of knowing MIKE HONDA for many decades. As a matter of fact, I think I first met MIKE when he was serving on the planning commission of the city of San Jose, appointed by then-Mayor Norm Mineta, who later became a Member of Congress. He was later elected to the San Jose Unified School Board, and then to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. In fact, MIKE and I served together on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Many of us know his history. During World War II, MIKE HONDA and his family spent 3 years imprisoned in an in-

ternment camp for Japanese Americans. That experience, I think, was the beginning of the fuel for his zeal in his fight for civil rights, for public service, and against discrimination. We will miss him because, although we have a very distinguished member in DORIS MATSUI, who was actually born in an internment camp, I believe that MIKE HONDA is the last of our Members who actually was old enough to remember being in that internment camp.

We have discussions in our country today about locking up people based on their ethnicity or their religious beliefs. It is important that people like MIKE HONDA can stand up and say America made a mistake. America apologized for that mistake. Let's never make that mistake again.

MIKE serves on the House Committee on Appropriations and is serving now as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. In that position, he played a key role with me and Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO in helping to locate the Patent Office in San Jose and to make sure that the Department of Justice has the resources to address the backlog in rape kits. He also serves on the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies.

He is chair emeritus of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the founding chair of the Congressional Caucus to End Bullying, the vice chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus. In fact, he spent many years fighting anti-Muslim bigotry and discrimination against the LGBT community.

THE HONORABLE JANICE HAHN

Ms. LOFGREN. Finally, I want to mention our friend Janice Hahn, who took office just, I think, this week as a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Janice was elected to Congress in 2011 and immediately made strong contributions to her district in a short time. But the story of Janice doesn't begin with her election to Congress. It begins long before that.

Her father, Supervisor Kenny Hahn, served longer as a member of the board of supervisors than anyone in the history of the United States; and Janice tells stories of growing up with her father and understanding that public service means getting down and actually talking with your constituents, providing direct services to them. He had a tremendous influence on her, and she served on the Los Angeles City Council before she ran for Congress successfully.

Here, Janice served on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where she did important things like helping to pass the National Freight Network Trust Fund Act to increase investments in port and freight network infrastructure. As

a result of her efforts, the harbor maintenance trust fund provided over \$1 billion in resources to operate more efficiently and remain globally competitive.

The Port of Long Beach, which she represented in Congress and now as a Los Angeles County supervisor, moves more than \$180 billion of goods each year and is the second busiest seaport in the United States. She has always made sure that that port got the resources necessary to be efficient not only for the need for business in her district, but recognizing that the goods that come through that port help support the economy across the United States.

She served also on the Committee on Small Business, where she worked to improve access to loans for small businesses to improve job creation. She co-founded the bipartisan Congressional Ports Opportunity, Renewal, Trade, and Security Caucus, the PORTS Caucus, and she also served with JIM COSTA and me on the California High-Speed Rail Caucus, where she championed the California high-speed rail project, which will improve transportation in California and reduce traffic congestion and airport wait times.

Janice Hahn is someone who really cared about her district in Congress, but her district in Congress is tiny compared to the district she represents on the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. We know that she will do a terrific job there.

Many also know her as someone who was very involved in the prayer breakfast movement here in Congress. She made many friends across the aisle as she did that, and we will miss her.

We know that we will see all of these fine individuals when we go home, as we do every week to California. Now before calling on my colleague Mr. FARR, I would also like to note that the timing of this was a little bit different than we had expected, and a lot of Members have statements.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield to SAM FARR.

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. This is probably the last time I rise on this floor to speak after 23 years of serving here. It may take me a little more than 5 minutes.

Ms. LOFGREN. That is all right.

Mr. FARR. My daughter is on the way with my grandkids, who are trying to watch this. Maybe we can delay it a little more than that.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Ms. LOFGREN for her leadership in the California delegation. She is the head of

the Democratic side of the aisle in our caucus from California, the largest caucus just the Democrats alone. I would just like to point out what the politics of the West has done since I first got elected in 1975.

I arrived here, and there were an even number of Democrats and Republicans representing California. Today there are 39 Democrats, and that is because the State has really shifted in their registration and voting. So the California Democratic delegation, it is interesting that ZOE is the chair of because it is the most diverse delegation in Congress: majority women, the highest delegation of Hispanics, of women, of Asians, and I would like to say with, MIKE HONDA and Mr. GARAMENDI and myself, the largest delegation of returned Peace Corps volunteers. It has been quite a change in the 23 years that I have been in Congress.

I first arrived in 1993. I was the last guy in the door here because Leon Panetta, my predecessor, had been elected in the 1992 election, sworn in to the Congress that January; and then when President Clinton was sworn in for his first term, he turned around and appointed Leon Panetta to be head of the Office of Management and Budget. Leon resigns on that day, notifies Governor Wilson, who declares a special election.

Interesting enough, in the special elections in California, it is an open election, so the highest vote getter from each party at the time would be in the runoff, and 27 people filed. I was in the state assembly. They said: You file and you will clear the field.

No, it didn't happen at all. It was quite a primary, and it ended up with a June election; and on June 15, I think I was sworn here, right in this very spot, to the United States Congress.

What was interesting is I was the 435th Member of Congress, the last person, and today I think my seniority ranks me around 50, from 51 to 55. So it takes 23 years to move from the bottom slot all the way up to the top 50 or so slots in this House. It has been a very interesting experience.

This truly is—and I have seen it through all the years—a representational democracy. There are all kinds of people in Congress with all kinds of issues: personal issues, family issues, financial issues. It really is representational of the society we live in. One thing in common is that they all want to serve the public; they want to serve this country.

That service, particularly in this House, because we are representatives, we serve districts. Madam Chair was a former county supervisor, as I was, and I like jokingly saying that, frankly, because we all serve districts, we are like 435 county supervisors back here. We are more concerned about our district than the whole country.

That is a strength for the constituents of the district, to be able to have direct access to their elected Members of Congress. It is probably a drawback

when you are trying to draw the whole country into a common purpose. It is very difficult to get at least 218 people to agree, and that is the challenge here.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Agriculture Committee, the Defense Committee, the Resources Committee, and, in the last 20 or so years, on the Appropriations Committee. It has been a wonderful experience because you are able to really get involved in the Appropriations Committee with all the details of running government.

I am ranking member, the chief Democrat on the Agriculture Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, and our budget for that committee is about the same as the entire budget for the State of California. That is an agency which was created by Abraham Lincoln. It was created to essentially deal with the home ec of westward expansion.

So all of the rural development, the rural poverty programs, are in the Department of Agriculture. Plus you have ag attaches in every Embassy in the United States, in the world. You have the commodities futures exchange. You have Wall Street. You have everything in that committee and it is really interesting, and the biggest feeding program through food stamps, the WIC program, Food for Peace, and so on.

I have been able to do a lot in changing policies so that we got fresh fruits and vegetables, and trying to get them in every school lunch program in the United States. That is good for California agriculture, and it is, more importantly, good for the kids of this Nation.

I have had the privilege of being, I think, the only one in this House to create a national park during my service. The Pinnacles National Park was the 59th national park created in the history of this country.

We have done a big expansion of ocean protection with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. We have created a visitors center for that sanctuary. We have created, for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, a center in Santa Cruz.

We have created a brand-new university out of the largest base closure that ever happened in the history of the United States, with the closure of Fort Ord. Cal State Monterey Bay is really up and coming, about 7,000 students, a great university, really reaching out to the underserved populations of California.

I have been able to raise the pay for Federal workers in my district, what they call the locality pay.

I have been able to, I think, save the Naval Postgraduate School and the Defense Language Institute from being closed or reorganized, realigned to other States. The list goes on and on.

I think what I am most proud of is the fact that I have had such incredible staff. I would just like to take a moment to tell you about Rochelle

Dornatt, my chief of staff, who has been with me for 23 years; Debbie Merrill; Troy Phillips; Tom Tucker; Sam Chiron; Dushani De Silva; Zoe Gentes, who is a Sea Grant fellow in my office; Rosie Julin; and Ana Sorrentino, who is my foreign service staffer.

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On my district staff, Alec Arago, Carina Chavez, Nancy DeSerpa, Bertha Munoz, Kristen Petersen, and Alicia Castro. Kristen Petersen just got elected to the Capitola City Council.

All of these people are moving on as I leave tomorrow, and I am very excited that they were part of my life.

Just in closing, I would like to say that my daughter, Jessica, is here in the cloakroom, I hope, and she has with her my grandson, Zachary, and my granddaughter, Ella. I am so pleased that they could be here and share this moment with me.

Congress is a great experience. It is the check and balance. It is the initiator of new ideas. It is the people's House. And I just hope that as Member's face this next uncertainty of a new administration—there is always uncertainty, and probably more so now with the controversial election we had in this country, but I really hope that this House will rise to the occasion to not let the people down. We fight for all kinds of wonderful reasons. This House, the people's House, has really got to protect the people.

So I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time for me to make a few comments. I am sure that I will have a lot more that I would love to say, but I include in the RECORD a list that I have here of over 20 years of getting results for the 20th Congressional District.

OVER 20 YEARS OF GETTING RESULTS. . . .

Helping change things for the better while in Congress doesn't just mean passing bills, though Sam Farr did a lot of that. It means looking for every opportunity—to form partnerships, to push for White House involvement, to secure earmarks, and even on occasion, to block others from interfering in the district's welfare.

Sam Farr did all this while in Congress and will continue to do so until the day he leaves. There is never a time when Sam Farr is not working for the best interests of the community. He leaves an indelible mark on the district that will have long-term, wide-ranging impact now and far into the future.

Item	Approximate Date
Authorized federal organic standards legislation/law ..	2002
Got WH to include Salinas in its Violence Prevention strategy (to fight gangs).	2010–present.
Helped legislate the RCI program, which has rebuilt military housing at Fort Ord (now the Ord Military Community).	2001–ongoing.
Monterey Bay Sanctuary Trail	2001–present.
Obtained approval of VA cemetery at Fort Ord	1993–2014
NMFS lab in Santa Cruz	1996–2002
Provided approximately \$65 million, total, to underwrite the new CSUMB.	1994–1999
Oceans 21/National Ocean Policy	2000/2014
Helped negotiate, then got \$\$ for Salinas Valley Water Reclamation project and the Castroville Water Intrusion project.	1994–95
Opened up DU to civilian students on a selected, space-available basis.	1994
Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus	1997–present.
White House Oceans Conference	1998
Prevented closure of local Social Security office	1999

Item	Approximate Date
Transfer of EDD-owned building via DOL to city of Salinas for child care center.	1999
Creation of the center for stabilization and reconstruction studies; also a permanent office within the State Department.	2000
Got WH to use Antiquities Act to establish Coastal National Monument.	2000
House Oceans Caucus	2000–present.
Marine Protected Area center in Santa Cruz	2000
Plan Colombia (revising aid for local capacity growth).	2000
Annual Citizenship ceremonies	2001(?)–present.
Cleaned up FUDS at Monterey Airport	2001
Got Fair Trade Sustainable Coffee mandated for House restaurant facilities.	2001
Wilderness bill (Ventana, Silver Peak)	2001
Prevented the Navy from expanding bombing runs at Fort Hunter Liggett.	2002
Provided the funds (via earmark) for a new Olympic-sized public pool in Salinas.	2002
Created the U.S. Travel & Tourism Board	2003
Legislated FHL lands into permanent status as a national forest under the direction of the Forest Service if FHL is ever supplanted by the military.	2004
Moved FORA policy from 0% affordable housing to a minimum of 20%.	2004
Passed a law making California Missions eligible for federal restoration/rehabilitation grants.	2004
Won locality pay for federal workers in Monterey County.	2004
Environmental Services Contract Agreement—Fort Ord (clean up complete).	2006–2014
Golf carts for the disabled at military golf courses ..	2006
Transferred Pt. Pinos Lighthouse to City of Pacific Grove.	2006
Established the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at NPS.	2007
Organized Team Monterey—all DOD entities in Monterey County.	2007
A Salad Bar in Every School	2008
Launched the Civilian Response Corps	2008
Negotiated the swap of lands at Fort Ord ("Stilwell Kidney") to allow the expansion of military housing and a new "gateway" for the City of Seaside.	2008
Saved post office in Aromas from closure	2008
Finalized new VA/DOD health clinic (now under construction).	2012
Got WH to use Antiquities Act to establish Fort Ord National Monument.	2012
Legislated elevation of Pinnacles National Monument to full National Park status.	2012
Marine debris bill (became law)	2012
Saved DLI, NPS from BRAC	1995, 2005
Legislated the Economic Development Conveyance for BRAC properties.	1993, 2009
"Monterey Model" for contracting municipal services at military bases.	2000, 2012
Secured increased per diems for government rates in the district.	2003, 2012
Proud to be an American Act (became law)	1996, 2006, 2008
Santa Cruz Visitors Center	2012
Helped break the logjam on H-2A visas for local growers during the government shutdown, ensuring a sufficient workforce for the holiday growing & harvest season.	2012
Overcame the government shutdown that had closed off parking for the annual Jade Festival in Big Sur.	2013
Passed a bill in the House (and sent it to the Senate) to name the new VA-DOD health clinic after Gen. Bill Gourley.	2013 and 2014
Approximate total dollars brought in to the district in 22 years (appropriations only, not formula money).	\$1,016,000,000+
Approximate number of constituent letters answered in 22 years.	511,000
Pajaro River flood prevention	Multi-year.
Provided nearly \$7 million to Salinas/Monterey County to fight gangs.	Various.
San Clemente Dam—working toward removal	Multi-year.
Secured waivers for Salinas and Hollister so they can get Rural Development money.	Various, on-going.
Authored legislation on medical marijuana that became law.	2014, 2015
Forced FAA to review the SAFR flight plan over Santa Cruz (on-going).	2015
Secured the funds to renovate the "Low Water Bridge" at Fort Hunter Liggett.	2015
Locked in \$56.3 million from previous appropriations for a new barracks at DLI.	2015
Saved PEPPRA funds for Monterey-Salinas Transit	2015
Guaranteed a new ARS station would be built in Salinas by USDA.	2015
Reinstated \$7.2 million in funding for NOAA's B-WET program.	2015
Engineered the highest appropriations level for the Peace Corps in its history (410 million).	2015
Got the House to pass H.R. 1838 to allow the recreational use of BLM land at Clear Creek as a public recreation area.	2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I think the comments the gentleman has made show what a difference a Member of Congress can make in the lives of his or her constituents.

One of the things I will say as SAM leaves is that we have joint swearing-in

sessions around the Fourth of July. SAM was born on the Fourth of July. Some of the most memorable moments I have are in Gilroy, with hundreds of people wanting to become American citizens. The remarkable thing about our country is that we have 200 people walk in from 150 countries, and they walk out the citizens of just one country.

SAM has been a leader in immigration, the environment, and so many things, and we honor him and respect him for his service to our country.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I passed legislation called Proud to be an American Day. I was hoping that we could do that on the morning of the Fourth of July, but, because it is a Federal holiday, the Federal immigration people don't work that day. So we have been scheduling this around the Fourth of July and days before.

It has been a huge turnout. It is the largest turnout for press because there are so many interesting people to interview. I really appreciate the gentlewoman coming as an immigrant family and talking about her family background. It has been a highlight to see the smiles and enthusiasm of a day when we are really proud to be Americans.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), a distinguished Member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as the only member from the 53rd District, the only district that is 53rd in the country—the highest number district ever—and I am so aware of the size and scope of California and its congressional delegation.

We have such a wide range of talents and perspectives and contributions that California Members bring to this body. As we see the 114th Congress now come to a close, we have more departing Members than many delegations have in the first place. So I am here to talk about some of them.

We are losing leaders, we are losing friends and mentors, Members whom we have looked to and served beside. We are losing Members who have been so influential as they have shared to make their passion to make lives better, each in their own way. As we bid them farewell, I want to take this moment to pay tribute to five members that I am going to dearly miss.

The first one is LOIS CAPPIS. LOIS has really been an example and a role model for how to be the quintessential Congresswoman. She is generous, classy, hardworking, collaborative, and never afraid to stand up for people who are in need. One of the things about LOIS that we all know is she has a lock on the Nicest Member of Congress award, and that is for a really good reason.

She has been very helpful to me, and my staff, from the minute I came to Congress. I came a few years after she

did. Since then, they have been helpful whenever we needed them. I certainly will miss her leadership, her perspective as a nurse and a healthcare advocate, and our region's voice on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

She has always looked out for and delivered for women, kids, consumers, and anyone who has had problems with healthcare coverage. On that committee, she really has been a leader on the environment and a leader in promoting clean energy and green technology.

Everybody knows LOIS here on the floor. We all just look for her assurance and her smile all the time.

SAM FARR just spoke a few minutes ago. He really is a Member that you look to for results.

I learned about SAM when I was a member of the California legislature. One year, when the California members came to visit our Members of Congress, Sam was there to greet us. I remember having discussions with him. I think we were both chairing Consumer Affairs at one time in the State legislature and so we became kind of fast friends.

SAM was also one of my walking buddies. There were a few years there where we walked often in the morning, meeting about six o'clock. We had a gang of us who went down to the park. We were there always talking and having a good time and really sharing our experience here.

One thing we all know about SAM is that he was a legendary photo taker. I can assure you, whenever you see SAM wandering down here on the floor, he was often bringing pictures of people from one event or another that he had taken. They were great mementos. I know that we all treasured them dearly.

SAM is known from Monterrey, which he represents, to Colombia. Everywhere he goes, he speaks to people. Often, if you travel with SAM, you know how hard it is to get him moving because he really wants to stop and talk to everybody along the way.

SAM was really shaped by his service in the Peace Corps and dedicated himself to giving back and looking at tough issues from a global perspective. He has been an earmark and appropriations leader. His staff made him a book of accomplishments, and it was so thick. There were so many things that they had to share about SAM and what he has accomplished.

Just like my colleague had said, he really stands for how we can work hard and we can get things done, especially when we know how to work with people. And SAM knows how to do that. That is why he has such a great, thick binder and lots of wonderful pictures.

SAM has been a leader in the fight against offshore drilling and a smart thinker when it comes to BRAC solutions.

I also want to talk about LORETTA SANCHEZ. As my Armed Services colleague, my housemate, and Longworth

neighbor, LORETTA is someone I really got to see a lot of.

In this kind of funny button-down town we have, LORETTA is really a breath of fresh air. We know she is never afraid to be herself, and she is not like anyone else who has ever served.

She surprised people when she came to Congress after a very long-shot campaign that really wasn't decided for months after she came here. Of course, she has never been afraid to take on a tough-odds fight. She was one of the first younger women before we had a lot of women coming here to Congress—women who had young children—who were really in their earlier years. A lot of us waited until we were later in our careers, but not LORETTA. She came when she was really a young woman.

LORETTA is famous, of course, for her holiday cards and a lot of things that I just can't repeat right now, and for being one of the smartest, thoughtful, and funniest Members that we have here in Congress.

I know that when San Diego groups come to town and want an interesting speaker, I always recommend LORETTA. I never know what she is going to say, but that is why people listen.

She is someone I will dearly miss, but at least she is leaving her little sister here with us in leadership, no less. We are glad to have LINDA in that position.

I want to talk about my friend, MIKE HONDA. MIKE and I have been on the same path. We served in the legislature together, we campaigned in the year of George W., and we came to Congress in the same small Democratic class in 2000. Our staffs have worked very closely together, and he has ruled the seventh floor of Longworth from the same office that he has held the whole time he has been here in Congress.

Like SAM FARR, MIKE was shaped by his service in the Peace Corps in El Salvador. He has been a warrior for justice, whether it is educational justice or civil rights, and he has taken API issues to a new level and really made people aware of the struggles of Asian Americans from internment camps to POW issues to sex trafficking.

MIKE is something of a bridge as well between the generations. He has represented Silicon Valley with pride and been an advocate and example of new technology. His office always crushes all of us in the Golden Mouse Web site competition, and I think he was the first Member to drive a Prius. He still has that same green Prius with a stuffed animal we see parked all over campus.

More than anything, we miss stories of MIKE's famous karaoke nights. I hear nobody does Sinatra better.

Janice Hahn. Janice actually turned out to be one of my newer colleagues from nearby LA, and I certainly hate to see her leave, but she will be a huge asset as a member of the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. She joins a

former colleague here and a former colleague of mine of the State legislature. Go girl.

She is going to do tremendous work. The group of them who are in charge now at LA County, I know, will make tremendous strides for the region and for all of their constituents.

It is very clear that Janice is an expert on transportation and infrastructure. She has helped a lot of us to understand port issues and stands up for the working people who make the goods move.

It is always a great privilege to travel with Janice. I had that opportunity on a few occasions. I am certainly glad she will be serving in elected office. She still has such a great contribution to make.

So, in closing, I just want to say that we certainly are going to miss these Members for different reasons, but those of us still here will carry on their legacies and never forget the marks they have each made.

I have learned from all of them, and I will try to carry on their legacies by making my New Year's resolution to be as genuine as LOIS, as edgy as LORETTA, as engaging as SAM, as good at singing as MIKE, and as spiritual as Janice.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), who represents north of San Francisco and the north coast.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the things I love about serving in Congress is I am always presented with new and interesting experiences. Each year brings more of these experiences, but I have already, in just 4 years, found that there is one experience I have quite enough of, and that is saying goodbye to incredible, irreplaceable colleagues who are just remarkable public servants. I wish them well. I am happy for them in retiring, but I am going to really miss them.

Last year, we had the tough duty of saying goodbye to Henry Waxman and George Miller. This year, we have got another class of terrific people who are moving on.

□ 2015

I am going to miss all of my California colleagues, including our southern California friends, Janice Hahn and LORETTA SANCHEZ; but I want to focus the time I have on our northern California neighbors, starting with our great friend, SAM FARR.

A lot will be said, now and long into the future, about SAM's incredible public service career. People will talk about his time in Colombia in the Peace Corps, the 6 years that he spent on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, his 12 years in the State assembly, his nearly 23 years in Congress. SAM has been such a dedicated and passionate public servant. It is not just the duration and the breadth of those offices. It is really the quality and the character of SAM's service and, particularly, when it comes to the ocean.

SAM was the founder of the House Oceans Caucus, and a longstanding advocate for our coasts and oceans, and

reminding all of us and our country, how important they are to our economy. He helped lay the groundwork for a National Ocean Policy that recognizes that there are tens of millions of jobs across this country and trillions of dollars of economic activity that depend on healthy oceans.

SAM has helped all sorts of special places throughout his career, especially in the Central Coast. He has never rested on his laurels. Despite his many accomplishments—and there are too many to list here—I think it is important to note that he created the Pinnacles National Park, which was signed into law in 2013.

He successfully lobbied to have a national monument at Fort Ord, which was designated in 2012. And SAM has told me many times, even in recent days, that the most satisfying part of his work here in Congress is the enduring part of his legacy, those permanent protections that he, through a lot of hard work and perseverance, has been able to make happen.

Beyond all of this, all of these achievements, all of these offices that define SAM's public service career, I think it is also important to just note he is a heck of a human being.

I will miss SAM. It has been said by Susan and others that he has just always got a warm smile. He greets you on the airplane. He is a pleasure to travel with. He will come up and give you a picture that he took from the last holiday party, sometimes like a year and a half earlier because he has kept it in his pocket for a long time waiting to see you.

SAM, you are just a wonderful friend and human being, and I am so honored to have served with you.

So let's talk about another great human being and public servant, LOIS CAPPS. What I love about LOIS and will deeply miss is the fact that she is a nurse to the core, and a health advocate. She really, as a Member of Congress, and as a health advocate, just walks the walk all the time, constantly advocating for affordable and accessible health care for all, and that includes, obviously, being a champion with her work for the Affordable Care Act. She really does leave this institution, I think, as one of its most respected members, one of the kindest members, certainly one of the ones with widespread affection from her colleagues. That is a reputation that I think everyone in public life should strive for.

LOIS, of course, is another stalwart for California's oceans and our coast, and has helped lead the charge against offshore drilling throughout her tenure.

I think the part of LOIS that I will especially appreciate and especially miss is that she is my living bridge to a wonderful time in my life when I was a student at UC Santa Barbara. Of course, LOIS herself is a graduate of USCB, and I know that my fellow alumni and everyone in the UCSB community is so proud of her.

It is extra special because, of course, she holds the seat in Congress that was previously held by the late Walter Capps, a UCSB professor who was one of my favorite professors way back in the 1980s when I was a Gaucho student.

Finally, it is tough to say good-bye, but we have to, to our great friend, MIKE HONDA, who has so ably represented the Bay Area on the Appropriations Committee. He has made sure that Congress has invested in key priorities for our Bay Area region. The extension of BART is just one of many, many examples of MIKE's great work.

He served in public life for more than 3 decades, from the San Jose School Board to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the California Assembly, and here in Congress.

MIKE's very special service draws upon his life experience. He has just been an incredible champion for civil rights and human rights and equality. He has really been our North Star, I think, here in Congress on these critical issues.

He has gone to bat for the AAPI community, the LGBT community and, frankly, anyone who has been disadvantaged and who needs a champion in their quest for equality.

MIKE is my neighbor here in Washington. I will miss running into him. I will miss seeing that old, beat-up, first-generation Toyota Prius with all the faded stickers on the bumper. Most of all, I will just miss MIKE's great sense of humor, his warm smile, and his friendship; but I do know that that friendship will continue.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleague, ZOE LOFGREN, thank you for the time to lend my voice of appreciation and gratitude to these great, great, champions for California and for our country. We wish them well.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I had a number of other Members who had planned to be here but, because of the hour, there is a conflicting event, so they will be adding their voices to the RECORD.

Let me just close by saying that our delegation—really, all the Congress and the public—are going to miss the distinguished service of SAM FARR, LOIS CAPPS, LORETTA SANCHEZ, MIKE HONDA, and Janice Hahn. Each of them very different, but each of them made their mark in a way that will not be forgotten. We are sad to see them go, but here's the good news: we have fresh faces coming in to replace them who are very distinguished and who will also make their mark because none of us here will be here forever. We are just passing through this people's House in an effort to serve our country as best we can. Certainly, these Members have served that public with tremendous distinction, and we are honored to have served with them.

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

UNMANAGEABLE CABINET AGENCIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the people's House this evening.

Last night, I talked about my initial reflections on having been a freshman Congressman spending my first term in the United States House of Representatives. Last evening, I talked at length about the growth of the administrative state, the expansion of executive power, to the detriment of the first branch, the legislative branch. I traced those changes from my previous service on Capitol Hill as a young man in the Senate staff of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, and then, most recently, working for President Bush 41 during his 4 years in the Presidency.

Tonight I want to turn and continue that discussion with our American people, Mr. Speaker, and talk about how the cabinet agencies, since I worked for President Bush, worked in cabinet affairs, coordinated economic policy during the last 2 years of his Presidency from the White House staff. I want to talk tonight about those cabinet agencies and how, in my view, they have become essentially unmanageable.

You can see the critical need for spending and personnel reform in many of our departments. In fact, one may assume that change is desired by both the legislative and executive branches, yet reform flounders, whether it was at the Pentagon under Secretary Rumsfeld during Bush 43 or the Veterans Affairs Department today under the current administration.

I have watched the VA for the past 2 years. Secretary McDonald's plans changed, laws are changed, yet malfeasance, incompetence, and worse persist.

On just this Monday, Mr. Speaker, The Washington Post published a shocking report that Pentagon officials buried evidence of \$125 billion in bureaucratic waste during 2015. For that horrific activity, they were the recipient of this month's Golden Fleece Award by my office.

To make it worse, they even made the effort, according to The Washington Post, of hiding this effort, knowing that it would be impetus for the Congress to come together and cut their budget. Clearly, that is a problem with an unmanageable cabinet agency.

I have seen this firsthand right in Little Rock, my hometown, where the center of the Air Force's C-130 program is, for America's airlift, where the Department of the Air Force officials planned for years to transfer aircraft from Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi to Little Rock Air Force Base, basing it as a critical, cost-saving initiative, along with other force structure changes of some \$922 million across future years of their 5-year plan.

Yet, Congress' meddling prevented this commonsense Air Force plan cost-

saving initiative. So these bureaucratic efforts in the cabinet agencies that make them, in my view, unmanageable come both from the executive and from the legislative.

Looking at the Veterans Affairs Department, some 360,000 employees, up 140,000 in the past decade alone. About two-thirds of the members are civilian employees, are part of the American Federation of Government Employees and Service Employees International Union. These VA employees are subject to, of course, the protections by the Merit Systems Protection Board.

While there are many hardworking and dedicated VA employees, both in the healthcare area, across our VA hospitals, and in benefits, and many union members fight for high standards and fight for high quality across our veterans system, the facts are stubborn things, and they remain that the VA has had serious quality, ethics, and management issues that are hurting veterans and hurting the reputation of the Federal Government.

Just in this Congress alone, under the leadership of Congressman JEFF MILLER, the chairman of our Veterans Affairs Committee during this Congress, we have seen reforms to rein in construction spending by the VA, clawback bonuses, fire bad actors, stop paying official time to do union work. We have seen, though, people not fired, even though people have died in VA health care.

We have seen a \$300 million hospital complex, Mr. Speaker, be \$1 billion over budget; not possible, in my view, in the private sector. So there is no doubt that our cabinet agencies need reform. We talked about regulatory reform, executive overreach reform, but we must have work rule reform in our agencies.

The other thing I want to touch on tonight before I talk about solutions is just spending overall to fund the obligations of our Federal Government.

Every month, I receive numerous letters about the \$1.1 trillion in annual spending that Congress typically approves each year. When done properly, this annual spending is approved by way of 12 appropriations bills in this body, the people's House, and six appropriations bills in the Senate. They are conferenced together, and they are presented to the President for his veto or approval.

The problem is that this very typical, very constitutional program that has been applied for 240 years about how to authorize and appropriate funds to operate our government just no longer typically happens, yet this is Congress' most fundamental obligation under Article I.

The appropriations clause is but 16 words long. "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by law."

This is our job, yet the last time that all the appropriations bills were passed individually and enacted into law before October 1 of a new fiscal year was

1994. My, that is a terrible track record.

So this is not a President Obama issue or a President Bush issue. This is an issue of the Congress itself. Now you know why, after 20 years, I have seen so many things change, and not for the better, coming back to Washington to represent the people of central Arkansas.

□ 2030

What happens without such a process of appropriations bills is what we will be voting on this week: a continuing resolution which simply freezes spending at current levels and extends forward to a date certain, or, as an alternative to that kind of continuing resolution, an omnibus spending bill where everything is rolled into one.

These massive bills reflect the work, hopefully, of our House and Senate committees. They frequently contain items, Mr. Speaker, that are parachuted into the bill at the end of the negotiations between the House and the Senate, and those produce fireworks on both sides of the political spectrum.

The irony about that debate of that \$1.1 trillion in typical annual spending, approved by this body, is that it composes about \$600 billion—50 percent—that goes to our national defense that funds the essential expenditures for our men and women in uniform. About \$80 billion goes to our veterans and military construction projects around the United States and the world, and the balance is for everything else that we consider government: highway finance, local education initiatives that go to our States, our national parks, and help for our Corps of Engineers on our ports and along our rivers.

What shocks the Arkansans that I respond to about their letters is that, while I appreciate their correspondence, their emails about that \$1.1 trillion in spending, the so-called domestic discretionary spending, I remain frustrated that Congress' lack of action on the other \$3.5 trillion that this government spends is in the mandatory spending portion of the budget. It is not subject to annual appropriations.

So I thank you for your mail and your suggestions about how we can reform spending at the Pentagon or reform spending in our national forests or our national parks, but \$3.5 trillion is in mandatory spending which funds Social Security, Social Security Disability, Medicaid health care for the poor, Medicare health care for the elderly, and interest on our national debt—and these programs are essentially based on eligibility.

Yet, many of us remain concerned about the size of our annual deficits—the total size of our national debt—particularly when you consider the size of the national debt to our total economy. We currently have about \$19 trillion in outstanding debt of the United States with about \$6 trillion of that

owed to foreign investors outside the U.S., principally in Japan and China. This debt is a percentage of our GDP, that is \$19 trillion, which is about 100 percent of GDP.

Back in my twenties, when I worked for Senator Tower from Texas on the Senate Banking Committee, debt to GDP was about 30 percent. When I worked for President Bush 41 as a member of his White House staff for economic policy, our debt was about 50 or 60 percent of GDP. Now you know why after 20 years I remain so concerned, because it has now doubled.

There is a lot of economic research that tells us about the dampening impact on our national growth rates if we have national debt at these kinds of levels. It saps capital alternatives to the private sector that can bring faster growth. Clearly, since the Great Recession of 2008, we have had low growth—well below what I believe should be the growth rate of this great economy.

Likewise, we are at a time of low interest rates. Interest rates are likely on the rise. And while we are paying a modest amount of interest on that soon-to-be \$19 trillion dollars today, the Congressional Budget Office believes that, as interest rates gradually increase over the next few months and years, interest will move from about \$220 billion to \$830 billion, Mr. Speaker, over the next 10 years, surpassing what we spend as a nation on our national defense. So there is no doubt the Federal Government has grown too big and too complex and interferes too greatly. We must get our fiscal house in order.

Mr. Speaker, eliminating waste and fraud will not do it. Raising taxes won't do it. I am always reminded by members of the opposition that insist that we can only balance our budget by raising taxes. Winston Churchill's favorite quote about taxes: "We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift it himself by the handle." It is not going to do it, Mr. Speaker.

This problem is too large and requires reform, and it requires this Congress to reform in the out-years and put us on the right track. Former Joint Chief of Staff Chairman Michael Mullen said in 2010, 6 years ago, Mr. Speaker, that the biggest national security problem facing the United States was the size of our national debt.

So let me talk now, Mr. Speaker, about potential solutions that this Congress has to adopt working with our President-elect in the coming days, in the coming years, and in the early months of the Trump administration. First, Congress, heal thyself. We must reassert our Article I powers: the power of the purse; the power of the proper appropriations process. We don't need someone to impose that. We need to impose it on ourselves.

We need to remind the American people to contact us, to help us return to regular order and return to the appropriations process. We need all 12 of

those bills passed and we need to stop depending on continuing resolutions like we will this week. This is something I think that is fundamental.

Let's talk about some of the reforms to that budget process tonight. In this Congress, I was proud to support the Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act, which was introduced by REID RIBBLE of Wisconsin. If this bill passes, it would help the government fix our broken budget system by establishing a biennial budget cycle. I think this would provide Federal agencies with the kind of planning capability that would make them much more effective. We could identify cost savings, no doubt, in the important infrastructure area and long-term systems issues that we have, particularly in the Pentagon. This would be a large advantage.

After reflecting on this, I support abolishing our Budget Committee process. Put in place in 1974, the intent was to have a way to rein in the executive. The Budget Act of 1974 was to help punish Richard Nixon. I believe that if we abolish the Budget Committee, we can allow our authorizing committees to serve both an authorizing and an appropriating function. We can eliminate redundancies in our Federal Government, and we can look inward in how we can eliminate also unnecessary procedures in Congress that waste time. In turn, our Appropriations Committee would oversee the budget resolutions, making sure that Congress spends no more than what we have approved in a budget resolution and that we can review individual ceilings for appropriating money for those government functions that don't require an authorization.

I also support the idea of properly directing the Congressional Budget Office to account for, or score, in their terminology, for long-term investments as budget impacts versus just current-year spending. These ideas are not revolutionary; they are well known.

We are stuck in the past, Mr. Speaker, and we must reform ourselves starting with this budget and appropriations process. In fact, these ideas are as old as my boss' suggestions. John Tower was a 24-year veteran of the Senate. He served on the Budget Committee and was chairman of the Armed Services Committee in the Senate. These were his ideas upon his retirement in 1984 as to how to make the Congress more effective.

The Congressional Budget Office relies on a set of government statistics including GDP growth, inflation, and tax receipts. It takes into accounts dynamic scoring. In my view, these things need to be done in a more proper way to better calculate the cost of legislation and the benefits for the economy. For example, CBO does not currently include interest payments on the debt when scoring new legislation. As previously mentioned, this interest will grow exponentially in the coming

years, and now spending programs and reforms, in my view, ought to be calculated and take into account the agency costs and the carrying costs on our national debt.

Another recommended reform to the CBO from our House Budget Committee would be to eliminate built-in discretionary inflation, removing the automatic extensions of expiring programs, and removing the current assumption that entitlement payments will continue at current levels even when their trust funds are predicted to be insolvent. These practices currently used by CBO result in automatic plus-ups for the baseline budget, and these reforms, in my view, will remove the current bias to ever higher spending levels.

We ought to consider what we do in the private sector, Mr. Speaker, zero-based budgeting to assess what is really needed and not needed in our Federal agencies. What a great idea for Mr. Trump's incoming new Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Interior Department, let's go to zero-based budgeting. Let's have you justify to the Chief Financial Officer in the Interior Department every program, and then come to Congress with your recommendation of what we really should be doing at Interior or any other bureau or cabinet agency of the government.

House and Senate bills have been introduced on this issue. Representative DUNCAN of Tennessee and Senator THUNE of South Dakota would, I think, bring a lot of common sense. They would say that if private enterprises are performing activities duplicated by an arm of the Federal Government, then they would have the opportunity to compete for that work that Federal agencies unnecessarily handle in-house and, therefore, give better value to our taxpayers.

IT investments—information technology—is a critical function in all of our private sector life. Yet, GAO, the Government Accountability Office, found that 75 percent of the technology budget for the Federal Government goes to just painting up and fixing aging technology rather than modernizing and going in a different direction on IT.

They are actually still using floppy disks at the Pentagon and maintaining 1970s-era computer platforms. Look, that stuff ought to be in the Smithsonian, not at the Pentagon. The report notes that the Social Security systems that are used to determine our eligibility and our benefits are more than 30 years old and are based on COBOL computer language. Mr. Speaker, I used COBOL computer language when I was in college almost 40 years ago. We need that kind of reform in order to be competitive and provide services to our constituents and safe, cyber-ready protections. We have already witnessed the Office of Personnel Management losing people's identities and creating identify theft right in the middle of a

Federal computer system that is supposed to be the best.

Our chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, JASON CHAFFETZ, has expressed his support for modernizing our government's aging systems, calling it a vital part of infrastructure that we need in order to have a fully functional government. I couldn't agree more. We don't need to shortchange these agencies when it comes to delivering a safe, cyber-protected IT infrastructure.

Last night I talked about the administrative state, the growth of regulation, and the cost of regulation exceeding that of all the revenues from the tax system. Let's talk about what we can do to rein in regulatory costs. The House passed a Separation of Powers Restoration Act in 2016, which would amend the Administrative Procedure Act, to require the courts to decide all de novo relevant questions of law, including the interpretation of constitutional and statutory provisions and rules. This bill would eliminate the Chevron deference, which, in my view, is blocking common sense being used and direction of this people's House and the Senate over our regulatory body.

This is not a new topic, Mr. Speaker. James Madison in Federalist 51 discussed the need of each branch of government to guard against overreach by another. He stated that when an overreach occurs, ambition must be to counteract ambition.

That is what we want to do in this House, Mr. Speaker. We have passed the REINS Act, Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act. The REINS Act, which passed this act overwhelmingly, said that any major rule like those that I described last night that cost the economy more than \$100 million would require coming back to Congress for approval. That will put the people's Representatives here in charge of the administrative state and not the other way around.

I referenced a few minutes ago The Washington Post story about uncovering \$125 billion of hidden-away, misdirected spending at the Pentagon that I awarded this month's Golden Fleece Award.

□ 2045

I brought back the Golden Fleece from the seventies. It was created by Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin. It is that kind of thing that I think calls attention to egregious behavior by the Executive and allows us to have policy changes here. I commend former Senator Tom Coburn and his successor Senator LANKFORD for the same kind of work.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to turn to the subject of the Community Empowerment Initiative, something that I have spent a lot of time on in my district in Little Rock, finding ways to fight poverty and use the talents and time of the private sector to do that, and also to identify ways that we can

find a better way to enhance the lives of American citizens, get them out of poverty, get them the education they need and the skills they need to succeed in our economy.

This is the big challenge before the incoming Trump administration and this Congress. It is important that people have a vested interest in their community and have a sense of community engagement about how we do what I talked about last night, the idea that we let people closest to the problems solve those problems and not be dependent on one-size-fits-all challenges here.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have been reelected and continue to serve the citizens of Arkansas and our country. I am humbled to be asked to raise my hand on January 3 and again affirm my allegiance to our country and our beloved Constitution.

Every Thursday morning, we assemble for the House prayer breakfast, and every Thursday morning I feel the prayers around our country, for our country. We in that group pray for all of our families. We pray for our men and women in uniform around our world protecting our liberties and our freedoms. I pray for each of the families in my district, that they have the health and prosperity and the ability to pursue happiness under our great Constitution.

On behalf of my family, I wish all of the people of the Second Congressional District of Arkansas a blessed Christmas season. May God bless our troops overseas and our great Nation.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 795. An act to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

S. 3395. An act to require limitations on prescribed burns.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7785. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Anthony G. Crutchfield, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7786. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Submission of Food and Drug Administration Import Data in the Automated Commercial Environment [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-1487] (RIN: 0910-AH41) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7787. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — New Animal Drugs for Use in Animal Feed; Category Definitions; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-1896] received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7788. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Arkansas River; Little Rock, AR [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0992] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7789. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the twelfth annual Federal Trade Commission Report on Ethanol Market Concentration, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(10)(B); July 14, 1955, ch. 360, title II, Sec. 211 (amended by Public Law 109-58, Sec. 1501(a)(2)); (119 Stat. 1074); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7790. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Energy Labeling Rule (RIN: 3084-AB15) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7791. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Used Motor Vehicle Trade Regulation Rule (RIN: 3084-AB05) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7792. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2016 edition of the Department's annual "To Walk the Earth in Safety" report; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7793. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of

Offer and Acceptance for the Government of Peru, Transmittal No. 16-76, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7794. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance for the Government of Finland, Transmittal No. 16-65, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7795. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia, Transmittal No. 16-54, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7796. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-069, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7797. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-110, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7798. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-098, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7799. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-039, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7800. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-095, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7801. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-112, pursuant to Sections 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7802. A letter from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's FY 2014 and 2015 Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and of Commercial Activities, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7803. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Regulatory Affairs Law Division, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Freedom of Information Act Regulations [Docket No.: DHS-2009-0036] (RIN: 1601-AA00) received December 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7804. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7805. A letter from the Program Specialist, LRAD, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rules — Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans

Exemption Threshold [Docket No.: OCC-2015-0021] (RIN: 1557-AD99) received December 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7806. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2016 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7807. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's Report of FY 2016 Audits, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. 8G(h)(2); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 8G(h)(2) (as added by Public Law 100-504, Sec. 104(a)); (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7808. A letter from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting the Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2016, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7809. A letter from the Executive Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7810. A letter from the Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, transmitting the Counsel's FY 2016 Performance and Accountability Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7811. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment (RIN: 3133-AE59) received December 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7812. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Potomac River and Anacostia River, and adjacent waters; Washington, DC [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0675] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7813. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Great Egg Harbor Bay, Marmora, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2016-1011] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7814. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Grounds; Delaware Bay and River, Philadelphia, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0110] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7815. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of justification regarding the suspension of limitations

under the Jerusalem Embassy Act, pursuant to Public Law 104-45(7)(a); (109 Stat. 400); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

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. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3764. A bill to provide that an Indian group may receive Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe only by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-847). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOWDY: Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi Final Report of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi (Rept. 114-848). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 949. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 612) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse" (Rept. 114-849). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 329 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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. SWALWELL of California (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 6447. A bill to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6448. A bill to establish the National Wildlife Corridors System to provide for the protection and restoration of native fish, wildlife, and plant species and their habitats in the United States that have been diminished by habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation, and obstructions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6449. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide political advertising vouchers and payments to defray the costs of postage for candidates in general elections to the Senate or House of

Representatives who agree to restrictions on the types of contributions such candidates raise and the types of expenditures such candidates make, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on 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. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 6450. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself and Mr. CHAFFETZ):

H.R. 6451. A bill to improve the Government-wide management of Federal property; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 6452. A bill to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 6453. A bill to clarify the effect of a Memorandum Opinion for the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, dated September 20, 2011, and pertaining to the lawfulness of proposals by Illinois and New York to use the Internet and out-of-state transaction processors to sell lottery tickets to in-state adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6454. A bill to require a certain percentage of LNG and crude oil exports be transported on United States-built and United States-flag vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee):

H.R. 6455. A bill to require a certain percentage of LNG and crude oil exports be transported on vessels documented under the laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. VEASEY:

H.R. 6456. A bill to render the amounts authorized to be appropriated for U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration

and Customs Enforcement for fiscal years 2018 through 2021 contingent upon the amount appropriated for the Executive Office for Immigration Review for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, 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. VEASEY:

H.R. 6457. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage of preventive services that are required to be covered by group and individual health plans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. VEASEY:

H.R. 6458. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to prohibit a State from requiring individuals to submit to drug testing as a condition of assistance under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance to needy families, to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to prohibit a public housing agency from requiring individuals to submit to drug testing as a condition of assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. CURBELO of Florida (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 6459. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. JONES, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 6460. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require, for projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of treatment works funded through a State drinking water treatment revolving loan fund, the use of iron and steel products that are produced in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 6461. A bill to encourage school bus safety; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. COLLINS of New York (for himself, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 6462. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act for purposes of prioritizing the most vulnerable Medicaid patients; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York (for himself and Mr. LONG):

H.R. 6463. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance with respect to three-dimensional human tissue models, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 6464. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for teacher-led projects to improve academic growth in elementary school and secondary school, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 6465. A bill to authorize the incorporation of water quality improvement partnership programs into Federal Water Pollution Control Act NPDES permit programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota (for himself and Mr. DEFazio):

H.R. 6466. A bill to establish a website for Federal Government apps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6467. A bill to provide that individuals may elect to retain work-related benefits when moving throughout the workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HARRIS (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BRAT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. YOHO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. WALKER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. CONAWAY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. PALMER, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 6468. A bill to prohibit any entity that receives Federal funds and does not comply with a lawful request for information or detention of an alien made by any officer or employee of the Federal government who is charged with enforcement of the immigration laws from receiving additional funding; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Appropriations, 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. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6469. A bill to revise the Yurok reservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. MESSER):

H.R. 6470. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit fellowship and stipend compensation to be saved in an individual retirement account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 6471. A bill to expand retroactive eligibility of the Army Combat Action Badge to include members of the Army who participated in combat during which they personally engaged, or were personally engaged by, the enemy at any time on or after December 7, 1941; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 6472. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Volunteer Teacher Advisory Committee and a Volunteer Parents and Families Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 6473. A bill to express the sense of Congress that information security is crit-

ical to the economic security of the United States and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a report on the costs of information security; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 6474. A bill to eliminate the daily newspaper cross-ownership rule of the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 6475. A bill to remove reversionary clauses on property owned by the municipality of Anchorage, Alaska; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUSH:

H. Con. Res. 180. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that rates for inmate calling service should not exceed the affordable modified rates adopted by the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H. Con. Res. 181. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a certain correction in the enrollment of S. 1635; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia):

H. Con. Res. 182. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the sinking of the U.S.S. West Virginia during that attack; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. LEE:

H. Res. 948. A resolution honoring the individuals who lost their lives in the tragic fire in Oakland, California, on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARRETT:

H. Res. 950. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 23 as a national day of remembrance of the tragic 1983 terrorist bombing of the United States Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 6447.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6448.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 3; Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2; and Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6449.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U. S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defense and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 6450.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

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. DENHAM:

H.R. 6451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States), Clause 6 (relating to post offices and post roads), and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 6452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 6453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

In conjunction with the Commerce Clause (Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3) which states that Congress has the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6454.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6455.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6457.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6458.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:

H.R. 6459.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 6460.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 6461.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section

8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 6462.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 6463.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 6464.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 6465.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 6466.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6467.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HARRIS:

H.R. 6468.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 4 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6469.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: 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 office thereof.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 6470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 6471.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, wherein it reads: "Congress shall have the power . . . to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States . . ." and "Congress shall have the 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 Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 6472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 6473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 6474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 6475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

"The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 239: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 446: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1095: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1098: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1111: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1258: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1305: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 1342: Mrs. RADEWAGEN and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 1401: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1459: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1571: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 1733: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1814: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2016: Mr. NORCROSS and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2067: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2519: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 2798: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 2849: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2863: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 2972: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 3084: Mr. KATKO and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 3222: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 3861: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3970: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4298: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 4622: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 4794: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 4795: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 4796: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 4813: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 4833: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Mr. Gutiérrez.

H.R. 4919: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 4932: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 4938: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 5008: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 5067: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5183: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 5235: Mr. RUIZ and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.

H.R. 5272: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 5369: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 5386: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 5474: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 5589: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 5654: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 5851: Ms. MENG, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 6041: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 6117: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 6159: Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 6166: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 6176: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 6205: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 6208: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6226: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 6320: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 6340: Mr. KEATING, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 6343: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 6377: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 6382: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6417: Mr. COHEN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 6421: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. DENT.
H.R. 6424: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 6428: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 6436: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KIND, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 6446: Mr. PASCRELL.
H. Con. Res. 144: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. TIPTON.
H. Con. Res. 159: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. KEATING.
H. Con. Res. 175: Mr. NADLER.
H. Con. Res. 176: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H. Res. 12: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 289: Mr. TONKO and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 590: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 833: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.



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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Elder D. Todd Christofferson, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father who art in Heaven, we bow before Thee this day, the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and remember with soberness and humility the sacrifice of so many who have offered their lives to preserve our liberty. We pray that Thou wilt bless their descendants and sustain the vital institutions of our government that this precious liberty may be preserved through the generations to come.

We ask Thy blessing upon the U.S. Senate and each of its individual Members this day and in the days and months ahead. Grant them the wisdom and judgment they seek in the disposition of all matters that come before them. Honor their desire to contribute to the well-being of the people of this Nation and indeed those of all nations who may be influenced for good by their decisions.

We thank Thee for Thy abundant mercy and constant blessings upon us.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the continuing resolution was filed in the House yesterday. As we wait for the House to take the next step, I encourage all Members to continue reviewing the legislative text, which has been available for some time.

The Water Resources Development Act legislation has been filed in the House as well. This is bipartisan legislation that will strengthen our Nation's infrastructure and commerce while investing in the safety and reliability of our drinking water. As colleagues know, it includes, let me repeat, aid for families in Flint.

As we wait for final passage in the House, I encourage Senators to keep doing our part to ensure that we can bring WRDA and its assistance for Flint over the finish line as soon as possible.

On another matter, I am pleased the 21st Century Cures Act bill will pass this afternoon with significant support from both sides of the aisle. This medical innovation bill will help foster solutions when it comes to heartbreaking illnesses such as Alzheimer's, opioid addiction, mental health disorders, and cancer—heartbreaking illnesses that affect our families, friends, and constituents. This is one of the most meaningful bills we will pass this year, and it would not have been possible without the hard work of colleagues such as Chairman ALEXANDER, Senators CORNYN, HATCH and CASSIDY, and of course along with Ranking Member MURRAY.

Let us also again recognize Vice President BIDEN for his work on the Cancer Moonshot initiatives, which

have fittingly been renamed for Beau Biden in this legislation. I will have more to say about the Vice President when he joins us again this afternoon, but for now I look forward to passing the 21st Century Cures Act today.

On another matter, we will have another important vote this afternoon. It is a vote to move forward on the national defense authorization conference report.

We all know the world the next administration will inherit is a difficult and dangerous one. There are many threats. There are numerous national security challenges, and there is much to be done to better prepare our military and the next administration to deal with them. That is what this bipartisan national defense legislation aims to do. It will help strengthen our military posture. It will send clear messages to both our allies and our adversaries, and it will provide more of the tools our servicemembers need to be successful. It makes clear that we must also pass the continuing resolution that includes funding for the war against ISIL and for our forces in Afghanistan.

We have already seen the consequences of failing to take the necessary steps to confront our national security challenges. It is another reason we need to move forward and pass this defense legislation so we can take forward-looking steps now to help take on these challenges and support our men and women in uniform.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Of course, Mr. President, it is fitting that we are talking about the bravery of our servicemembers on December 7. Today marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a date that FDR rightly predicted "will live in infamy." It is a time when we reflect on the meaning of this day for our country and for our

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



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military, a time when we remember all those who sacrificed on our behalf, and a time when we recognize the men and women in uniform currently serving to keep our country safer.

Through the years, one of my greatest experiences has been the opportunity I have had to meet with distinguished Kentucky veterans as they visit Washington through the Honor Flight Program. I know many of our colleagues do the same thing when veterans from their States come to town.

Today I ask our colleagues to join me in remembering all those who served and sacrificed so much and in thanking our men and women in uniform who are stationed around the world this holiday season.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, “God gave us two ears so we would listen more than talk.”

It is a simple phrase that many of us have likely heard before, but to Senator KELLY AYOTTE, it is the best piece of advice she says she ever received, and it is a proverb she has lived by during her time in the Senate. In fact, it is how she got her start here in the first place.

As New Hampshire’s first female attorney general, KELLY listened to the concerns of those around her. She heard their concerns about the direction our country was going, about the numerous security threats facing our Nation, and about out-of-control spending. She could have just sat on the sidelines as these problems escalated—it certainly would have been the easier choice—but she chose to jump in the game and work to solve them instead. From day one, Senator AYOTTE rolled up her sleeves and got to work. As the most prominent New Hampshire newspaper put it, she has never been a “freshman back-bencher,” she has been a dynamo from the start.

I can’t say I was surprised. I still remember the first time I heard about KELLY. It was from our former colleague Judd Gregg, who told me about this rising star in New Hampshire. Boy, was he right. It didn’t take long for everyone to reach a similar conclusion.

KELLY is tough, she is a problem solver, and she is a fighter. Senator AYOTTE doesn’t view the challenges of this job as obstacles either. She prefers to call them opportunities. She says: “It’s how you react to those bends in the road that will make the biggest difference in your life.” During her 6 years here, she has clearly made a difference in the lives of a lot of others as well.

Senator AYOTTE has helped make a difference as a champion for jobs and as a champion for the economy. As someone who has helped start a small business, she knows firsthand how regulations can stifle growth. She fought to cut through the redtape and the burdensome rules. She cosponsored a law to help small businesses expand and re-

finance, and she worked to strengthen manufacturing and support job training.

Senator AYOTTE has helped make a difference as a leader on combating opioid abuse. As a former prosecutor who has been among the loudest voices drawing attention to this horrible epidemic, she knows how devastating it has been in her State and across the country. She worked with first responders and families to figure out how to address this heartbreaking challenge. She sponsored and helped pass comprehensive legislation that will help us tackle it. Now, in no small part because of her efforts, we will pass critical funding this very week that will help our communities begin to heal.

Like New Hampshire, my home State of Kentucky has been among the hardest hit by this epidemic. It has been a privilege working with my friend to help do something about it.

Senator AYOTTE has helped make a difference as an expert on national security issues too. This military spouse didn’t need someone to tell her what it means to serve nor what it means for veterans and their families. She mastered the issue almost overnight. She fought for language in the VA reform legislation to expand choice when it comes to veterans’ health care. She helped prevent dangerous Guantanamo terrorists from being moved to U.S. soil, and she has long spoken out about the threat posed by Iran. She just voted to extend some critical sanctions against the regime last week, and Senator AYOTTE has helped lead efforts to counter its ballistic missile program for years.

It is clear she has been a leader on national security issues right from the start. I was proud to have Senator AYOTTE join me and other colleagues on a congressional delegation I led to the Middle East not long after she took office. It was evident then what a difference she would make on these important matters. She has regularly joined in efforts with two other leading voices in our conference on defense, too, Senators MCCAIN and GRAHAM. Together, they are the “Three Amigos” or, as our former colleague Joe Lieberman might point out, we should really call them the “Three Amigos 2.0.”

Either way, here is what is clear. It is an equal partnership, one of mutual respect and trust, one that has strengthened our conference and defense policy, and one that I am sure Senators MCCAIN and GRAHAM would tell you has enriched both their Senate work and their lives. I am sure many other colleagues feel exactly the same way.

Senator AYOTTE set out to make an impact. She clearly made one on her State, her country, for her constituents, and her colleagues, but I know Senator AYOTTE would tell you the most cherished moments of her life aren’t those spent in classified briefings or on congressional delegations, they are the ones spent with her fam-

ily—with her husband Joe and their two children, 9-year-old Jake and 12-year-old Kate. They have always been her biggest fans. They are a constant source of comfort and support. Sometimes they like to jump in on the action themselves.

In fact, Kate recently made a cameo—alongside her mother—in an ad featuring the two shooting hoops and practicing layups. From what I hear, Kate may even have her sights on a future in politics. She once advised her mom not to run for President.

Senator AYOTTE was taken aback. She said she wasn’t planning on it but wondered why she would ask in the first place. Well, Kate replied: “Because I want to be the first woman President.”

I guess it is true what they say, the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree. It is not surprising when you consider the example KELLY AYOTTE has set, not just for Kate but for so many others as well. If anyone can do it all, it is KELLY AYOTTE. From sports practices and Lego competitions to 5Ks and trips to the largest lake in New Hampshire, the time with her kids is what truly brings KELLY joy.

As all of you know, this job can make you appreciate the little things even more. It is why you will never hear her complain about waiting in the pickup line at school. It is why she enjoys spending her weekend grocery shopping at the Market Basket, probably picking up the ingredients for Grape-Nuts pudding—whatever that is. Apparently, it is one of KELLY’s favorites. I will just take her word for that.

I wish to acknowledge what a privilege it has been getting to know Senator AYOTTE and working with her over the past few years. Her impact has been immeasurable, her friendship indisputable. I know she has made her family proud as well.

I want to conclude with a mantra that KELLY and Joe rely upon when facing a challenge: “Brush the dirt off and get back in the game.” It is a good reminder for each of us. I feel confident in saying that Senator AYOTTE will be back in the game, looking out for her State and making our country stronger and safer no matter where her next journey leads.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, finally, as each session of Congress comes to a close, both leaders traditionally pay tribute to the retiring Members of their own parties. This year is a bit different, of course, with the retirement of the Democratic leader. So in addition to what I will be saying about him tomorrow, I figured I might shake things up just a bit more, just this one time. I figured I would tell my colleagues about two colleagues from across the aisle who have made their own mark on this Chamber for many years.

BARBARA MIKULSKI

The first colleague I wish to speak about is from Maryland. Some call her Senator MIKULSKI, some call her Senator BARB, but everyone knows this: She is tough. It explains how she got here in the first place.

You see, BARBARA MIKULSKI had a lot of dreams growing up. She wanted to be a scientist. She wanted to be a nun. She even wanted to be an astronaut. And if not for a “C” in chemistry, a vow of obedience, and the thought of wearing a flight suit—or so we have heard—she probably could have done all of those things. But Senator BARB chose a different path—or rather all of them at once. You see, you don’t have to work in a lab to champion science research; you can serve as the lead Democratic appropriator on the Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee. You don’t have to put on a habit to look out for others; you can serve as dean of the Senate women and cultivate mentorship among your colleagues. And you certainly don’t have to blast into space to blaze a trail—something this longest serving female Member of Congress knows very well. It wasn’t an easy road getting here. It wasn’t an easy road when she got here. No Democratic woman had ever been elected to the Senate in her own right before BARBARA MIKULSKI. But, as she said on the stump, “I might be short, but I won’t be overlooked.” And, boy, she hasn’t been. I doubt she ever will be. Maybe it has something to do with the mantra she follows: Do or do not—there is no try. No surprise that this “Star Wars” fan is taking advice from Master Yoda.

She has learned a lot from others, too, like her great-grandmother, who emigrated from Poland with hope and little else—hope that her family might one day experience this country’s many freedoms and opportunities. I know she would be proud of her great-granddaughter today, proud of this crime novelist, this crab cake gourmet, this senior Senator from Maryland.

So here is what we have come to know about Senator MIKULSKI: Her word is her bond, she is a passionate advocate for the causes she supports, and good luck stopping her once she puts her mind to something.

BARBARA BOXER

You could say the same thing about another BARBARA I know too. Senator BOXER, like her colleague from Maryland, is hardly the tallest Member around here, but she is not in the habit of getting overlooked either. The Boxer box helps with that, of course. It is what she stands on at press conferences to give her just a little more height. And, yes, if that sounds familiar, that is because it is that box which once served as inspiration for an episode of HBO’s “Veep.”

It is a good thing our colleague has a sense of humor. She understands how far that can go around here. She has often relied on it through her years in the Senate, in fact, including when she

announced her retirement via rhyme: “More than 20 years in a job I love,” she wrote, “thanks to California and the Lord above.” You get the picture. It goes on, but here is the key line: “As long as there are issues and challenges and strife, I will never retire, ‘cause that’s the meaning of my life.” That sure sounds like the Senator BOXER I know.

It is not always easy to find common ground around here. It takes hard work. It takes negotiation. It often takes those intangibles too—like comic relief. So enter Senator INHOFE. I am really going to miss the JIM and BARBARA show when it comes to an end next year, especially after such a storied run over at EPW. One day, she is the boss; the next day, it is he. They are the best of pals; they are the fiercest of rivals. They work together on everything; they agree on almost nothing. It sounds like the premise for some buddy comedy from the 1980s, but here is what it really is: a political masterstroke.

This unlikeliest of partnerships led this year to the first significant environmental reform law in decades. It also led this year to Senate passage of a waterways infrastructure bill that will support important projects across our country. And while some may refer to BOXER and INHOFE as the “oddest of Senate odd couples,” here is what I would call them: pretty smart.

I remember Senator INHOFE always telling me how much he enjoyed working with Senator BOXER and how there were things they could actually agree on, so I made a note of it and kept an eye out for an opportunity of my own. It finally happened in this very Congress. Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE and I worked together to pass the longest term highway transportation and infrastructure bill in nearly two decades. This isn’t something the critics thought could be done. We each harbored our own doubts. Yet, a bill that repeatedly threatened to come apart actually never did. As Senator BOXER put it, it was “the impossible dream.” And it succeeded because we worked in good faith, because we came together, and because we focused on the areas where we did agree and not just the ones where we didn’t.

That is what happens around here when the Senate is working the way it should. We see colleagues from opposite sides working through political differences and coming together on solutions for the American people. Perhaps that is one reason why nearly a quarter of a century later, Senator BOXER says she is leaving the Senate with a full heart. I know she is leaving with the respect of many of her colleagues, too, including some she might not have expected when she first came.

Let me finish with some advice BARBARA MIKULSKI gave to young BARBARA BOXER as she contemplated her first Senate run. “If you run,” Senator MIKULSKI said, “it will be the toughest thing you will ever do,” but, she added,

it will also be “the best thing you will ever do.” I think this is something we can all relate to regardless of which party we belong to and regardless of which State we come from. At the end of the day, we all came here to accomplish things for the people we represent, even if we have different ideas on how to do them.

So, thankfully, there should be no disagreement over this next task. I ask all Senators to join me in recognizing our colleagues for their service and to join me in wishing them good luck as they begin the next chapters of their lives.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Mr. REID. Madam President, I apologize to Senator BOXER and Senator MIKULSKI. They are going to give their final speeches, but I would like to have this opportunity to speak a few words about President Obama. Of course I will be here for their full speeches.

It is hard to imagine today, but it wasn’t that long ago that Barack Obama was a little-known Illinois legislator with a very unusual name. I still remember the first time I heard that name. I was in the House gym, where Members congregated, and one of the people I shared the room with was Abner Mikva, a longtime Illinois Congressman, an appellate court judge, and President Clinton’s chief legal officer.

I had known that Republican Senator Peter Fitzgerald decided not to run for reelection after one term. Judge Mikva turned to me and said he knew the perfect person to fill that open seat.

I said: Who could that be?

He said: Barack Obama.

I said: What?

He said: Barack Obama.

I said: Who? What kind of a name is that?

He said: He is one of the most talented people I have ever met in all of my years.

That said a lot to me, even though at that time I smiled and left the room.

It didn’t take long, though, before I understood what Abner Mikva said to me. Barack Obama won that election in the Senate. He came from nowhere, a man with an unusual name, but once he was here, it was obvious he was the real deal. His ability to communicate was, and is, stunning. I can remember one of the first floor speeches he gave here in the Senate on George Bush’s policy regarding the Middle East war. It was eloquent, thoughtful, powerful. I was so impressed that following his speech—there had been a quorum call—his seat was way back there, and I

walked up to him and I said—he was sitting, I was standing looking over him, and I said: Senator, that was really terrific. That was really good.

I will never forget his response. Without hesitation, without any braggadocio, no conceit, but with humility, he looked up to me and said: I have a gift.

It wasn't a boast; it was a fact. I have never met anyone with the ability to communicate as well as Barack Obama. Whether it is in his writing, speaking to huge crowds of tens of thousands of people or small crowds, or someone on a one-on-one basis, he is without equal when it comes to communicating.

His reputation was well known even before he came to the Senate. He had written a book—a bestseller called "Dreams from My Father"—a decade before arriving here in the Senate. Like his 2006 book—also a bestseller—called "The Audacity of Hope," this book was full of lyrical and insightful writing.

In "Dreams from My Father," he outlined the remarkable story of his life we have all come to know. Born in Kenya in faraway Africa was his father. His mother was from Kansas. He was raised by his grandparents in Hawaii. His mother and grandparents set positive examples for him. They pushed him to always do better, to be the man he was born to be. That upbringing would serve him well.

Barack Obama went to some of the most elite schools in the world. He was an undergraduate at Columbia, where, of course, he was an honor student, then Harvard Law School. He graduated with distinction. He made history as the first African American to be elected president of the Harvard Law Review. Just to be a member of the Harvard Law Review—having gone to law school myself—is significant, but he was the No. 1 guy in that very prestigious law school. Even then, his reputation for bringing people together and his gift of communication were renowned.

He continued to excel after law school. He became a professor of constitutional law at one of America's great law schools. He became a community organizer, as he has spoken about a lot. He became an Illinois State senator before giving one of the most dramatic convention speeches in American history at the 2004 Democratic Convention in Boston.

Throughout it all, his ability to communicate and connect with people fueled his ascendancy. Those skills made Barack Obama a terrific Senator, and they have greatly benefited our country over the past 8 years.

In just a few weeks, Barack Obama will finish his term as the 44th President of our great country. He will be leaving office. I don't know if I am leaving with him or if he is leaving with me. I guess I leave a few days before he does, but we are leaving together. I cannot think of a better per-

son with whom to leave public service than Barack Obama. For 8 years I was his point man, and it has been an honor and an effort of pleasure.

What this man accomplished, despite unprecedented obstruction from the Republicans, is remarkable. History will remember President Barack Obama's many accomplishments. I don't want to get the Presiding Officer in trouble, but it was because of her and two other Republican Senators that his first congressional session was remarkably historic. We wanted to do more, but this good woman presiding over the Senate today said: Enough is enough. We had to retract some of the things we wanted to do. It was hard, but I do say this: It would not have happened but for the Presiding Officer.

President Obama saved the country from economic collapse, ushering in a new era of growth. Since 2010, the economic recovery has added more than 16 million private sector jobs. Median household incomes have risen significantly. The unemployment rate is now 4.6 percent. In some States, like the State of Nevada, it is more than 14 percent. President Obama brought the American auto and manufacturing industries back from the brink of collapse with unique programs—Cash for Clunkers—and more than 800,000 new manufacturing jobs since 2010. The auto industry has added almost 700,000 jobs since 2009. Domestic production of automobiles doubled from below 6 million units per year to 12 million per year in 2015.

President Obama brought health care to tens of millions of Americans through the Affordable Care Act. Every day, we learn how important this bill has been. We heard from the very conservative American Hospital Association today that doing away with ObamaCare would bankrupt the hospital industry. We would lose over the next few years almost \$200 billion. Through the Affordable Care Act, 21 million more Americans now have affordable health care. The uninsured rate is at an all-time low, and 92 percent of Americans now have coverage. Insurance companies cannot deny coverage and charge more to cover people with preexisting conditions.

How many of us have gone out to our home States and had people with tears in their eyes say: You know, Debbie has been sick since she was a little girl with diabetes, and now, for the first time in her life, she can have health insurance.

Insurance companies can't discriminate anymore against anyone because of their gender. All women were discriminated against before. Every American with insurance has access to preventive care without cost sharing. That means no copays for immunizations, cancer screenings, contraceptive coverage for women, diabetes screenings, or blood pressure and cholesterol tests.

President Obama held Wall Street accountable. He signed into law the most

comprehensive Wall Street and financial reform legislation since the Great Depression. His administration established a new watchdog to help protect consumers from unfair financial practices. He signed legislation into law that protects homeowners from mortgage fraud.

President Obama took more action to protect our planet from a changing climate, including the historic Paris Agreement.

I met yesterday with Native Alaskans. It was scary to talk to a Native Alaskan woman. In her town of 800, people are having trouble getting in and out of the town. She told me the animals are confused because the seasons are changing.

The caribou have traveled for 20,000 years, we believe, 3,000 miles to migrate every year. They walk in single file, not in large herds jammed together. She said they are having such difficulty. They used to be able to walk over the ice. They can't. There is no ice. They have to swim.

President Obama made the largest investment ever in renewable energy. He tripled wind power and increased solar power by 30 times, creating more than 200,000 jobs in solar alone, with hundreds of thousands more jobs in the next few years.

President Obama protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters. That includes more than 700,000 acres in Nevada with one order that he signed called the Basin and Range National Monument, a place where John Muir came looking around for special places in America. He camped in hills in the Basin and Range. Hopefully, some day every Senator can go to this magnificent place in the desert. It has taken 40 years to build. One man has done it, a famous artist by the name of Michael Heizer. It is called the City. It is stunning. When I talk about 40 years, it wasn't work done on weekends. It was days, weekends, overtime, and large contingencies of people he directed. This magnificent thing in the middle of the desert is now protected forever.

President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama have made our Nation's children a top priority. In 2010, President Obama signed a bill into law to fight child hunger and improve school meals to ensure children receive the nutrition they need to have healthy, successful futures.

President Obama made strides on education. Our Nation's high school graduation rate is the highest in the history of our country. He reformed student loan programs, increased Pell grants, made student loan repayment more affordable, and expanded loan forgiveness for graduates who enter public service professions.

President Obama granted deferred action to immigrant youth who would have qualified under the DREAM Act, bringing nearly 800,000 young people out of the shadows.

President Obama made our country more inclusive. He signed the repeal of

don't ask, don't tell. He signed Executive orders protecting LGBT workers. Americans are now free to marry the person they love, regardless of their gender.

As Commander in Chief, President Obama brought bin Laden to justice.

These are just a few aspects of President Obama's storied legacy, and it is still growing—what a record. It is a legacy of which he should be satisfied. America is better because of this good man being 8 years in the White House.

I am even more impressed by who he is as a person than who he is as President. He is a man of integrity and honesty. I have learned so much from him. I have never heard Barack Obama denigrate anyone, ever. There have been times he could have. Perhaps, I thought a negative word should have been said and I suggested that to him, but he would never take it. No, he wouldn't do that. That is Barack Obama.

Above all, I admire the attention he has given his family. He may be President of the United States, but nothing gets in the way of his family. He is a terrific husband to Michelle and an outstanding father to Sasha and Malia. He arrives home for dinner with his family virtually every night he is in Washington. He goes to their plays and games. President or not, he is a husband and a father.

His devotion extends to his staff as well, and he has had a terrific staff working for him. I can't mention all of them, but I will mention his present Chief of Staff, Denis McDonough. He and I have a very close relationship. Close relationships come with a lot of difficulty sometimes. It has been tough, but we tried to work through it together.

Pete Rouse is one of the nicest people I have ever known. He also worked with the President very closely. He was his chief of staff as Senator, and, of course, a chief adviser when he was in the White House.

Rahm Emanuel, now the leader of Chicago, IL, was former Chief of Staff, and is currently mayor of Chicago. He is a man known for his bluntness and his productivity as a Member of Congress and as Chief of Staff.

Alyssa Mastromonaco was former Deputy Chief of Staff and I hope that I had something to do with the romance that wound up with her marrying my chief of staff, David Krone.

These are just a few of the incredible people I have had the pleasure of working with. They are all wonderful.

Then there is President Obama's Cabinet—a Cabinet of quality. That includes my friend, Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar, a wonderful man and a terrific public servant, a man of substance like no other ever known.

After 8 years leading the country, President Obama is leaving office on a high point. When he first took office, our country was in an economic free fall and hemorrhaging jobs. Now the country is experiencing the longest

streak of private sector job growth ever. We have the lowest unemployment rate in nearly a decade.

After 8 years of President Obama, we are now as a country on a sustainable path to fight climate change and grow renewable energy sources. We are more respected around the world. We reached international agreements to curb climate change, stop Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, and we are on the path to normalizing relations with our neighbor Cuba.

Our country has made significant strides in nearly every way. There is no doubt that the United States is better now than we were 8 years ago, and we have Barack Obama to thank for that.

Thank you, President Obama, for being the person you are.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

TSUNAMI WARNING, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 34, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 34, an act to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell amendment No. 5117, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5118 (to amendment No. 5117), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, this is a moment for me that, I think it is fair to say, I will never ever forget.

I am so honored. I am so honored to have members of my family here, staff from past and present from both my personal office and committee, extraordinary colleagues whom I adore and love, whom I worked with, fought with and debated. I am so honored that Senator MCCONNELL and Senator REID have said really nice things about me.

I think, in Senator REID's case, we go back so long, and I will talk a little bit more about that. In Senator MCCONNELL's case, we didn't talk for a long time, and then we did get together and we did some great work together. But I think he was here just to make sure I am leaving. My leader over in the House is here—NANCY PELOSI. I will talk about her more. My colleagues

from the House came over in the midst of all their work. I love them. I have enjoyed working with them.

I look around this Chamber, and I realize the reason I am able to actually leave is because I know each of you and your passion to make life better for people, and that is what it is all about.

When I decided not to run for reelection, you know how the press always follows you around. They said: "Is this bittersweet for you?"

My answer was forthcoming: "No way is it bitter. In every way it is sweet."

Why do I feel that way? It is because this has been a dream, to be in a profession that I think is noble, no matter how beaten up it gets, for 40 years—for more than half my life—and I was able to do every day what I always wanted to do, which is simply to make life better for people. I didn't always succeed. Were there frustrations? Yes. Were there disappointments? Yes. Were there defeats? Yes, many, but every morning when I woke up, I knew I had a chance to do something good.

As a first generation American on my mother's side, and, most particularly, as a woman, I never in my wildest dreams imagined that I could be in the U.S. Senate. It was an uphill battle, and I know I speak for a lot of people sitting right here who know what I am talking about.

When I first ran for the Marin County Board of Supervisors in 1972, it was a Republican landslide year. It was more than tough. I will never forget one woman I spoke with after knocking on her door. I introduced myself and said, "Hi, I am Barbara Boxer. I am running for county supervisor."

She greeted me by saying, "I never thought you would be so short." Then, she said she wasn't supporting me because, quote, "You have four kids, and you are going to neglect them if you are elected."

Well, never mind that this was a part-time job just a few minutes from the house. Never mind that the man I was running against had a family and a full-time job. Never mind that I actually had two kids, but she insisted. She said, "I know you have four kids because I read it in the newspaper."

I said, "Lady, when you give birth, you never forget it, and I did it twice."

Well, I lost that seat, but two things helped get me through it. The first was an article by Gloria Steinem, who essentially said women tend to take losses too personally. We have to understand that we could be just a little bit ahead of our time, and we can't give up.

Second, my son Doug, only seven at the time, ignored any attempts to cheer him up by saying, "Mom, can you make me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch?"

The point is that life goes on no matter how deep the disappointments. You pick yourself up, and you keep fighting because this is your country. It is our country, and it is worth fighting for. I

ran again four years later and won. I was eager to get to work on issues such as:

Afterschool for kids.

Protecting the natural beauty of my county.

Ensuring that a child walking to school would be safe. I put up so many stop signs to protect kids that I soon became known as the "Stop Sign Queen."

It was local government, and the world was changing. The Vietnam War was raging. The women's movement was ramping up. The oil companies wanted to drill off the pristine coast of California. Even from my position as a local county supervisor representing only 40,000 people, I was exposed to these national issues that would soon require all of my attention.

Tip O'Neill, one of NANCY PELOSI's great predecessors, was known for his saying that "All politics is local," but the global became local when Marin County got a Federal grant saying the threat of nuclear attack is real, and you have to have a plan to evacuate the county in case there is a bomb dropped in San Francisco. This was in the 1980's.

The Reagan administration, I think, missed the obvious. Getting in a car on a narrow road to evacuate to Napa or going under your desk was not going to protect you, so all five supervisors—three Republicans and two Democrats—rejected the grant. Instead, we mailed an informational booklet to every household, telling them there was no way to evacuate from a nuclear bomb; you have to prevent it in the first place.

During that same period, James Watt wanted to drill off the coast of California. We put together business people, environmentalists, farmers, and we said no. The tourist industry joined us, and we stopped it.

That was my first attempt at very broad coalition building. As national issues unfolded before my eyes, I had to do more if I really wanted to stay true to making life better for people.

When John Burton's seat for Congress opened up in 1982, I jumped in. It was a long shot. And I will always be grateful to the people who brought me to that dance: working people, environmentalists, children's advocates. They put me over the top.

After I won this election, I began hearing about the mysterious disease that was stealing the lives of so many in my congressional district. I remember feeling so helpless because we didn't know what it was and what caused it. One thing was clear: AIDS was devastating, and too many in Washington were not taking action.

When we found out it could be transmitted sexually, I had to go up against the far rightwing who didn't want to provide any information about the disease. Yet here I was, a middle-aged mother of two from the suburbs, talking about condoms. It was uncomfortable, but this would become my way. In

the face of a crisis, never look away, never back down, and never be afraid.

In the case of AIDS, I got to work with the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, a southern gentleman. He had never heard of AIDS. He said to me: "If people are sick, then we must help." We got the first double-digit Federal AIDS funding, and we established an AIDS Task Force and brought in people such as Elizabeth Taylor and Elizabeth Glaser, and we fought back. We took it under our wing to solve this crisis—both adult AIDS and pediatric AIDS.

By that time, I had an extraordinary new partner in the House, NANCY PELOSI. We immediately bonded. I was so impressed with her passion and her energy. We remain the dearest of friends to this day. I am so proud of her. NANCY has changed the face of politics in America, and she will go down in history as one of the most influential leaders of our time.

Recently—on a recent issue—I was expressing deep disappointment, and NANCY told me: "Don't agonize. Organize!" This was two nights ago. She is right. When things get tough, that is what you do.

Over the years, the issues kept coming my way and came the way of a lot of people in this room: the Violence Against Women Act, LGBT equality, protecting a woman's right to choose, workers' rights, protecting the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Those are all examples. These fights continue, and they keep coming whether you are in elected office or not. They come to you if you are a single parent trying to raise a child and struggling to make ends meet on a minimum wage that is not fair. They come to you if your kid gets asthma. They come to you if your job has been outsourced and you have nowhere to turn. They come to you when college tuition gets out of reach.

Whether it is happening to you or someone else, the great thing about our participatory democracy is each of us has a chance to make a difference. You can make a difference by holding an elected office or working for someone who does. You can make a difference by working for a campaign. You can make a difference by starting a business and employing good people to help you build it. You can make a difference by becoming a teacher, a nurse, a firefighter or a police officer.

There are so many noble ways to make a difference in America. The one thing you cannot do, even when it is tempting: You cannot turn away—never. The forces and the people who shape you cannot be ignored. I say to everybody within the sound of my voice that you have it within you to step out and make your mark.

A lot of young people come up to me and say, "I would love to do what you do. How do I become a U.S. Senator?"

I am sure a lot of us get that question.

I always say, "It is not important to be something; it is important to do something."

If you choose my path and the path of many in this room, I want to be clear: You will need mentors and you will need friends like two of mine—John Burton and BARBARA MIKULSKI. John encouraged me to run for the House, where he had always been a fighter for those without a voice.

BARBARA had been my friend in the House and encouraged me to run for the Senate. When I went to see her, she said, very simply: "Go for it." That and \$40 million—that was good advice. And I did. Senator MIKULSKI is everything a Senator should be. She is intelligent, caring, always focused, and as an added bonus, she can have you in stitches. I am so grateful for her guidance and, most important, her friendship.

I launched my campaign for the Senate. It was very difficult. No one predicted I would win. I was less than an asterisk in the polls. I was filled with doubt. Coming to my aid was my senior Senator, DIANNE FEINSTEIN. She stood by my side, even though it could have cost her votes. I will never, ever forget that. Thank you, DIANNE.

I also need to pay tribute to Anita Hill because without her, I never would have been elected to the Senate. Anita Hill courageously told her story to the all-male U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, breaking the silence on this painful issue. In addition, people saw there were only two women in the Senate.

Anita Hill, you showed us all that we must never be afraid to take on the powerful. It certainly isn't easy, but if you learn to be tough in the right way, you can find the sweet spot, even in this atmosphere where the parties have grown so far apart. This is one of my biggest regrets—how far the parties have grown apart, especially when it comes to the environment.

Remember, Richard Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency. He signed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. George H.W. Bush signed the extension of the Clean Air Act. Many Republicans led the charge for environmental protection. Now, unfortunately, protecting the environment has become a divide where we truly duke it out.

As I leave here, I intend to do everything in my power to work to bridge that divide because we all live on one planet. It doesn't matter what party we are. We all breathe the same air. We all want our families to be healthy and live on a planet that can sustain us and all of God's creations. In this time of deep division, we have to find areas to work together.

I think I found a proven formula in my relationship with my friend and chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator JIM INHOFE. We never surprise each other, even where we disagree—ever. Our

word is our bond to each other. We found that we could work as a winning team to build and strengthen our Nation's infrastructure, and we have made incredible progress for the American people on those issues—long-term highway bills, long-term water bills and the first update on the Toxic Control Act. That was a doozy for us. I will never forget that battle.

Transportation turned out to be a sweet spot between Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL and me. We hadn't talked seriously for 20 years because of the Packwood case. It was: Hello, hello. That was it. But we did come together to save the Highway Trust Fund at an urgent time.

Our work together surprised so many of our colleagues, but I think it surprised the two of us more than anything else. But it worked because we set aside all of our past legitimate divisions in order to rescue America's transportation system. We took a risk, and the risk paid off. And, of course, all of my colleagues helped make that possible.

Also, I want to mention my Republican counterpart on the Ethics Committee, Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON, because when it comes to ethics, we have proven there is no room for partisanship. All we want to do is make sure the Senate is a respected institution. Friendship and trust with Members on both sides and in the House of Representatives—I am so proud so many of you are here—that is the only way to get things done.

Having a leader who has your back is essential. A good leader knows and understands each member of his caucus and where they draw the line. HARRY is so humble. Whenever you talk about him, he puts his head down.

HARRY, could you just look at me for a second?

A good leader knows when to speak up and when to listen. A good leader knows when to pick up the gloves and fight like hell. That is what HARRY REID has done. He is not a show horse; he is a workhorse.

He is a soft-spoken man. How many of us have to say: HARRY, could you speak up? He is a soft-spoken man of a few words, but he chooses his words wisely, and he chooses his fights wisely. He doesn't seek the spotlight. When it comes to standing up for what is right, he is right there when others try to slip out of the room.

HARRY has not only been an extraordinary leader and colleague, he and his wife, Landra, have been close and treasured friends of me and my husband, Stewart. I call him the brother I never had, and he calls me the sister he never had. He treats me like a sister; he always hangs up on me when I call him. And he never calls on me when I madly wave my hand at caucus. You know, I am like a sister. You don't have to worry, the love will be there. I am forever grateful for his leadership and his friendship.

Another quality of HARRY REID is that he encouraged women to run for

the Senate. Once we got here, he made sure we had major responsibilities. HARRY, you will go down in history for that.

I am, of course, ecstatic that my successor is Kamala Harris, who served as attorney general for my State with great distinction and who will continue the tradition of having a strong, progressive woman in this seat.

Kamala, you heard it here—a strong, progressive woman in this seat is what we need.

As I wind down my remarks, I must be completely honest about my broken heart. I worked hard, along with so many millions of Americans, so that we would have our first female President. It was not to be this time, but we made history with Hillary Clinton, the first female nominee of a major party, who, I might add, won the popular vote by millions and still counting. She truly shattered the glass ceiling and showed that women had the ability to take it on the chin again and again.

My message to everyone who supported Hillary is, the work goes on. Yes, you build on success and you learn from failure, but you never stop working for human rights, civil rights, women's rights, voting rights, children's rights and the environment. I certainly don't plan to stop.

I am not only fortunate to have had this extraordinary career, but I am also so fortunate to be going home to a State that stands for everything I believe in.

I wish to thank every one of my staffers—those who worked for me in Washington, either on my personal staff, committee staff, those who worked for me in the State, and those who helped me get elected. A lot of them are here today. Without them, I never ever could have done my job, and I never could have accomplished the things I have accomplished that I am proud of.

I also wish to thank the floor staff. The floor staff never gets thanked enough because they deal with us when we are very nervous. They have to deal with us when we are about to have an amendment come up or about to vote on something and need to understand the rules and our rights.

To Gary and his team, Trish, Tim, and all of you—thank you.

When I look back on everything I fought for, there are more than a thousand accomplishments, and I am certainly not going to talk about all of those, but I am going to, briefly, very fast, go through 10 of my favorites. The first afterschool programs that were funded by the Federal Government, covering more than 1.6 million kids every day; 1 million acres of California wilderness preserved; the first-ever comprehensive combat casualty care center in California for our most wounded warriors; ensuring that our transportation programs remain in place for years to come with millions of jobs protected; upholding our landmark environmental laws, and I hope

that continues, but I will not go off on that; setting clean drinking water standards to protect pregnant women, children, and other vulnerable people; the dolphin-safe tuna label; protecting victims of rape in the military from irrelevant, harassing questions that have already been barred in civilian courts; establishing the first-ever subcommittee to oversee global women's issues, which JEANNE is going to carry on; recommending a diverse group of supremely qualified judicial nominees who are carrying out our laws in California's Federal courts. There are many more I could talk about, and we all know this because each one of them is like a child to us and we remember how hard it was to get it done, but let me be clear, you don't get anything done here unless your colleagues help you from both sides of the aisle.

My biggest regret is that I couldn't end the war in Iraq. It hurt my soul. I came down to the floor every day and read the names of fallen soldiers. I was accused of being too emotional. I asked probing questions in committee to expose the fact that we were in the middle of a civil war. Day after day I made my case, but the war went on and on. It took President Obama to finally end that war, and I will always be grateful to him.

Of course, there is unfinished business, and I know my colleagues are going to carry on. We must restore the Voting Rights Act. We need to restore trust between our communities and law enforcement. We have to continue to protect and provide affordable health care. We must take action on climate change or we are in deep trouble as humankind. We must protect the DREAMers and immigrants who contribute to our communities every day. We must raise the minimum wage and ensure equal pay for equal work. We must protect reproductive freedom and work across party lines for a safe world.

I have often joked about some of the things that have been said to me over the years that are too colorful, in a negative way, to repeat here, but I want everyone to know, whether friend or foe, whether critic or admirer, I do appreciate the fact that you let me know how you felt about my work one way or the other.

To close, I will read a handwritten letter I received in October from one of the greatest jazz musicians in our country, Sonny Rollins, into the RECORD. He was recently honored at the Kennedy Center. He wrote in longhand the following:

Greetings—so so sorry that we are not going to have you for us anymore. I've always been interested in politics, marching as a 6 year old with my activist grandmother for civil rights. It has been such a joy and inspiration knowing that Barbara Boxer was there for us.

God bless you, your family, and loved ones—And thank you.

You will be missed and we all love you.

Have a beautiful life, just like you have made life beautiful for so many citizens.

I wish to thank Sonny Rollins. I don't know him personally. I met him once, but what he said is all I wanted to do—make life beautiful for people. I didn't always succeed. I didn't always prevail. I felt the pain of losing many times, but I can honestly say I never stopped trying. I was able to do it because of the love, understanding and support of my husband of 55 years, Stewart, who is here today. He gave me so much, including the best political name ever. I did it because of my son Doug, my daughter Nicole, my daughter-in-law Amy, my son-in-law Kevin, and four incredible grandchildren, Zach, Zain, Sawyer, and Reyna, and because of the people of California who sent me here time and time again—10 years in the House and 24 years in the Senate. I had the opportunity to never stop trying. I had the opportunity to speak out, and no matter how many times I had to try, I did. Here is the thing. I have this platform, which is an extraordinary honor. This is a sacred position, and I say to my colleagues that no matter who says what about it, it is a sacred position. Hold your head high.

So many here have fought the good fight and will continue to fight the good fight, and I will always treasure my time serving the people. They gave me a purpose in my life that I will always cherish. They made me a better person. They made my life more beautiful than I ever could have imagined, and for that I am forever grateful.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The Senator from Oklahoma.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, that was a very emotional and heartfelt speech. As I look around, I know there are a lot of people who want to respond and be heard, but I grabbed it first. This will be real short.

I believe it was the majority leader who gave me a quote this morning. He made the comment that the two of you agree on nothing, but you get everything done.

Mrs. BOXER. That is right.

Mr. INHOFE. There is a reason for that. If you stop and think about it, we came to the House and Senate at about the same time. There are no two people in this body who are further apart from each other than BARBARA BOXER and JIM INHOFE. Yet we have something beautiful. I hesitate to show this AP picture of our embrace, but it has to be in the record here somewhere.

For 12 years, we swapped—back and forth—being chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. I always remember when the Republicans were in the majority back in—let's see. We lost it in 2006. I remember seeing BARBARA, Al Gore, and all these other people danced in and out the door saying the world is going to come to an end unless we do all of these things.

At that time, she said something very profound that I never forgot, and

I thought about it for the next 8 years. She said that we look at things differently. We had an election and elections have consequences. Remember that elections have consequences. Well, 2 years ago, the Republicans took over, and I gave her a T-shirt that said: "Elections have consequences." During all that time, we didn't really change in terms of what we were doing together. I have a list of the things we have done that I left someplace, but, nevertheless, we did the highway bill in 1998 and 2005. All of the things we did actually worked. I remember when we had a news conference on TSCA. When I looked around, I saw all of my very liberal Democratic friends and me, and I thought: Wait a minute. How did this happen?

We have been able to work together and get things done, and I have been very proud of that. In fact, I shouldn't say this because I am going to divulge our confidence, but we have meetings just as Democrats have their meetings. All the chairmen get together, and when it was my turn to make a statement, I said: Now, from the committee that gets things done. Anyway, that is the way it has been.

I disagreed with Senator BOXER on a lot of the regulations, and I have told her many times she has every right to be wrong.

Mrs. BOXER. You do.

Mr. INHOFE. But on the things that were really important, we did manage to get things accomplished. There is an awful lot of hate around here, and it is so unnecessary. You can disagree with someone and love them anyway. I have to say that confession is good for the soul, but I want my good friend to know I am truly going to miss her around here.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Senator from Oklahoma so much.

Mr. INHOFE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the relationship we felt was based on trust and honesty. We never ever misled each other. I just love the Senator's staff. I really do. Our staff developed the same type of relationship that we developed—disagreeing on many things but understanding that we can work together and find common ground. I just hope, as I step out the door—Lord knows when that will be, given this place—that others will form this type of bond across party lines because without it, things just don't work right.

I want my friend to know it has been a great pleasure to work with him in every way, shape, and form. One of us is from Venus and one of us is from Mars, and that is just the way it is. We just see the world differently, but it hasn't stopped us from putting aside those disagreements. We were never bitter with each other.

We had a pretty big divide. One person said climate change is a hoax and the other said it is the biggest threat

we have to deal with, but we knew there was no way we could come together so we kind of put it aside and didn't let it spoil our friendship or our ability to work together in any way.

So I think it is a very important message to many chairmen and ranking members that if there is honesty—set it aside if you can't work together, but where you can find those sweet spots, do it because everyone wants—they are cheering us on from the outside. I can't tell you how many people at home tell me: We don't know how you do it, but it is great what you and INHOFE get done.

Fortunately, we never lost an election over our friendship, which could have happened, you know. They could have said: I am not going to vote for him; he talks to her. But we were able to prove that we can do it.

So, JIM, I am honored that you came down to the floor. I am honored that Senator MCCONNELL said such nice things. I am so honored that so many came to the floor to hear my farewell remarks.

Again, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, it is with deep gratitude that I rise today to address my Senate colleagues and members of my staff with whom I have had the privilege of serving over the last 6 years.

First and foremost, I want to thank the people of New Hampshire for giving me the extraordinary opportunity to serve them. From Nashua to Newport, to the North Country, they have inspired me. The people of our State are hard-working, caring, compassionate people with grit. They have a fierce sense of independence that I respect and admire. That spirit has guided me during my time here, and it has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve them.

I want to thank my family—my husband Joe, my wingman. Joe is a patriot with a heart of service. That is why he served our country as a fighter pilot in the Air Force and why he has been my biggest supporter during my service not only as New Hampshire's attorney general but as a Senator. We are so proud of our children, Kate and Jake, who are now 12 and 9. My family has sacrificed so that I could serve the people of New Hampshire, and I am grateful for their patience and love. I also thank my mother Kathy, who is and always has been my mentor and No. 1 cheerleader. I could not have done it without her help and that of my stepfather Jim, my uncle Jack, my aunt Jane, and all of our extended family who have done so much for us. They made it possible for me to serve, and there are not adequate words to express how much their love and support means to me.

I also thank my wonderful and hard-working staff in New Hampshire and Washington, whose dedication, work

ethic, and talent are unparalleled in the Senate. I am especially fortunate that some of the members of my staff have served by my side since I was first sworn in 6 years ago. My staff is dedicated, creative, tireless, and compassionate. I am so proud of our team and all we have accomplished together. I am confident that they will continue to work to create a brighter future for New Hampshire and for our country.

I ask unanimous consent to have a list of their names printed in the RECORD.

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

CURRENT STAFF

Kristine Adams, Erica Andeweg, Daniel Auger, Camden Bisson, Bradley Bowman, John Chambers III, Ryan Clark, Frederick Dressler, Adam Hechavarria, Kelsey Keegan, Shaylyn Kelly, Marne Marotta, Myles Matteson, Richard Murphy III, Kayla Nations, Gabriel Noronha, Taylor Reidy, Samantha Roberts, Chloe Rockow, Bethany Scully, DeWayne Thomas, Elizabeth Johnson, Gene Chandler, Jerome Maslan, Cynthia Woodward, Jane Bosse, Christopher Connelly, Joseph Doiron, Orville Fitch, Michael Garcia, Eric Hensel, Stephen Monier, John Pearson, Neva Varsalona, Gretchen Wade, Lauren Zelt, Matthew Bartlett, Brenda Kittle, Anne Warburton, Kathryn Sullivan.

FORMER STAFF

Kelcey Raymond, Nathanael Anderson, Robin Anderson, William Ardinger, Christin Ballou, Benjamin Bradley, Gwendolyn Cassidy, Thomas DeRosa, Virginia Demers, Dennis Deziel, Elizabeth Drumm, Danielle Duchesne, John Easton, Robert Fraser, Robert Ganim, Elliot Gault, Claire Gimbastiani, Jeffrey Grappone, Elizabeth Guyton, Timothy Hefferan, Brian Hodges, Kathryn Horgan, Debra Jarrett, Alison Kamataris, Sean Knox, John Lawrence, Andrew Leach, Emily Lynch, Cathy Myers, Franci Nichols, Margaret Ouellette, Irina Owens, Kelsey Patten, Brianna Puccini, Matt Reeder, Wade Sarraf, Michael Scala, Robert Seidman, Lauren Spivey, Alexander Stanford, Susan-Anne Terzakis, Simon Thomson, Linda Tomlinson.

Ms. AYOTTE. I want to take a moment to thank the Capitol Police, who devote themselves to keeping us safe each and every day and who have become friends to my staff and me over the years. I am so grateful for all of our first responders who put their lives on the line each and every day to keep us safe. I also thank the Senate floor staff, the pages, and everyone who works so hard behind the scenes to make our work possible here.

During the past 6 years, I have traveled throughout New Hampshire talking to people from all walks of life, listening to their ideas and learning from their experiences. I have met so many hard-working people in our State who have, in turn, inspired me to work hard on their behalf. True to the nature of our great State, they have never been shy about letting me know what is on their minds, whether it was at one of the 50 townhall meetings we held or in the grocery aisle at the Market Basket. They sent me to the Senate with a sense of purpose. It has been an honor

to fight for them and their families every single day.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my time in the Senate has been standing up for those who put their lives on the line for our country—our veterans and our men and women in uniform and their families. Today, we mark the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. We are reminded once again of their selfless service and sacrifice on behalf of our great Nation.

I was honored during my time here to lead the charge to repeal unfair cuts for our military retirees and to help make progress toward improving access to local health care for veterans in New Hampshire, who for far too long have been forced to travel long distances to receive care from a VA facility because we don't have a full-service hospital, unfortunately, in the State of New Hampshire. Too often, our veterans are not treated as they should be, and this has to change. They have sacrificed so much for our freedom and deserve only the best from us.

As the wife of a combat veteran who served in Iraq, nothing has been more important to me than keeping our country safe. That commitment is deeply personal to me. One of the greatest privileges I have had as a Senator is to visit with members of our New Hampshire National Guard and our men and women in uniform who serve overseas and are there now as we are here today. We pray for their safe return. They make us so proud. They represent the very best of our State and our country.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have been proud to advocate for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the skilled workers there who make vital contributions to our national security. This has been a team effort between New Hampshire and Maine. I thank my colleagues—Senator SHAHEEN; Senator COLLINS, whom I see here today; and Senator ANGUS KING—for their incredible work in supporting the shipyard.

I especially want to thank Senator SHAHEEN for all the work we did together on important issues for our State. Whether it was advocating for the shipyard, for Pease and the 157th Air Refueling Wing to receive the new tanker, for our National Guard, or for our veterans, we always looked for ways to come together for the people of New Hampshire, and I appreciate her dedication and service.

Since I first came to the Senate, one of my top priorities has been reversing the Obama administration's misguided policy to empty and close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. Each year I have led efforts to prevent the transfer of terrorist to the United States, to our soil here, and to urge the administration to be transparent with the American people about these dangerous detainees.

As I have called for previously, I hope the new administration will immediately halt the dangerous policy of re-

leasing Guantanamo terrorists to other countries where they even rejoin terrorist activities, and finally establish a commonsense detention policy that keeps terrorists off the battlefield and protects American lives and our national security.

We made progress in saving taxpayer dollars at the Pentagon—and I know there is more work that needs to be done—by ending wasteful programs, such as the missile to nowhere, and passing the Never Contract With the Enemy legislation that cut through redtape and helped prevent tens of millions of dollars from ending up in the hands of our enemies.

Working with Chairman MCCAIN, I was proud to help lead the successful effort to help prevent the premature retirement of the A-10 aircraft, ensuring that our ground troops continue to have the best close air support possible to keep them safe.

During my time on the committee, I have had the privilege of working closely with Chairman JOHN MCCAIN and Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM to ensure that America maintains the strongest and best military in the world and to ensure that our country continues to be the greatest force for good in the world. There are no stronger voices in this body for America's leadership in the world, nor fiercer advocates for our men and women in uniform than Chairman JOHN MCCAIN and Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM. Now more than ever, we need their leadership, expertise, and passion for keeping this country safe with the challenges we face around the world. I am honored to have worked with them and, most of all, to call them my friends.

Serving on the Armed Services Committee has been one of the best experiences I have had in the Senate. I want to express my gratitude to all of my fellow committee members because it has truly been a bipartisan effort each year to ensure our troops have the resources they need to do their jobs.

I see Senator MCCASKILL, the Senator from Missouri, here. I have deeply appreciated the work we have done together on behalf of our men and women in uniform. Thank you.

Going forward, it is critical that Congress and the next administration work together to reverse the harmful cuts to our military and to ensure that we have a defense budget based on the threats we face around the world right now, which are unprecedented.

Another issue that has been near and dear to my heart is addressing a devastating epidemic that is facing the State of New Hampshire; that is, the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic that is taking a devastating toll on our State. I have met so many people in New Hampshire who are hurting because of this epidemic—mothers and fathers who have lost children, brothers and sisters who have lost siblings. Many of the families who have been affected have become my dear friends, like Doug and Pam Griffin of Newton,

NH, who lost their beautiful daughter Courtney, who had so much potential. They lost her to an overdose.

The Griffins, like so many other families in New Hampshire I have met, have turned their pain into passion to save our families. I have learned so much from their experiences. They inspired me to work with a group of great Senators and my colleagues: Senator ROB PORTMAN, who I know is here today; Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE from Rhode Island; and Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR from Minnesota. The four of us came together and worked on what is called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. This bill will provide a much needed framework for addressing this epidemic through prevention, treatment, recovery, and support for our first responders, who are doing so much for this epidemic. As a bipartisan team, we worked on this legislation for more than 2 years. Our bill passed the Senate overwhelmingly and was signed into law earlier this year.

CARA will focus on the best programs to help State and locale efforts in turning around the tide of addiction that is facing so many in this country. CARA is an important first step, but there is so much more work that needs to be done. I am encouraged that because of our efforts, this body has recognized the seriousness of this crisis.

I was particularly glad to advocate for \$1 billion in funding to address the heroin epidemic being included in the 21st Century Cures Act, which we are expected to pass and send to the President this week. I thank Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER for his incredible leadership in getting this important public health bill passed. The funding in the 21st Century Cures bill goes hand in hand with the important policy provisions in the CARA bill and will help save lives in New Hampshire and across this country.

Finally, I would like to return to the reason I ran for the Senate back in 2010: to make sure we leave New Hampshire and our Nation stronger and better off for the next generation. As the mother of two young children, I was increasingly concerned that, left unchecked, our skyrocketing national debt would ultimately burden future generations and diminish their opportunities.

I ran because I believed it was time for New Hampshire to bring some of its common sense here to Washington to deal with our Nation's spending habits. On every committee I served on, we looked for ways to cut wasteful spending and fought to hold the government accountable for the way it spends our hard-earned taxpayer dollars. It is my hope that this issue will be at the top of the agenda of the incoming Congress and the new administration. If there is anything I have learned in my time here, it is that it takes cooperation from both sides of the aisle to get things done.

It has been a privilege to serve with so many in this body who care about

our country deeply and work tirelessly each day on behalf of their constituents.

I am so honored as I see my colleagues who are here today, because I know how hard you work every day. I want to thank you for what you do on behalf of the people of this country. I am humbled by what I have learned from each of you and from each of my colleagues in the Senate and for the opportunity to serve with so many good people on behalf of our great Nation. I thank each of you for your dedicated service and, most of all, for your friendship.

Without leadership here, things just don't get done. I especially want to thank Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL for his commitment to making the Senate work and to making sure we are doing the people's business.

On a personal note, I have deeply appreciated his mentorship and his friendship.

Working with our new President, the Senate has a fresh opportunity to create a better quality of life for all Americans in this great country. That means elected leaders will need to work together and put aside our partisan differences.

During this election, we heard the frustrations of the American people with their government. They rightly expect this body to move forward in solving the significant challenges facing our Nation, such as getting our fiscal House in order, ensuring that families can afford quality health care without Washington between them and their doctors, reforming our broken Tax Code so we can keep and grow jobs here in the United States of America, and foremost, keeping America safe in a dangerous world.

My hope is that the Members of this body will appeal to the better angels of our nature, put partisanship aside, and focus on the challenge of building a more perfect union because the challenges before us are great and we cannot hope to overcome them unless we do so working hand in hand. I know my Senate colleagues are people of great character, and they are up to this challenge. I wish them the very best as they continue their very important work on behalf of the people of the greatest Nation on Earth.

To the people of New Hampshire, Joe and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the greatest honor of a lifetime, for serving you and for the privilege of serving in the United States Senate with so many good people.

Mr. President, I thank you, and I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from New Hampshire.

TRIBUTES TO KELLY AYOTTE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am pleased that I could be here for Senator AYOTTE's farewell address and honored to have had the opportunity to serve

with her over the past 6 years. Six years ago, I stood on this floor to recognize another departing Senator from New Hampshire, Judd Gregg. I said then about my relationship with Senator Gregg something that is also true about my relationship with Senator AYOTTE: that we always managed to disagree without being disagreeable. I am grateful to Senator AYOTTE for this, and I am proud that we have been able to maintain that civility and bipartisanship even in the course of two very close and very tough election cycles. That is the New Hampshire way—putting partisanship aside whenever possible and seeking practical, pragmatic solutions to address people's critical needs.

As she said, time and time again, Senator AYOTTE and I have teamed up to advance legislation of special importance to the Granite State, including strongly advocating for veterans, for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and for the New Hampshire National Guard and that new KC-46 tanker. Together, we fought to secure more resources for law enforcement and treatment professionals who are on the frontlines of the opioid crisis, including this week important new funding in the 21st Century Cures Act.

I want to publicly express my gratitude to KELLY for her dedicated service to the people of New Hampshire and, more broadly, the people of the United States. Over the last 6 years, Senator AYOTTE has earned respect on both sides of the aisle in this body and in New Hampshire. I know that her husband Joe and their two wonderful children, Kate and Jacob, are very, very proud of her service in the Senate. Looking to the future, there is no question in my mind that she will continue to serve the State and the country she loves.

KELLY, I wish you and your family all the best in the years ahead. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to my dear friend and colleague, the Senator from New Hampshire, KELLY AYOTTE. I first met KELLY in 2010 when I joined her for a townhall meeting in Nashua, NH. My affection for the State of New Hampshire dates back to my bid for President in 2000, so it was a familiar setting to join so many old friends in support of her campaign for the U.S. Senate. I was impressed with Senator AYOTTE's deep understanding of the top challenges facing the country, the seriousness with which she approached her work, and the ease with which she engaged with members of the audience, gracefully handling spirited debates and sparring matches with voters—a staple of the townhall meetings in New Hampshire I always admired. I knew then we would be fast friends.

In the Senate, Senator AYOTTE brought the same tenacity to her work, distinguishing herself as a rising star

in the Republican Party and a leader willing to work across party lines to get things done. Senator AYOTTE has approached every issue candidly and pragmatically—something that is all too often lacking in politics today. “I call them like I see them,” she once said. “And that means not just with the opposing party, but with my own party.” Senator AYOTTE took this mantra on the road, continuing the tradition of the New Hampshire townhall meetings by holding more than 50 townhall meetings in small towns and cities across New Hampshire, where she spoke directly with her constituents about the issues impacting their families.

But, in my view, Senator AYOTTE’s best work lies in her contribution to defense and national security as a member of the Armed Services Committee. Coming from a military family, her commitment to strengthening our Armed Forces is deeply personal. That has contributed to her tireless advocacy on issues important to New Hampshire, to Pease Air National Guard Base, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and to all military and civilian personnel supporting our national security who call New Hampshire home.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness, Senator AYOTTE has called attention to the dangerous readiness crisis and has been a consistent advocate for making sure the men and women of our Armed Forces have the resources they need to defend the Nation. She has authored numerous legislative proposals to eliminate wasteful and duplicative spending in the Department of Defense so that we can reinvest the savings in rebuilding our military. She passed legislation to save over \$1 billion in the Pentagon’s budget and to keep U.S. tax dollars out of the hands of America’s enemies. She has been a leading advocate for repealing arbitrary budget cuts and the mindless mechanism of sequestration which continues to weaken our military and puts the lives of our servicemembers at greater risk.

Senator AYOTTE’s fight to prevent the Air Force from mothballing the A-10 Warthog attack planes showed the very best she has to offer. As the wife of a retired A-10 pilot who flew combat missions in Iraq and an expert in defense policy, Senator AYOTTE understood the critical role this aircraft plays in providing close air support for our fighting men and women. Year after year, she led the fight to prevent the Obama administration from following through on its plan to retire that fleet, pushing through measures in annual Defense authorization bills that would prevent any premature divestment of this aircraft. At the end of the day, she was right. The Air Force conceded to this aircraft’s value and reversed its decision, delaying any divestment until at least 2022.

Anyone who has watched Senator AYOTTE question a witness in the

Armed Services Committee will not be surprised to learn of her background as New Hampshire’s first female attorney general. I have been a fortunate observer of more than one occasion in which a bureaucrat withered under skilled cross-examination by Senator AYOTTE. She takes her oversight role extremely seriously and believes in holding our Nation’s leaders accountable.

In every way, Senator AYOTTE rose to meet the responsibilities and opportunities of her office. There are many qualities that are important to being a good Senator, but none, in my opinion, is more important than standing firm for what you believe. That is what Senator AYOTTE has done. She has never wavered in her commitment to principle, and this body is better for it.

On a more personal note, I have cherished the friendship and partnership of Senator KELLY AYOTTE. The kindness and courtesy she has extended to her colleagues has made this institution a better place, and her principled leadership has served as an example to all of us. In KELLY, you could always find a warm smile that served as a reminder that serving here is truly a joy and a privilege.

While I will miss KELLY’s presence in the Senate, I will continue to rely on her wise counsel and friendship, and I am confident our Nation will continue to benefit from her talents for many years to come. With this in mind, I thank my dear friend and valued colleague, Senator KELLY AYOTTE, for her service to the Nation and this body. And until the Nation calls on her again, I wish her and her husband Joe and their children, Katherine and Jacob, fair winds and following seas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I don’t have eloquent prepared remarks, as the chairman just delivered, but I will tell you this: I have been lucky enough to be in the trenches with KELLY AYOTTE, and when you are in the trenches with KELLY AYOTTE, there is something about her demeanor that lifts you up. It was a tough fight where we were outnumbered, particularly by our fellow women Senators, and it was hard. It was really hard and emotional, and every time I would walk up to KELLY in full-blown panic mode, this smile would radiate; the reassuring pat on my shoulder that we have the facts on our side, that the emotional arguments might be on the other side but the facts were on our side. It kept me strong and it kept me focused.

I will tell you three things I know in my heart about KELLY AYOTTE: She is a warrior, she is a class act, and she is my friend.

Thank you, KELLY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you very much. Mr. President, I just want to attest to CLAIRE and KELLY—if I go to war, I want to go with you all because when

the bullets fly, you get tougher. I love all my colleagues, but sometimes the stress of the debate wears you down pretty quickly. The more contentious, the better you were.

So, KELLY, the best way we can pay you back is to keep up the fight and make sure that we have a fair military justice system and that commanders are accountable but they are still in charge.

An observation: For people with young kids, this has to be a tough job. I don’t have any children, but I can’t imagine the schedule if you have young kids. I have gotten to know KELLY, Joe, and Kate and Jake, and I can only imagine what it is like for Joe to be a single parent 3 days a week, running a business, trying to get kids off to school. I can tell you from being KELLY’s friend—and JOHN and I have traveled all over the world with KELLY—that was a constant strain for her. I am sure it is true of every young mother in America doing any job, but having to be gone and having to balance the needs of her kids and being a mom and a wife and all that good stuff—all I can tell you, for you and Joe—if you meet Kate and Jake, you all did good. If you meet these kids, it has been an enriching 6 years. They are full of life. I think you both handled it very well.

You should be proud of the long list of things you have accomplished. But I guess what I saw in you and what I wish more of us would embrace is an attitude that nothing is too hard, nothing is too challenging if you really believe you are here for a purpose.

You didn’t talk about immigration. I don’t blame you. The immigration fight is one of the hardest fights I have ever been in, particularly on our side. It is not easy on your side, but on our side it is really tough. KELLY was there pushing over the line a bill that I think made a lot of sense.

The debt. Everybody talks about it, but nobody wants to do anything about it. We have had a couple of sessions with 10 and 20 Senators trying to find a way to get more revenue and do entitlement reform, something like Simpson-Bowles. If you don’t do that, the country is going to become like Greece. Every time we had a meeting, every time we had a session about doing hard stuff, KELLY was there.

I remember sequestration. JEANNE SHAHEEN and KELLY AYOTTE were two of the six Senators trying to find a way to set aside these defense cuts in a balanced approach without destroying the military.

I think what you should be most proud of is that you served for 6 years and your kids are great, that you made a lot of friendships that will last a lifetime, and that your best days are yet to come.

You can tell the people of New Hampshire—or I will tell them for you if they can understand me. Apparently they couldn’t because I didn’t do that well when I ran for President. The bottom line is that KELLY never blinked.

She went into the sound of gunfire. She took on the hardest challenges. She did it with style and grace, and everybody in this body is better off for having met KELLY AYOTTE.

I look forward to working with you for years to come. The three amigos are now two, and there will never be a third amigo like you.

I yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, we have heard a lot of wonderful things about KELLY AYOTTE today and all are deserved. You notice they have come from both sides of the aisle, and they come from Members who were talking about her expertise on national security—as JOHN MCCAIN did eloquently—and homeland security.

I certainly have worked with her on those issues. I was with her on the Armed Services Committee when I first came to the Senate, and we are on the Homeland Security Committee now. She has been a champion for those issues, there is no question about it. She has helped to keep our country safer, and legislation that she has championed will help to make it safer for our kids and grandkids.

I have also worked with her on other issues, and I wish to talk about that for a second. One is this way in which we as a Chamber can ensure we are creating more jobs, being more energy independent, helping the environment, and that is energy efficiency. She has been a leader on that issue.

JEANNE SHAHEEN and I have legislation that we are still working to get all of it done, but we have gotten some of it done, and KELLY AYOTTE was a huge part of that. In fact, her legislation on Tenant Star is now law of the land. It is helping to make commercial buildings and office buildings, more energy efficient. Again, it has the added benefit of creating jobs and making the economy stronger while improving our environment. That is what she has led on as well.

I have also worked with her on issues you would expect someone who is a national security expert to lead on. Iran sanctions, she has taken the lead on some of the issues that resulted in the incredible vote we had on the floor of this Senate just a few days ago when virtually every Senator voted to extend those sanctions, but I have worked with her on another issue that has nothing to do with our national security; it has everything to do with our family security. It has to do with ensuring that people have the opportunity to achieve their God-given purpose in life. It has to do with stopping the deterioration of our communities, families being torn apart, and the enormous impact we have seen of the opioid epidemic. Starting often with prescription drugs, often leading to heroin—now synthetic heroins such as fentanyl, carfentanil, and U-4, these are very difficult issues.

I have seen no one in this Chamber who has a greater passion for this issue

than KELLY AYOTTE, and it comes out of experience. It is borne of experience of walking around New Hampshire communities with families who have lost a loved one. Earlier she talked about befriending a family who had lost their beautiful daughter to this horrible epidemic. It comes from going to the treatment centers and seeing the people who are in the trenches, saving lives, and improving lives. It comes from talking to those who at one point had great promise in their lives and got off track, seeing those people in a detox unit as she has done or seeing them in a treatment center or, promisingly, seeing them now in recovery and beginning to get their lives back together.

This is not an issue of Republicans or Democrats. It is not an issue that is political. It is an issue that is in the heart of KELLY AYOTTE because it affects the communities she knows in New Hampshire, the people she loves in New Hampshire, and now, sadly, our Nation.

On that issue, she has led, not just to draft legislation—and she talked about the CARE legislation which is going to change the dynamic and get the Federal Government to be a better partner with State and local and begin to turn this tide—not just the Cures legislation, which does have funding for the next 2 years to try to stop some of this horrible growth in addictions, overdoses and deaths, but she has done this house-to-house, family-to-family, person-to-person back home to give people hope and to help gather the support in communities around New Hampshire to fight back. She will continue to do that. She is not doing it as a U.S. Senator. After all, she is doing it as a mom, she is doing it as a citizen.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with her on that issue as well as the other issues we have talked about today. Her public service career is not over; in a sense, it is really just beginning. I know she will be active on the national security issues, on fighting against the heroin epidemic, on ensuring that we continue to have a safer and stronger country. I, for one, look forward to working with her on that.

I thank her for her service. I thank her, her kids, and Joe for their sacrifice because this isn't an easy job. It does take you away from your family. Yet, in 2009, she decided she was going to serve her country because she was worried about the direction it was going. She did that, she did it valiantly, and she deserves our praise today.

KELLY, we are going to miss you, but we also look forward to continuing to work with you on all of the issues that were talked about today. Thank you for your service.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am very pleased to be on the floor with my

colleagues today and most especially pleased to be here to honor my good friend KELLY AYOTTE as she leaves the Senate but does not leave public service.

Believe it or not, I first met KELLY on the softball field when we were on the Congressional women's softball team. I was in the House, and KELLY was the cocaptain in the Senate. We raised money for young survivors of breast cancer. I knew then I wanted to get to the Senate to be good friends with KELLY because when you talk about being in the trenches, she was such a competitor.

When you think about a team, a baseball team or a softball team, who is the toughest person on the team? Everybody wants to say the pitcher. In my view, it is the catcher. Guess who our catcher was. KELLY AYOTTE was and is, and so we became good friends then.

We found we have a lot of love for physical activities. We are both runners. We have run a couple of times together. We participate in the 3-mile run that we have every May that determines who is the fastest male Senator, who is the fastest woman Senator. Well, guess who the fastest woman Senator is. You got it. She just blew right by me every year so I might have hope next year. I don't know. I will have to check out the newcomers. But KELLY was always such a great competitor on the softball field, running in 5Ks, and just being around in general.

As we have heard from everybody, you have served your State with integrity and passion. I know it is tough on your family. I see Joe in the Gallery. I have met your beautiful children, Kate and Jake. I have heard you on the phone planning daycare while the rest of us are figuring out how we are going to get home that night or what we are doing in our committees. As a young mother, KELLY is still trying to make the ends meet. I have such admiration for that as a mother myself. I know how difficult it is, but I know the three of them know that no matter if you were here figuring that out, they were always No. 1 in your heart. I think that is a real tribute to you.

We have heard all of the issues she has been so out front on. Particularly as I am from a State like West Virginia—the opioid issue has really impacted our rural areas. When I visited KELLY twice over the last 6 months in New Hampshire, it was the same kind of impact. It is small towns, families, people who know each other. It hurts everybody. KELLY, thank you for your leadership there. That is going to make not just a mark in your State but across our Nation and in my State in particular.

We traveled to Gitmo together. I had never been to Gitmo before. To have an expert such as KELLY explain to me and to hear her question what is going on there and how important it is and was, she continues to be in the fight that she led to make sure we don't have terrorists on our own home soil. The fact

that Gitmo is still open and is still functioning to keep those very dangerous folks off of our shores I think is a tribute to KELLY's leadership.

In terms of New Hampshire, as you move away from here, I know you are going to realize how you have impacted the people where you live and in your home State, but just kind of multiply that all over the Nation. We have a huge debt of gratitude to you and your family for being here for 6 years, but as I have told you repeatedly since the election, this is not the last time we are going to hear from KELLY AYOTTE or about KELLY AYOTTE. To me, that is a very strengthening thing when I talk about my friend.

I am not going to say goodbye because I don't think we will be saying goodbye. I am going to say Godspeed, good luck. You will land on your feet because you always do. Keep running, I will keep running, and maybe I can keep running and improve my time so I can at least see the backs of your feet as you are running past me.

It has been a real privilege to serve with you. It has been great to be your friend, and I look forward to keeping our relationship very viable and alive as the time moves on.

Thanks, KELLY.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The Senator from Alaska.

MR. SULLIVAN. Madam President, like my friends on both sides of the aisle, I, too, come to the floor to say a few words about my friend and mentor, Senator KELLY AYOTTE. I use the word "mentor" in actually an official capacity. When you come to the Senate—and like you, Madam President, I am part of the new class of 2014. When you come to the Senate, you are assigned a mentor. I think the idea is that you come in, you are clueless, you don't really know what is going on, and so you have somebody who is smart and experienced to mentor you. Everybody gets a mentor.

I was very fortunate to have KELLY AYOTTE as my mentor. I certainly learned a lot from her. She took the time to help me understand how this important body works. We talked about things like work life balance—with somebody such as KELLY who has kids.

It wasn't just those kinds of issues. I had the great opportunity to serve on a couple of very important committees with Senator AYOTTE—on the Armed Services Committee, on the Commerce Committee—and like my colleague from Missouri, I really learned a lot watching her in action. She was always prepared, always engaged, and always tenacious when it came to certain witnesses. Of course, like a lot of us, we shared certain passions for our country—certainly a strong national defense.

My State, like a lot of States such as New Hampshire, is suffering from the opioid crisis. Watching her and Senator PORTMAN literally lead the country on this issue was so important.

I end by saying what I really learned from my mentor was from watching the way she dealt with other people, the way she always treated people with respect, with class, with optimism, and with dignity. That is probably more important than anything, not only in the U.S. Senate but in our country.

I thank KELLY as a mentor. She was a great role model not only for me but all of the 13 Members of the class of 2014. I know she will be serving her country and her State in a lot more ways. I look forward to watching that and continuing to call her my good friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Maryland.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

MS. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to take the floor for what I call my summing-up speech. It is not my farewell speech because I have the honor and privilege of being the ranking member and former chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I will speak later on this week when we move the continuing resolution.

It is the practice and the tradition of the Senate that when a Senator is departing the Senate, they give what they call their farewell address. Well, mine is not going to be as memorable as when George Washington resigned his commission or other memorable speeches, but I do want to say words about how I feel today about having the great opportunity to serve in the Congress.

I have spent 30 years in the Senate, 10 years in the House of Representatives, and, yes, 5 years in the Baltimore City Council. I have served in elected public office for 45 years. More than half of my life has been in elected public service but, at the same time, all of my life has been focused on service.

I rise today to thank the people of Maryland. I rise to thank them for their vote of confidence. When people vote for you, it is not only that they are sending you to Washington or sending you to city hall. They are giving you a vote of confidence that you will be their voice, that you will be their vote, that you will be at their side and on their side, and that is what I want to be able to talk about today.

The people of Baltimore gave me my first shot at running for the Baltimore City Council. When I beat the political bosses, when running for political office as a woman was considered a novelty, they said: You don't look the part. But I said: This is what the part looks like, and this is what the part is going to be like. Along the way, so many people helped me. Behind "me" is a whole lot of "we."

I got started in public life because of volunteers and activists who, on their own time and on their own dime, volunteered themselves to not only help me get elected but to be involved in their communities, to be civically engaged, to make their community and their country a better place. These are

the people who were behind me. Well, guess what. No, I was behind them, because they certainly have led the way.

Along the way, there were people who also not only helped me get elected, but they helped me govern—people who, again, volunteered their own time. I had a wonderful service academy board that helped me pick the best and the brightest to serve in our military academies—people with distinguished careers in either the military or in education. I had a judicial appointment advisory board that made sure I helped nominate the best people to serve in the Federal judiciary. Also, I had a veterans advisory group that brought to me what was really happening to the veterans, not what was in the press releases from the Veterans' Administration. Of course, I had a fabulous strategy group that functioned as a kitchen cabinet. It was a kitchen cabinet. We spent a lot of time cooking things up to try to make our country and our communities better places. So I thank them all for what they did.

But, when we come here to try to serve the people who sent us here, we cannot do it alone. So we have a fabulous staff, both that serves us in Washington and serves us in our State. I wish to thank my current staff: my chief of staff, Shannon Kula; my deputy chief of staff, Rachel MacKnight; my State director, Nichelle Schoultz; my legislative director, Brigid Houton; my communications director, Matt Jorgenson; my scheduling director, Catie Finley; my office manager, Josh Yearsley; my appropriations staff director, Chuck Kieffer; and my appropriations deputy staff director, Jean Toal Eisen; and of course, all of my staff in my State office who helped me.

There is also the support staff who made sure that the phones got answered. You didn't get one of those "call 1, call 2, press 7, press 184," et cetera. Also, there are the people who answer the mail, whether it was snail mail, which so much of it was when I came, or email, because we really believed that we needed to be here for the people.

I called their names, but there are also others who filled those jobs throughout my time in public office. They worked very hard to make sure that we could represent the people of Maryland and to be on their side.

After 45 years, though, it is time for me to say goodbye to elected office, but not to service.

I have the high privilege of being the longest serving woman in congressional history. But I say it is not how long you serve but how well you serve. For those who know me and have been to rallies and so on, they know that I say: "I am here to work on the macro issues and I am here to work on the macaroni and cheese issues"—to work on the big picture, to make sure that the people's day-to-day needs were converted into public policy or, while we are working on public policy, to try to help our communities.

We also have to remember in our own States that we have constituent service issues. One of the things I am really proud of is my constituent service staff, where if you were a veteran and you needed help or you had a Social Security or Medicare problem, you could call Senator BARB and you didn't feel that you had to go to a \$100 fundraiser or know somebody who had connections. The only connection you needed was a phone. You didn't even need Wi-Fi. You could just call me. Summer, winter, spring, or fall, they had Senator BARB. I tried to be of service because service was in my DNA. I was raised to think about service.

My mother and father ran a small neighborhood grocery store in one of Baltimore's famous row house neighborhoods. Every day they would get up, and they would open that grocery store and say to their customers: Good morning. Can I help you?

Now, in running that business, they also wanted to be sure that they were connected to the community. We weren't a big-box shop. We were a shop for the little people. If anybody was in difficulty, my father was happy to extend credit. It was called: We will write your name down in a book. Pay us when you can. Don't worry that you got laid off at Bethlehem Steel. We know that your wife had a difficult childbirth and needs this extra stuff. We are here to help.

My father would say: BARBARA, deliver those groceries. Take it down in that little red wagon I got for you. With my little red wagon, I would maybe take orange juice down to a shut-in, but my father would say: Don't take a tip. But the tip he gave me was to always be of service and to treat people fair and square.

The other place where I learned so much about service was from the nuns who taught me. I had the great fortune to go to Catholic schools. I was taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Sisters of Mercy. These wonderful women, who led the consecrated life, taught us not only about reading, writing, and arithmetic, but they taught us religion and emphasized the Beatitudes. If anybody reads the Scripture, if you go to Matthew 5 and you go to the Beatitudes, you know what has shaped us. One of them is this: Blessed are those who are meek at heart. I had to really work at that one—really, really work at that one. At the same time, there were those who said: those who hunger and thirst after justice. That is what motivated me. It was focusing on the values of faith, like love your neighbor, care for the sick, and worry about the poor.

I was also inspired by a motto from something called the Christopher Movement, where you would help carry the burden. It said: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." That is what was motivating me to service.

You see, we really believed in America in my family, and we really be-

lieved in it in my community. When my great grandmother came to this country from Poland in 1886, she had little money in her pocket, but she had big dreams in her heart. Women didn't even have the right to vote. One hundred years to the year that she landed in this country, I landed in the Senate. That is what opportunity means in the United States of America.

I never thought I would come into politics. Growing up in Baltimore, my family wasn't involved in politics. My family was involved more in church work, philanthropy, doing good works in the way they did their business. In Baltimore in those days, there were political bosses—guys with pot bellies who smoked cigars and did deals, et cetera—and that wasn't going to be me. I thought I would go into the field of social work.

But I got involved because they wanted to put a 16-lane highway through the European ethnic neighborhoods of Baltimore and not even give the people relocation benefits, and they were going to smash and bulldoze the first African-American home-ownership neighborhood in Baltimore, in a community called Rosemont.

I said: Look, we can fight this. We just have to give ourselves a militant name.

I helped put together a group called SCAR, or the Southeast Council Against the Road. Our African-American neighbors were on the other side of town, and they had a group called RAM, or Relocation Action Movement. Then the citywide coalition had a group called MAD, or Movement Against Destruction. So you see, I have always had a certain flair about these things.

So we did take on city hall. But the more I knocked on doors—and our community did—we weren't heard. So I decided: the heck with it. If I knocked on a door and I wasn't going to be heard, I was going to knock on the door to get elected, and that is what I did—knocking on doors, putting together a coalition, defying the odds, defying what people said: You can't win. No woman can win in an ethnic, hard-hat neighborhood. No woman can win who isn't part of the political machine. And no woman could win who had been active in the civil rights movement. I said: Guess what. We defied the odds, and we denied the odds, and that is how I came into public office—a champion on behalf of the people.

I wanted to come to be an advocate for people to have better lives, to have better livelihoods and better neighborhoods, to be able to save jobs and to do what I could to be able to help them. I knew that to do that I had to show up, stand up, and speak up for my constituents, staying close enough to the people so they wouldn't fall between the cracks and meeting their day-to-day needs and the long-range needs of the Nation.

When I came to the Senate, I was the very first woman elected in her own

right. Though I was all by myself, I was never alone. When I came, there was only one other woman here—the wonderful and distinguished colleague from Kansas, Senator Nancy Kassebaum, a wonderful colleague. When I say I was by myself as the only woman in the Democratic caucus, I say I was never alone because of the great men that we could work with in the Senate.

Now, I have had the privilege to work with two of the best men in America. Senator Paul Sarbanes, who was my senior Senator when I came and who certainly was my champion, helped me to get on the right committees and convinced everybody that my name was BARB MIKULSKI and not Bella Abzug. But I was a little bit of both. As to Senator Sarbanes and now, of course, Senator BEN CARDIN, who also has been at my side, we have worked together on issues related to Maryland both large and small.

But there were others who taught me, like Senator Byrd, Senator Kennedy, and others. What it was all about was being able to work for jobs and for justice.

Though I was the first Democratic woman, I wanted to be the first of many. I wanted to help women get elected to the Senate and do what I could to be able to help them to do that. It has been just wonderful to see that now there are 20 women who are currently serving in the Senate. One of the great joys has been to work to help empower them so that they can be a powerhouse. That is why we have those power workshops that struck fear into the hearts of the guys—not to worry about us but to keep an eye on us.

I have been proud of what I have learned, taking the values that I had growing up and trying to put them in the Federal lawbooks, because, for me, no issue was too small to take up, and no cause was too big for me to not take on.

I firmly believe that the best ideas come from the people. That is where some of my greatest accomplishments came from. One of the things I loved the most was being in Maryland, moving around the State, going to all of the counties in the State. I loved my Mondays in Maryland, where I could meet and go into unannounced places like diners. A lot of people like to do townhalls, and they are terrific, but I like to show up at a diner, go from table to table to table and not only eyeball the french fries but listen to what the people have to say.

The other thing that I really liked was roundtables—absolutely those roundtables—where you could engage in conversation with people and listen to them, not show off how smart or cool you were. I really loved doing that. Out of it came some of my first big accomplishments.

When I came to the U.S. Senate, my father was quite ill with Alzheimer's. My father was a wonderful man. He worked hard for my sisters and me so that we would have an education. He

saw his role as a protector and provider, and by providing us an education, we could always take care of ourselves.

When he became so ill and went into a nursing home, I listened to other families who would come to visit people in long-term care. We saw that the very cruel rules of our own government were forcing people to spend down their entire life savings and put in their family home or their family farm as an asset base. Well, listening to them, BARBARA MIKULSKI said this: Family responsibility—yes, you need to take responsibility for your family, but the cruel rules of government should never push a family into family bankruptcy. So I crafted something called the spousal anti-impoverishment rules that enable elderly couples to keep their assets and keep their home. AARP tells me that since that legislation passed over 20 years ago, we have helped 1 million seniors not lose their homes or their family farms because one becomes too ill because of that dreaded A-word or Parkinson's or others. That is what I mean about the best ideas coming from the people.

Then I also listened to women who worked hard every single day yet weren't getting equal pay for equal work. Of course we heard it from Lilly Ledbetter, but we heard it from lots of Lillies, and we heard it from lots of Roses and lots of Marys and lots of Otanias and lots of Marias. That is why we worked hard to pass the equal pay for equal work act.

Working together with Senator Nancy Kassebaum, Olympia Snowe, our friends over in the House, Connie Morella, Pat Schroeder, we also found that women were being excluded from the protocols of NIH. The famous study to take an aspirin and keep a heart attack away was done on 10,000 male medical students, not one woman. So Olympia, Connie, Pat, BARB showed up at NIH and pounded the table and said: Let's start practicing good science instead of bad stereotypes and make sure we are included where we should be in a legitimate, scientific way. Out of that came the appointment of Bernadine Healy as the head of NIH; out of that came the Office of Research on Women's Health at NIH; and out of that came the famous hormone replacement study that Dr. Healy championed. Then Tom Harkin and Arlen Specter helped us get money in the Federal checkbook.

One study changed medical practice and lowered breast cancer rates in this country by 15 percent. Wow. That is what working together does—to try to save lives a million at a time. That was on women's health.

Then we saw growing concerns about the issue of the high cost of college. The first mortgage many of our kids are facing is their student loans. Working together with the other side of the aisle, we created AmeriCorps, making sure we enabled people to be able to be of service to our country and earn a

voucher to pay down their student loans.

Then there was a roundtable where I met with parents of special needs children, and a mother asked me to change the law from "retardation" to "intellectual disability" because she was being bullied. Well, I came back here and drafted legislation. Again, on the other side of the aisle was MIKE ENZI, who worked with me to pass that.

Rosa now is a member of the Special Olympics. She wins medals. She was Person of the Week on TV. That is what Mondays in Maryland means. It is worth everything to do things like that.

In Maryland, we worked along with Senators Sarbanes and Hardin to clean up the bay. We worked to make sure our port was viable. We worked not only on our Port of Baltimore for ships of commerce, but also we worked on the space community at Goddard. I am so proud of the fact that I worked very hard to save the Hubble Space Telescope. That Hubble Space Telescope turned out to be the richest contact lens in world history. But again, with astronaut Senators Jake Garn and John Glenn working together, we did it, and it ensured America's premier leadership in astronomy and in space for years and for several decades.

Over the years, though, I could go through accomplishment after accomplishment, but one of the things I have learned as my lesson in life is that the best ship you could sail on in life is something called friendship. It is friendship that makes life worth living. It enables life to have the value of giving. That is what friendship is. When I think about the friends along the way whom I have met both in my hometown and my State, there are also those who are here, people who on both sides of the aisle are absolutely so important to me—and the fact that we have worked on both sides of the aisle.

I spoke about Senator CARDIN and Senator Sarbanes. But also on the Senate Appropriations Committee, it was Senator SHELBY and Senator Kit Bond; we could actually work together. We put our heads together to try to come up with real solutions for real problems, and we could do that.

The other is not to judge one another because we have a party label. I am so darned sick of that. In the year of the women, so many came—like BARBARA BOXER and PATTY MURRAY and DIANNE FEINSTEIN, also Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, who came from Texas. I got a call from Senator Hutchison one day, and my staff said: Ew, she wants to work with you on something. Ew, ew. She is a conservative from Texas and she wants to do something for women.

I said: How about if we listen? Could we start with listening? Could we start with just listening?

Senator Hutchison had a fabulous idea on IRA contributions. In those days, if you were in the marketplace, you could put in \$2,000, but if you worked full-time at home, you could

put in only \$500. What Senator Hutchison wanted to do was to make it have parity—that old word, "parity." I said yes. Our staffs told us not to work with each other, but we were going to forge ahead.

We went out to dinner to talk over strategy, but we talked together about our lives, how she got her start, obstacles she faced. We had such a good time that we said: Let's invite other women. Well, that became the famous dinners—the famous dinners that the women of the Senate have. We knew we would never be a caucus because we were not uniform in our views or the way we voted, but what we wanted to be was, No. 1, a zone of civility where we would treat each other with respect, our debates would be observed with intellectual rigor, and when the day was over, the day would be over. Those dinners have now stood the test of time, and I am so proud of them.

I have been so proud to work with my colleague, the senior Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, who has been such a friend and such an ally. Though we are not a caucus, we are a force when we can come together. We have made change, and we have made a difference. That doesn't go down in the roll books, but I think it certainly should go down in the history books.

So as I get ready to leave the Senate, what will I miss? Well, I will never have another job as consequential as this. This is pretty consequential. The fate of this country, and maybe even the world, lies in the hands of the Congress of the U.S. Senate.

I will miss the people in the Senate the wonderful professional staff, but I am also going to miss the doorkeepers, the elevator operators, the cafeteria workers, the police officers who say: In helping the one, we help the many. We learn so much from them; I have learned so much from them.

I learned a lot from the elevator operators. One was a lady of very modest means who every day would say to me and to all of us, "Have a blessed day." What a great gift she gave us: "Have a blessed day."

Another elevator operator, who himself has recovered from very challenging health issues, always cheerful, asks, "How is your day?" The last thing you could do is to not return a smile. Those are the kinds of people whom I will always remember, all those helping hands.

So I say to my colleagues now that I will never, ever forget you. Helen Keller, though she was blind, was a great visionary, and she said that all that you deeply love you never lose. And all whom I have ever met have become a part of me; each and every one of you have become a part of me. Everybody I met along the way, whether it was at roundtables or the elevator operators, have become a part of me. You shaped me, and you have helped me become a better person.

So when I wrap up and people say "Well, what do you think you are going

to do, Barb," I will say my plan is not a job description but a life description. Every day I am going to learn something new. Every day I am going to give something back. Every day I am going to do something where I keep an old friend or make a new one. I want to thank God that I live in the United States of America, which enabled me to do this.

In conclusion, George Bernard Shaw—I don't know how he would have felt about me, but he wrote this, and I think it is pretty good. He said this:

I am [of the opinion] that my life belongs to the [whole] community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

For the harder I work, the more I live. I will rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no "brief candle" to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

God bless the United States Senate, and God bless the United States of America.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

TRIBUTES TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, yesterday I had an opportunity on the floor to talk about Senator MIKULSKI, but I just want to take 1 minute—because I know a lot of my colleagues want to speak—to thank her on behalf of the people of Maryland.

Yesterday I was with Senator MIKULSKI at the inauguration of Catherine Pugh, our new mayor of Baltimore. As is the tradition on programs, the senior Senator speaks and then the junior Senator speaks, so I had the opportunity to speak after the dynamic remarks of Senator MIKULSKI. That has been a burden that I have had now for 10 years. As I pointed out to the people of Maryland, we are losing one of the great giants and advocates for our State, and that is going to be a great loss. The only benefit I can see is that I will not have to follow Senator MIKULSKI on the program in the future.

We are living part of a legacy, and we know that. We know that what we do here in the U.S. Senate one day will be recorded in the history of our country. I know that Senator MIKULSKI will be mentioned frequently for her incredible accomplishments here in the U.S. Senate.

On a personal basis, I just wanted to express that my life in the U.S. Senate has been special. For all of us, being in the Senate is special, but my enjoyment, productivity, and life in the Senate has been made so much greater because of my seatmate and friend, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, it is with deep affection, admiration, and appreciation that I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to our colleague and my dear friend, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, as her service in

the Senate comes to a close. As the longest serving woman in the history of the United States Congress—30 years in this Chamber, in addition to 10 years in the House—she has earned the gratitude of the people of her beloved Maryland and of the entire Nation. That gratitude is based on much more than simple arithmetic, much more than just how many years she has served here, impressive though that is. In reflecting on her service, it is difficult to decide where to begin—her accomplishments, her vision, or her complete dedication to the people she serves, the dedication that began in that neighborhood in Baltimore that she describes so passionately today. No matter where we begin, we end up in the same place—it is all about her character.

Perhaps the best way to describe Senator MIKULSKI's character is by noting that she is not only officially the longest serving woman in the history of the Congress, but she is also unofficially the dean of the women in the Senate. That title perfectly demonstrates the trust and respect she has earned her from her colleagues. As a brandnew Senator in 1997, I was one of those tutored by this accomplished and experienced dean. At that time, Senator MIKULSKI had already been in the House and the Senate for a combined 20 years. She didn't know me from Adam—or perhaps I should say from Eve—yet, despite the difference in our seniority, our States, and our parties, she took me under her wing. She was one of the first people who called me after I was sworn in as a new Senator. I was so grateful for her kindness and her wisdom. She invited me to a power workshop in her office, along with Mary Landrieu, the other woman who was elected that year. She taught me the ropes of the appropriations process and instituted regular bipartisan dinners for the women of the Senate.

In the years since then, I have come to know her as a fighter, a trailblazer, and a person of such integrity.

Maybe it is all those years with the nuns that taught you that.

It has been a privilege to work with her on such vital issues as home health care, maritime issues, higher education, pay equality, and an issue near and dear to both of us, Alzheimer's research. Serving with her on the Appropriations Committee, I have witnessed firsthand what an extraordinary leader she is—fair, openminded, yet with firm expectations and a clear sense of direction.

Senator MIKULSKI is, above all, a hard worker. Growing up in East Baltimore, she learned the value of hard work in her family's grocery store, as we have heard today. Her commitment to making a difference in her neighborhood led her to become a social worker, helping at-risk children and our seniors. The statement she made sums up her approach to serving in Congress: "I was a social worker for Baltimore families. Now I'm a social worker building opportunities for families throughout America."

Two years ago, I was honored to stand alongside Senator BARB to accept Allegheny College Prize for Civility in Public Life. We were representing all of the women of the Senate for our leadership in bringing an end to the devastating government shutdown of 2013 and working together on so many other issues.

With our dean setting the example, we have always rejected the idea of a women's caucus because we, like the men in the Senate, span the ideological spectrum. Who would expect otherwise? We have worked together across party lines to serve all Americans. As Senator MIKULSKI puts it "It's not about gender, it's about the agenda." In fact, all of us have our favorite sayings that the Senator from Maryland has taught us, and we will miss her way with words so much.

When Senator MIKULSKI reached her Senate longevity milestone 5 years ago, she surpassed my personal role model in public service, the legendary Senator from Maine, Margaret Chase Smith. Just as the great lady from Maine inspired me and countless other young women of my generation to serve, the great lady from Maryland inspires the young women of today, always encouraging them to go for it.

Throughout her life in public service, she has lived by one guiding principle: to help our people meet the needs of today as she helps our Nation prepare for the challenges of tomorrow.

What an honor it has been to serve alongside Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI. I have learned so much from her. I will never forget the day she told me I had the soul of an appropriator, which I knew was the highest compliment she could give me. And she was right. We have worked on that committee to get so much done.

I wish her many more years of health, happiness, and, most of all, that most important "ship," friendship.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, before Senator COLLINS leaves the floor, I want to thank Senator COLLINS for her beautiful remarks about BARBARA MIKULSKI. As I leave here, I have said publicly—the press has asked: What is your hope?

I often say: My hope is with the Senator from Maine, Senator COLLINS, to bridge some of the partisan divides.

It has been an honor to serve with you. I know you have a lot on your shoulders as we move forward.

Senator MIKULSKI, I want to take a few minutes to talk about you. Some Senators have focus and drive. Some have compassion. Some have empathy. Some have sharp negotiating skills. Some have a quick wit. Some are great students of history. Some are champions for the least among us. Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, you are all of these things. You are everything a Senator should be and more. As my mentor, as my treasured friend, you have been a

major influence in my career. Honestly, I can say I would not be here as a United States Senator without your guidance.

One of my favorite things about BARBARA is her wonderful sense of humor. It is legendary. She is hilarious when she wants to be.

When I was in the House of Representatives, I was fighting to integrate the all-male House gym. The room to which they had assigned the women was about 6 by 6, and it had showers and hair dryers. You know the big hair dryers that come over your head like that? It had no exercise equipment. It had no space. It was the size of a shoebox. We women decided we needed some exercise, so we packed into the tiny room.

There was then-Congresswoman MIKULSKI, Congresswoman Ferraro, Congresswoman Schroeder, Barbara Kennelly, Olympia Snowe, who looked like she had just stepped out of Vogue magazine. I was in my sweat suit, and so was BARB. The teacher was leading us in an aerobics class, and she said: Put your hands above your head. We did it. She said: Put your hands out on the side. We did it. Then she said: Put your hands on your hips and bend at the waist. And with that, BARBARA yelled: "Look, if I had a waist, I wouldn't be here." That is my BARB. She can use laughter to defuse any situation. I will always love her for it.

When I started thinking about my own long shot bid for the Senate—and it was worse than a long shot—the first person I went to after my family was BARB. It was a few years after she had made history by becoming the first Democratic woman ever elected in her own right to the U.S. Senate. She got right to the point: "How old are you, Babs?"—using the nickname she calls me to this day. I told her I was almost 50.

God, that sounds so young, BARBARA. I told her I was almost 50. I explained it was going to be a tough fight. I was up against two powerful male opponents in the Democratic primary, and I was an asterisk in the polls. What was her response? She looked at me and she said: "Go for it. It's worth the fight you'll have to wage to get here. And it will be a fight." And it was.

In 1992, four new women came to the Senate, and who was waiting for us with open arms? Senator MIKULSKI. And this is what she said: "Some women stare out the window waiting for Prince Charming. I stared out the window waiting for more women Senators—and it is finally happening!" That is who BARBARA is. She never set out to make a name for herself. She wanted to blaze a trail that was wide enough for all of us to follow.

Just days after I won that first Senate race, she sent all the new women Senators a guidebook she herself had written about how to get started in the Senate, how to get on committees. She invited us to her office for lessons on Senate procedure and how to set up our offices. She had covered everything.

In the years since, as you have heard, she has hosted regular dinners for all the women in the Senate—Democratic and Republican alike. We reach across party lines and come together because of her. We talk about our work, our families. We share our struggles and our triumphs. What is said there stays there.

Senator MIKULSKI has led us by example, showing us how to build coalitions, how to bridge the partisan divide, which includes strong partnership with our male colleagues, whom she calls "Sir Galahads." She has also shown us how to stand up and make our voices heard. As she says, go "earring to earring" with our opponents and "put on our lipstick, square our shoulders, suit up and fight." Legendary Mikulski words.

To me, Senator MIKULSKI is the whole package—a skilled, intelligent negotiator, a Senator who fights for the people, and a woman who helps other women. She is our cherished leader, and that is why she will always be known as the dean of the Senate women.

When BARBARA announced she would be leaving the Senate, I wrote her a rhyme. I love to write rhymes and lyrics. I wrote her the following rhyme: Before Mikulski won the day,
A guy would have to pass away,
And then his wife would take his place.
Finally, a woman in a Senate space.
But Barb she got there in her own right.
First Democratic gal to win that fight.
She won the race and joined the misters.
But finally NOW she has nineteen sisters!

BARBARA, next year, because of what you started, because of the people you encouraged, there will be 21 women in the Senate—a record. Sitting here in my chair, my seat, will be an incredible woman.

Senator MIKULSKI, BARB, my treasured mentor, my dear friend, thank you for everything. We have been through battles together. I am forever grateful to you, and I will always treasure our friendship.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I thank the gentlelady from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I like "gentlelady."

Ms. MIKULSKI. That is the way we talk here. I thank the gentlelady from California for her kind words. We have been together through thick, thin, and the attempt to get thin, and that story about bending at the waist is a true one.

I am not the person with the best hairdo or sleek or chic, but one of the things I have so admired about my friend is her authenticity. We first got to know each other in the House, and then I encouraged you to come to the Senate, which certainly was the right thing to do. You are yourself. You are true to yourself, you are true to your beliefs. You are true to your constituents, and you are true to the Constitution. You are such a true, blue person.

There are many words to describe you, such as outspoken, feisty, and all of that, but I would say the word that describes you best is "authenticity." You are who you are. The people of California have loved you for it and sent you to the Congress.

We started out together basically in city council roles, sometimes called the pothole parliament. It has been a pleasure to serve with the Senator from California. I have watched you stand up for your beliefs, and along the way, as you stood up for your beliefs, you made believers of us all.

Godspeed to you, BARBARA. We are friends forever.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I wish to speak about Senator MIKULSKI and then also Senator BOXER, the two great Senator BARBARAS who have been such giants in the Senate. We are so grateful to both of them.

BARBARA MIKULSKI

Madam President, I do have to say that among the many things with which I have been honored and have appreciated was when Senator MIKULSKI accepted my offer to stay at the Stabenow bed and breakfast after long session nights and days when the Appropriations Committee was negotiating and doing the incredible work that had to be done. I had the honor of being able to put up a plaque in my home that says: Senator BARB slept here. I will always be honored to have had that opportunity on top of all of the other ways we have worked together.

It really is an honor to stand here. I can't imagine the Senate without Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BOXER. I can't imagine the Senate without the incredible service of my dear friend and colleague, who is our dean in every sense of the word—the senior Senator from the State of Maryland. For over 30 years she has worked tirelessly. We know that. We hear it every day. We know what the people in Baltimore, the Chesapeake Bay area, and all of Maryland care about. She has been fighting and standing up for them every single moment of every single day. I so admire that, and I am so grateful. She has been a wonderful inspiration and mentor to me. We have all heard about our dinners and the power briefings on appropriations. She has been a continual source of inspiration and a mentor to me.

She reached out to me, as she does to all of our colleagues, when I was first elected. She welcomed me and showed me what it meant to be a good Senator representing my State of Michigan and how to get things done. Senator MIKULSKI has always been willing to lend a helping hand and has never given up when it comes to fighting for the people she represents and being a trail-blazer.

I came into the Senate with a master's degree in social work. Senator MIKULSKI has often said that we are the

two official do-gooders in the Senate. We have taken our interest from helping people individually to another level by becoming policymakers, thereby giving us the opportunity to touch more lives by using our skills and our background in education as well.

We all know—but I think it is important to remind ourselves—that she was only 26 when Senator MIKULSKI talked about the highway proposal that would have destroyed a neighborhood full of working people. She spoke up. She was noticed, and she wasn't afraid to say exactly what she was thinking. She was and is absolutely fearless in every good sense of that word. She brought that fearlessness to the Senate. That fearlessness made her the first woman to serve as chair of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate. It doesn't get more important than that in setting policy and having an impact on people's lives in our country by prioritizing the interests of the American people in every funding decision. That fearlessness was on display when she helped bring us closer to the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, making it closer to having equal pay for equal work than it has ever been before.

Senator MIKULSKI fought for health care. I was proud to join her in making sure that women could receive preventive care without a copay. She made sure that women were truly represented and that our needs were met in health care reform, and that will continue to impact all of the lives of women across the country.

When she turned her eyes to the stars, wondering what was up there, she made sure that the Goddard Space Flight Center was a leader in exploring the unknown. Like the supernova named after her, she has absolutely astonished us with her brilliance, and nothing will be quite the same after she leaves here.

Her work in the Senate has made it possible for so many women and girls across America to put their hat in the ring and say: I want to run for office, and I can do it.

Senator MIKULSKI said it best—there are so many wonderful quotes I will always use—when she said: Put your lipstick on, square your shoulders, and suit up. Go into the fight and get things done. That has become a mantra for us in working together.

I thank Senator BARB. You will be greatly missed, but I know you have so much more to give. I know you will always make a difference in people's lives in every single thing you do every single day, and we will be forever grateful.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, again, I thank the gentlelady from Michigan. We both have master's degrees in social work. I joke, but I am actually serious when I say we are certified do-gooders. When people hear about social work, they sometimes think it is about giving money away, but it is really about trying to help people build lives, build families, and

therefore build the Nation. The Senator from Michigan's championship in that area has been amazing to me.

I am so glad my friend from Michigan is here in the Senate, whether she is standing up for the people in Flint, MI, so they have safe drinking water, or standing up for those who need help in the area of food and nutrition so there aren't food deserts in communities. That is one of the biggest public health initiatives. If you are a diabetic, you can't comply if all you can get is fast food and french fries. If you are a child, you need good food and good nutrition. My friend knows more than anybody that you need to feed the body, the mind, and the spirit, and she has certainly done that. It has been great being your pal and partner.

Many people don't know this, but Senator CARDIN and I commute every day. When those appropriation cycles got pretty late, after midnight, the gentlelady from Michigan offered her home to me. We had a saying: Stop whining and have a glass of wine. There was nothing like being able to talk about your day with a colleague who will offer inspiration and encouragement at the end of the day. My friend offered her home, but she has really fought for so many people to have a home and a community in order to have what they need so they can learn and prosper in this country.

I just wish you so much and wish you all the best.

Thank you very much.

BARBARA BOXER

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, as her name suggests, Senator BOXER has always been a fighter, a champion for the people of California, and a good friend.

Though Senator BOXER began her life in Brooklyn, California has always been her home.

It is where she got elected to the Marin County Board of Supervisors, becoming the first woman to hold the board's presidency.

It is where she first got elected to the House of Representatives, where she quickly rose and became a leader we could all aspire to be.

And as Senator, she has worked tirelessly for families, children, consumers, everyone in the State of California and Americans everywhere.

Senator BOXER has always been a wonderful mentor to me, and she has been relentless on moving forward on some of the most critically important issues of our time.

As the first woman to chair the Environment and Public Works Committee, she has provided the support that has kept America's air and water safe and to fight climate change. She defended mercury and lead standards and installed choking warnings on packages.

I will personally always be grateful for her tireless advocacy and support for the 100,000 Flint citizens who have been poisoned by lead in their water.

We have her to thank when we know that children and families all over the

country can be safer and more secure in their own neighborhood.

She has been an incredible supporter of transportation, extending the highway trust fund, helping protect over 1 million jobs. Or her Mat Map-21 Transportation Bill, which modernized Federal highway, highway safety, and transportation programs.

And she has fought for children and families, her work in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act—providing extra services for young adults under 21 and helping some of America's young people who need it most.

On a personal note, I have greatly enjoyed sharing a love of music with my friend, BARBARA. Her creativity and passion for song has been a special part of who she is.

Her retirement, while well earned, will be a loss for all of us.

Thank you so much for your service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I wish to offer a few brief comments, if I might, so I may thank and congratulate Senator MIKULSKI for her tireless contributions to the State of Maryland and the whole country.

As many know, she is a passionate, capable, effective champion for people of all backgrounds, and she got her start in local government. One of the things we have in common is that I, too, started in a very humble office as a county council member in my home community of New Castle County, DE.

The way I first met BARBARA MIKULSKI and first saw her toughness, grit, passion, and determination was in a fight over a program she helped give life to, the national service program known as AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps is a fantastic national program that partners with the Federal Government, State, and local governments, the private sector, and nonprofit volunteers. She has been a tireless champion for AmeriCorps over many years and has made a lasting difference in its areas of focus and work.

During my short 6 years here, she has been a great friend and a mentor to me and to so many others on both sides of the aisle. JOE BIDEN, our Vice President, has often said: Show me your budget, and I will show you your values. As leader of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI helped to lift up our values and helped to make sure we invested in effective programs that made sure we fed the hungry, housed the homeless, fought for manufacturing, and ensured that Federal workers who lived in Maryland and Federal agencies that were rooted, not just in Maryland but around the country, had the resources, support, and capacity to make a lasting difference here in our region and for the entire country.

I just wanted to add my voice to colleagues who stood here on the floor and said: We are so grateful to Senator

BARBARA MIKULSKI for her decades of service to Baltimore, to Maryland, and to our country and for all she has done to lift us up together.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, this Saturday, December 10, marks the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate. I am very proud to be the chairman of that committee—the first chairman who is not a lawyer, I might add—and I will be submitting a resolution, along with some other committee members, to commemorate this 200th anniversary.

Madam President, 200 years ago, the Senate established 11 original standing committees. Today, although there are many committees, the Senate Judiciary Committee is one of four original committees that still meet today. During the past two centuries, some of the most vital and important questions facing the Nation have come before the committee. For example, during the Civil War, the committee ensured that President Lincoln had the emergency powers he needed to pursue the Civil War effort, and in 1864, the committee took a critical step in ending slavery in the United States when it reported the 13th Amendment of the Constitution.

The committee has jurisdiction over issues that directly impact American lives and is on the forefront of deciding important policy issues, including immigration, civil liberties, criminal laws and the protection for victims, and, of course, civil rights. In addition, the committee examines those nominated for lifetime appointments to the Federal bench.

Over the years, the committee has reported legislation that has been vital to the safety and protection of the American people. I don't have time today to discuss all the committee has accomplished over the last 200 years, but I do want to take a minute to recognize this important anniversary. I am very proud of the committee's storied history. Today, I celebrate these accomplishments and will follow that up with the submission of a resolution. I am truly humbled today to be its chairman.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I rise again to speak about the Dakota Access Pipeline issue in North Dakota. Again, I want to emphasize that we need to focus on the facts and under-

stand what is really going on there. On Saturday, the Obama administration announced its refusal to issue the final easement for the Dakota Access Pipeline to cross a narrow section deep underneath the Missouri River.

This easement is required to finish the 1,172-mile-long pipeline which is already 98 percent complete in North Dakota—98 percent complete in North Dakota—and 86 percent complete overall. As I have indicated before on the floor, it runs from the Bakken oilfields in North Dakota, moving North Dakota light sweet crude all the way to Patoka, IL, so oil can go into all of the refineries along the eastern part of the country and the eastern seaboard.

In fact, our light sweet crude oil competes with OPEC. If they are not using our light sweet crude, they are bringing in oil from places like Saudi Arabia for these eastern refineries. So very important in terms of energy independence for our country, but as I said, this pipeline is 98 percent complete in our State. Now, again, the Obama administration is delaying it.

Unfortunately, this latest Obama administration decision fails to follow the rule of law, it fails to resolve the issue, and it perpetuates an extremely difficult situation for North Dakotans. Furthermore, it is estimated that over 5,000 protesters are still unlawfully gathered on Federal or Corps of Engineers land in our State. They are there in direct violation of the Army Corps' December 5 eviction notice, as well as an evacuation order from North Dakota's Governor.

However, now that the Obama administration has made its decision, protesters should move from their unlawful site on the Army Corp of Engineers' land. Even Standing Rock Chairman David Archambault has finally said that protesters need to leave and return home. Let me repeat that. Even Standing Rock Sioux Chairman David Archambault has finally said protesters need to leave and return home. He is the tribal chairman. The Obama administration needs to do the same. The administration needs to call on the protesters to leave this illegal site as well.

As I said, the Dakota Access Pipeline issue has been difficult for the people of North Dakota. In recent months, protesters have trespassed on private property, they have blocked state highways and damaged bridges, they have committed acts of vandalism to construction equipment by cutting hydraulic hoses, breaking windows, filling gas tanks with gravel, and setting equipment on fire.

Protesters have blocked intersections in Bismarck and Mandan. They have disrupted area businesses, and farmers and ranchers in the area have reported instances of trespassing and butchered livestock. The rule of law matters in this country, but by committing acts of lawlessness at this construction site as a proxy for changing broader environmental policies, the rule of law is undermined.

Just as the pipeline company must follow the law, the protesters themselves need to follow the law as well. By continuing to remain in the camp, the protesters are defying Federal and State orders to leave. They are subjecting residents in the area to additional weeks of disruption and hardship. They also require our law enforcement to continue their around-the-clock presence, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The protesters need to follow the law, just like everyone else. I repeat, it is time—past time—to leave this illegal camp. I would like to address the dedication of our State and local law enforcement officers—the professionals who make up the North Dakota Highway Patrol, our sheriffs, and our deputies around the State and from other States who have come in to assist us.

Members of the North Dakota National Guard and other first responders have acted with professionalism and diligence to maintain peace and order under very difficult circumstances. They continue to protect the public, especially now with the onset of challenging winter conditions. In my 10 years as Governor of North Dakota, I spent a lot of time working with our law enforcement officers to prepare for weather emergencies. I know the preparations these situations require.

Even today, our law enforcement and State Department of Transportation crews are working to keep evacuation routes open, rescuing people stranded on the highways and providing assistance to many from outside North Dakota who are unprepared to deal with the recent blizzard we had in North Dakota.

The men and women in law enforcement are doing their best to protect everyone, including the protesters. We owe our law enforcement a debt of gratitude for their diligence, for their dedication, and for their professionalism, but North Dakota's law enforcement resources are severely strained. I have repeatedly called on the U.S. Department of Justice to provide additional funding and law enforcement officers to ensure public safety.

Our State has requested Federal assistance and was assured—was assured—by the Attorney General that we would be given expedited consideration, but that has not been the case. Our Byrne grant application for Federal assistance has still not been approved by the Attorney General. I will continue to call on the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Corps to provide additional Federal resources, including funding and law enforcement personnel to assist our State and local law enforcement officers and ensure public safety.

As I have said before, everyone has a right to be heard, but it must be done lawfully and peacefully, whether that is during the permitting process, with its opportunities for public comment,

or through the court system. I emphasize through the court system. That is the established method in our country for dispute resolution. So it is time—it is past time—for the protesters to stand down and to recognize that the courts and the next administration will resolve this issue.

It is also important to recognize that this pipeline is not unique or unusual as an infrastructure project. There are more than 38,000 crude oil pipeline river and water body crossings in the United States—more than 38,000—and more than 1,000 in my State of North Dakota alone. This is one more. These crossings range from rivers, streams, and lakes to ponds, canals, and ditches. Also, it is important to understand the oil is already being transported across a river on rail and across bridges.

Once again, I just want to show—this is the network of oil pipelines in the country. They cross many bodies of water. We are doing it one more time with the latest, greatest technology. The pipeline does not go in the river in any way, shape or form. It is about 100 feet underneath the river. So even if there was a leak, somehow that oil would have to come up through bedrock to even get into the area.

In other words, it is the latest, greatest technology. This oil is already moving to market. It is already crossing the river on rail and on truck. If we don't build this, we are relying on the old infrastructure, which is less safe and less environmentally sound, instead of building the new, latest, greatest infrastructure with the technologies that will be more efficient, more safe, more environmentally sound. That is what makes sense. Again, it is not unique.

Additionally, the pipeline company has modified its route on its own 140 times in North Dakota to avoid any important or cultural resources. So they have modified the route to avoid any cultural resources 140 times just in our State.

In July 2016, the Army Corps issued its final environmental assessment, which concluded with the finding of “no significant environmental impact” and “no historic properties affected.” These determinations have been upheld not once but twice by the Federal courts, including a judge appointed by the Obama administration—a Federal district court judge here in Washington, DC.

As for the way forward for this difficult issue, we need to look at the facts at hand. In the midst of the ongoing news coverage, it can seem that heated rhetoric leaves little room for good-faith efforts to find common ground, but I want to highlight that there continues to be attempts at finding consensus among the stakeholders, even as recently as last Friday.

To that point, in a meeting I had yesterday with the Army Corps' North-western Division Commander, BG Scott Spellman, he stated that last Friday, on December 2, the Army

Corps' Omaha district commander, John Henderson, convened representatives from the pipeline company, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and Army Corps officials. They met in Bismarck for 5 hours. The meeting included tribal staff and the company's engineering and technical experts who came together for the sole purpose of reviewing Standing Rock's 19 specific safety and environmental concerns raised in the tribe's October 2016 letter to the Corps.

In this meeting, the pipeline company, tribe, and Army Corps discussed all 19 concerns raised by the Standing Rock, and they considered 36 potential terms and conditions that could further reduce the risk of a spill or pipeline rupture. Again, let me repeat that. In order to directly address the river crossing concerns raised by the tribe and the protesters, the pipeline company was willing to consider more than 36 additional safeguards for this crossing.

Friday's meeting actually resulted in a revised proposed easement, which was presented to the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Jo-Ellen Darcy, the next day, on Saturday, December 3—last Saturday. However, the following day, on Sunday, December 4, Assistant Secretary Darcy promptly rejected the revised easement and instead required more “broad public input and analysis.”

Clearly, the Obama administration is not interested in finding a way forward based on the merits of the project, even in light of two Federal court rulings upholding the Army Corps' reviews and even with subsequent attempts by the company to specifically address the tribe's remaining environmental concerns.

In recent days, I have met directly with President-Elect Trump's transition team and conveyed the importance of bringing this situation to a resolution. I have also spoken directly on the matter to Vice President-Elect Mike Pence and to the next Attorney General, JEFF SESSIONS.

President-Elect Trump has now publicly communicated his support for the project, as well as for providing Federal assistance, including additional resources and law enforcement personnel. This project should be decided on the merits and in accordance with the law. Failure to do so will cast new uncertainty on all future infrastructure projects, from pipelines that carry oil and gas and other liquids to transmission lines carrying both traditional and renewable energy.

If companies and individuals cannot rely on a system that follows the rule of law, nobody will risk making future investments in our country's vital infrastructure. That will make our Nation less safe, less secure, and less competitive. As I said a minute ago, think about it. If we can't build new infrastructure, then we will continue to use the old infrastructure, which is less safe and less environmentally secure.

To avoid this situation in the future—the kind of standoff we have with

the Dakota Access Pipeline—we need to focus on ways to improve the permitting process. We need to improve the process so we can make sure all people's voices are heard and provide regulatory certainty to companies willing to invest in large infrastructure projects. This should be done prospectively, not retroactively—looking for ways to better streamline procedures, reduce duplicative hurdles, and improve methods for public input.

This pipeline can be built safely and include necessary protections for both the tribe and everyone else downstream. The fact is that our country needs energy, and we cannot have it without energy infrastructure—pipelines, transmission lines, roads, rail, and bridges—to move both traditional and renewable energy from where it is produced to where it is consumed. Move it both safely and efficiently. Let's all work together to make that happen.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I rise to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

For the people of Hawaii, it started as an ordinary sunny Sunday morning in December. Families were getting ready for church; others were preparing breakfast. It was quiet. It was peaceful.

Just before 8 a.m., the first wave of Japanese warplanes started their coordinated surprise attack on the island of Oahu. Bombers attacked aircraft clustered wing tip to wing tip at Wheeler and Hickam Airfields, making it too easy for Japanese pilots to destroy their targets. By the end of the attack, Japanese forces sunk four of the eight battleships at Ford Island. Another battleship intentionally ran aground in the harbor to avoid blocking the channel. Three destroyers and seven other ships were sunk or severely damaged. It was the worst disaster in U.S. naval history. There were 2,403 servicemembers killed or mortally wounded, and 1,247 servicemembers were injured. Fifty-seven civilians were killed.

Across Oahu, people watched as smoke and fire blackened the sky over Pearl Harbor. Among those were two 17-year-olds, Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka. Like many others that day, they were called to duty. Senator Daniel Akaka, then an ROTC student at the Kamehameha School for Boys, grabbed a rifle and guarded the hills above the school from potential Japanese paratroopers. Senator Inouye, then a volunteer medical aid, reported to Lunalilo Elementary School, where for a week he tended to the wounded.

In the weeks that followed, the shipyard was back to work repairing vessels raised from the harbor. Incredibly, all but two ships returned to service in just 2 years. The *Nevada* went on to

support the invasion of Normandy. Five other ships damaged at Pearl Harbor later met Japanese forces in the Philippines. That “Day of Infamy” and the events that followed would ultimately galvanize more than 12 million Americans to serve in uniform during the Second World War. We remember the men and women who left their homes to fight an enemy they did not know in places they had never heard of. They said goodbye to their families to protect their neighbors—foreclosed the promise of their own dreams to protect our freedom. We know well the stories of courage and devotion: the Tuskegee Airmen, the 442nd Infantry Regiment. We remember the ingenuity and heroism of Doolittle’s Raiders, the Navajo code-talkers, and Nisei translators.

The war in the Pacific lasted 2,194 days. When American occupation forces landed 4 years later at the end of the war, Japan was in ruins. But instead of turning our backs on the people of Japan, we extended a hand. We chose to turn an enemy into an ally. American occupiers immediately set out to transform Japan into a peaceful democracy, implementing land and economic reforms, improving working conditions, and granting women the right to vote. The United States sent billions of dollars in economic aid to rebuild Japan. Most of that assistance was delivered as food, for even several years after the surrender, there was widespread starvation in Japan. It is hard to forget someone who sends you milk for hungry children, as Prime Minister Abe recently told Congress.

The attack on Pearl Harbor set in motion a chain of events with painful consequences for our two countries, but the decision we made to partner with, rather than punish, Japan helped to forge between our two countries what Senator Mike Mansfield described as “the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none.”

Today, Japan is a leader in the Western world. We cooperate as partners to maintain regional peace. Our countries work together to stop the flow of extremism and arms in the Indian Ocean. We work side by side in humanitarian relief missions and to defend against ballistic missile threats. Our relationship has never been stronger. President Obama’s trip in May to Hiroshima and President Abe’s trip to Pearl Harbor demonstrate the endurance of this friendship and the importance of reconciliation.

So as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, we remember the service and sacrifice of the men and women who lost their lives on that day in December. In remembering them and the service of those who fought, we know that their sacrifices were not in vain. America and Japan are forever joined in history. We move forward together, in the memory of those who sacrificed for a better world and for peace.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The Senator from Mississippi.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I rise to compliment and congratulate my good friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, on her decision to retire from the U.S. Senate. We are going to miss her very much. She has been a very effective Senator in speaking not only as a representative for the State of Maryland but also for the entire country on so many different issues and Federal responsibilities of our government. She has been very successful in every way—serving as chair of the committee on Appropriations, where it has been my pleasure to work closely with her as the vice chair when the Republicans were in the minority, and then coming to chair the committee, with her as the ranking Democratic member during other periods.

It has been a distinct honor to serve with her on the Appropriations Committee. In 2012, she became the first woman to chair the committee. She has also served as vice chairwoman for the past 2 years. I am pleased that we have been able to work together to report bills that reflect our shared commitment to national security, scientific research, education, and economic development. Senator MIKULSKI has been a very valuable partner throughout. Her approach to funding decisions as chairwoman and vice-chairwoman highlights the importance of the constitutional role of Congress to be good stewards of taxpayer money.

I congratulate BARBARA MIKULSKI on her distinguished career representing the people of Maryland which reflects great credit on our U.S. Senate. Best wishes to her.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise to discuss the National Defense Authorization Act. After several months of debate and negotiation, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees have arrived at a completed conference agreement. This will be the 55th consecutive time that we pass a National Defense Authorization Act, which sets national security policy and provides important authorities to the Department of Defense.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman MCCAIN for his leadership during the course of this year. At his direction, the Senate Armed Services Committee undertook a robust review of how the Department develops strategic guidance and executes their business processes to help the Department operate more effectively and efficiently. I commend the chairman for making this effort a priority for the committee, and I appreciate his willingness to work in a bipartisan fashion on this important endeavor.

The conference report we are considering today includes many Senate reforms, including efforts to improve the defense strategy documents produced

by the Department and reorganizing the Office of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics to ensure that the Pentagon emphasizes research and innovation in support of our warfighters.

In particular, one of the most important reform efforts included in the final conference agreement is a Senate provision that would create cross-functional teams. This is a new tool for the Secretary of Defense to manage the formation and implementation of policies and solutions for complex problems that inherently cut across the many stovepiped functional organizations in the Department of Defense. The private sector has pioneered and mastered this highly effective integration mechanism for a generation, and business schools and business consultancies have championed its use for decades. I consider this provision to be one of the most important reform initiatives in this bill. None of this would have happened without the leadership, guidance, and constant urging of the chairman, Senator MCCAIN. Once again, I commend him for his extraordinary efforts.

As these reforms are introduced, it is imperative that we continue to collaborate with the Department of Defense to ensure that these reforms contribute to our national security and do not create unnecessary and detrimental consequences. This will be a partnership going forward to ensure that these reforms are adequate, appropriate, and work for the benefit of the men and women in uniform, and that is a process in which we will all be engaged.

With respect to the budget, the conference agreement we are considering today authorizes a total of \$619 billion, which includes \$543.4 billion in base budget funding for the Department of Defense and certain security activities of the Department of Energy and \$67.8 billion in overseas contingency operations, or OCO, funding.

This OCO amount includes \$5.8 billion in supplemental funding requested by President Obama for operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, as well as an additional \$3.2 billion above President Obama’s budget request for base budget requirements primarily devoted to increased end strength. I have serious concerns about increasing OCO funding above the President’s budget request without a corresponding increase in domestic spending. While the OCO account is exempt from budget caps, the purpose of the Budget Control Act was to establish proportionately equal caps on defense and nondefense discretionary spending to force a bipartisan compromise on the budget.

During consideration of the NDAA, the House and Senate had different approaches on how best to fund these base budget requirements and ongoing military operations. However, after a robust debate, we reached an agreement on a modest increase in OCO to fund increased end strength and to replenish depleted munitions inventories.

With respect to Afghanistan, the conference agreement supports our military operations. Specifically, the bill authorizes approximately 8,400 troops in Afghanistan in 2017, including fully funding the Afghan Security Forces Fund at \$4.26 billion to continue support to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. Likewise, the bill contains \$814 million to enhance the capabilities of the Afghan Air Force and begin a transition from Mi-17 to the UH-60 helicopters.

Also—and this is an issue that I support very strongly after a recent trip to Afghanistan—it accelerates the Afghan Aviation Initiative, which is designed to build greater rotary wing capability and fixed-wing capabilities in the Afghan Air Force. This is a critical battlefield advantage that the Afghan forces will have over the Taliban.

With respect to Europe, we have fully funded the President's request of \$3.4 billion for the European Reassurance Initiative. This funding will support critical investments that will increase rotational U.S. military presence in Europe, improve key infrastructure, and enhance allied and partner military capabilities to respond to external aggression and preserve regional stability. The agreement also includes an authorization of \$350 million for the Ukraine training assistance initiative, to continue and expand security assistance and intelligence support to the Ukrainian security forces to protect their sovereignty and encourage a continued focus on robust defense reform efforts.

With regard to our special operations forces, they are at the forefront of our fight against ISIL, Al Qaeda, and other terrorist groups. The bill also includes important reforms designed to improve the oversight and advocacy for their important efforts by enhancing the role of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict. I think those reforms will be something we watch and encourage.

With respect to other aspects of our security programs, the conference agreement includes a comprehensive reform of Defense Department security cooperation programs. This is the first time such a reform has been undertaken, and it is an effort to ensure there is unity of effort across our government in the security assistance arena.

Likewise, the conference agreement includes a provision that would enhance the scope and authority of the Global Engagement Center. For too long we have been losing the information space to our adversaries—both state and nonstate actors. It is my hope that by providing this critical center at the State Department with a powerful mandate, we can begin to improve our efforts in the information space.

The bill also supports modernization efforts of many different weapons platforms. I am particularly pleased to see

that we are continuing two-per-year construction of the Virginia-class submarine. It also supports additional requests for advance procurement to keep this production on track. Furthermore, it authorizes \$1.9 billion for the Ohio-class replacement, including the first strategic nuclear submarine procurement funds, to begin the process of reinvigorating and rebuilding our underwater nuclear deterrence through the Ohio-class replacement.

In addition to modernization of our underwater forces, we are also looking at modernizing our triad of air, sea, and ground delivery platforms for strategic deterrence. This is the beginning of a multi-decade effort involving three major acquisition programs: our ballistic missile submarines—as I have mentioned, the Ohio-class replacement—long-range penetrating bombers, and also the land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles. Most importantly, we will be modernizing their command and control systems to ensure that our President always has positive control of these forces. As I have stated many times, modernization is critical in light of the increasingly belligerent actions by Russia, which conducted a nuclear exercise immediately after invading Crimea as a form of nuclear intimidation.

In the area of technology and acquisition, I am pleased the conference report takes a number of important steps to help DOD maintain its technological superiority. We continue to build on past work on acquisition reform undertaken by the committee, as well as the successes of Defense Secretary Carter and his colleagues, including Under Secretary Kendall, in controlling the costs of major weapons systems procurement programs.

The agreement includes a number of steps to improve defense acquisition processes, including strengthening the acquisition workforce, simplifying and streamlining regulatory and bureaucratic burdens on the government and industry, making it easier for DOD to work with innovative small businesses and commercial companies, and promoting the use of prototyping and rapid fielding to speed the development and deployment of advanced new systems.

In the area of technological innovation, I hope that reconstituting the position of Under Secretary of Research and Engineering will help promote connections with innovators both inside and outside of the government and ensure that the policies and practices governing our R&D programs, our defense labs, and our engagements with universities and industry are optimized to promote the most efficient and effective development of new systems and technologies.

Finally, I think the conference report includes important provisions designed to streamline and modernize Pentagon management processes. The bill supports efforts to develop and execute the modern management techniques and

practices modeled on private sector best practices, including the use of big data to improve Pentagon business processes. I believe that refining Pentagon management practices will result in cost savings and efficiencies, freeing up funds for other critical needs.

I note that the conferees did not include several provisions regarding the application of Obama administration Executive orders related to labor, safe workplace, and LGBT issues. Many of these are very problematic. I hope we continue to work to ensure the Department engages with fiscally and socially responsible and effective contractors to the best benefit of warfighters and taxpayers alike.

Of course, one of the key issues for the committee was the readiness of troops. I am pleased the conference report includes significant resources for the military services' unfunded requirements, with the goal of restoring full-spectrum readiness as soon as possible. For example, the bill includes additional funding for Army units to conduct additional home station training in order to prepare them for future combat training center rotations, as well as additional flight training for the other services.

We have also included significant resources in order to provide additional depot maintenance to repair our military aircraft, ships, and combat vehicles. There is also additional funding to better sustain our military installations, specifically in the facilities restoration and modernization accounts.

In the area of military personnel, the conference agreement accomplishes much on behalf of our servicemembers and the Department of Defense because we owe them much. It authorizes a 2.1 percent pay raise for all servicemembers, supports requested increases in the housing benefit, and reauthorizes a number of expiring bonus and special pay authorities to encourage enlistment, reenlistment, and continued service by Active-Duty and Reserve component military personnel.

Unfortunately, the bill does not include the provision in the Senate-passed bill that would have required women to register for the draft to the same extent men are required. I continue to believe this is the right policy for the Nation and the military. If we are going to have a draft, women must share equally the burden and privilege of service. We must be able to take advantage of their extraordinary talents because without those talents our military today could not function as it does.

However, the bill does establish an independent national commission on military, national, and public service to study the need for a military selective service process, including whether the Nation continues to need a mechanism designed to draft large numbers of replacement combat troops; whether women should be required to participate equally in the process; the means

by which to foster a greater attitude and ethos of service among the United States' young men and women, including an increased propensity for military service; and how to obtain military, national, and public service individuals with skills for which the Nation has a critical need. This commission could provide valuable insight on how we should proceed, particularly in a state of national emergency, in pulling together the best of our young people to serve the Nation.

With respect to health care, the bill contains a robust package of health care reforms that will bring the military health care program in line with the best practices in the civilian health care industry. This is something we have to continue to emphasize—the ability to care and treat all of our personnel and retirees with respect to their health care.

I think we have done a lot of important work in this legislation.

Let me conclude, as I began, by thanking Chairman MCCAIN and my Senate colleagues on the committee for their thoughtful contributions to this process. I also thank my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee, Chairman MAC THORBERRY and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH. They did a superb job, along with their staffs. This was truly a thoughtful, bipartisan process that resulted in a bill that I believe will receive overwhelming support on the floor of the Senate, as it did in the House.

Finally, of course, this agreement would not have been possible without the extraordinary work of the staff. I thank so many, but I particularly thank Chris Brose, Steve Barney, and all the majority committee staff for their hard work.

On the Democratic side, I thank my staff director, Elizabeth King. I also thank Gary Leeling, Creighton Greene, Carolyn Chuhta, Maggie McNamara, Jonathan Clark, Jonathan Epstein, Ozge Guzelsu, Jody Bennett, Mike Kuiken, Kirk McConnell, Mike Noblet, John Quirk, Arun Seraphin, and Jon Green.

I deeply appreciate all of their efforts. They have made this bill possible.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I come to the Senate floor to thank Chairman MCCAIN for his efforts on the

National Defense Authorization Act. Yesterday I was here talking about the Cures Act, and I know that is the business of the day, but I also want to recognize the importance of the NDAA and its assumed or hoped-for passage today or this week. I appreciate Senator MCCAIN working with me and supporting my amendment to remove language that would allow the administration to expend taxpayer dollars on plans to close Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

As in previous years, the NDAA continues to prohibit the closure of Gitmo and the transfer of detainees to U.S. soil. Fort Leavenworth, in my home State of Kansas, has been a site under this administration's consideration. This administration and foreign countries have lost track of numerous detainees, which escalates the risk for military men and women if the detainee is returned to the battlefield. With the total reengagement rate at Gitmo detainees returning to that battlefield at more than 30 percent, this provision is a life-and-death matter.

This Defense authorization also halts troop reduction and increases end strength across our Active, National Guard, and Reserve Forces. In every Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee hearing this past year with Department of Defense officials, from service chiefs to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, I received answers that concluded our Armed Services would welcome more forces, not less.

I introduced the POSTURE Act, S. 2563, with my colleagues Senator BLUNT and Senator PERDUE, to reverse these force reductions, increase end strength in the Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve, and specifically increase levels for our ground forces in the Army and Marine Corps. I am pleased this defense legislation—the one we are considering this week—reflects the objectives of the POSTURE Act by stopping force reductions and increasing end-strength levels across the Armed Services.

There are many unknowns around the world, and to reduce the size of our defense force would be a mistake. We have been impacted already by budget decisions rather than based upon what our Armed Forces need to defend America. Readiness is paramount, and this NDAA allows for increased funding to make certain we are training, equipping, and readying our forces as challenges around the world unfold. As Chief of Staff of the Army GEN Mark Milley has repeatedly said, "Readiness wins wars."

The Big Red One—the Army's 1st Infantry Division located at Fort Riley in Manhattan, KS, near Junction City, KS, has deployed its headquarters to Iraq for a second time in less than 2 years. That kind of turnaround requires the highest levels of readiness.

This bill also authorizes critical military construction funding for Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, and McConnell Air Force Base, helping Kansas re-

main a stronghold for our military training and power.

As we head into the holidays, I am pleased that servicemembers and their families will receive, with the certainty of the passage of this bill, benefits which they have earned and that they deserve, which includes a 2.1-percent pay increase, which is the largest increase in 5 years.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

As we pass this defense legislation to support our military men and women, those who serve our Nation, we must take a moment to also reflect upon the significance of this day—December 7, 1941—that horrific attack on Pearl Harbor 75 years ago. That day forever changed our Nation and our national defense. We should never forget those who perished in that attack, as they made that ultimate sacrifice: 2,008 naval men, 109 Marines, 218 Army men, and 68 civilians.

Shortly after I was elected to the U.S. Senate on December 7, 2010, I had the distinct opportunity to present service medals to Kansans who had served and survived the attack on Pearl Harbor. It took us 69 years after they survived that attack, but I was honored to bestow U.S. Navy veterans Arthur Dunn and Paul Aschbrenner with their much deserved commendations. It was a special moment I will not forget.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS LEGISLATION

To honor those who perished that day as well as those who survived, like Arthur and Paul, we must care for the 21.8 million veterans who live among us today and who deserve the best our Nation can offer. We have an opportunity to better care for our veterans with the passage of H.R. 6416, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016, which has passed the House and is coming to the Senate.

This legislation includes 76 bipartisan provisions to improve VA health care, streamline disability compensation, and address other benefits and services that must be reformed to better serve our veterans. I thank the chairman of my committee, the Senator from Georgia, for his leadership in this regard.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation includes legislation that I, along with Senator BLUMENTHAL, have diligently worked on for over the last several years. It is sponsored by 48 of our Senate colleagues. It is the Toxic Exposure Research Act. This legislation takes a significant step toward researching the potential health effects of toxic exposure to veterans and their descendants. To send a strong message to our veterans, we must pass this legislation.

I often meet with World War II veterans at the memorial that was built in their honor on the National Mall. The message I try to convey is one that I also shared with my dad upon my first

visit to the memorial. I stepped away and called my dad at home in Plainville, KS, and I said: Dad, I should have said this a long time ago, but I thank you for your service, I respect you, and I love you. That, we do again today. On this significant day in our Nation's history, with the passage of veterans legislation, with the passage of NDAA, we certainly can tell our service men and women and our veterans, those who served our country so diligently and so faithfully, that we thank you for your service, we respect you, and we love you.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise to talk about the ongoing discussions about the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. I basically want to make the case that this repeal, without a replacement being known, would be malpractice for the health care of millions of Americans as well as malpractice for the American economy. Before I talk about why, I just want to tell two stories.

On Monday of this week, I visited Neighborhood Health, which is a community health center in Northern Virginia that serves 14,000 patients. It is not a walk-in clinic; they are sort of a medical home for 14,000 low-income Northern Virginians, mostly working people. Community health centers in Virginia, West Virginia, and in every State are a critical part of the health care safety net. In Virginia, they serve about 300,000 patients and millions nationally.

They are medicine with a mission. They don't deny anybody primary health care services because of inability to pay, and residents have equal access regardless of where they live, their culture, their gender, their race, or resources.

Many centers, including the one I visited just 20 minutes from here, were centers that were able to build or expand because of the Affordable Care Act. Facilities have gotten better in communities across the country because of the Affordable Care Act. That visit made powerfully clear to me how much every ZIP Code in this country has been affected by the Affordable Care Act because of these centers and other services that are provided.

The second story is a story from my recently completed, 105-day, unsuccessful venture as part of a national ticket. I was at the Iowa State Fair. A grandfather was carrying a little boy who looked to be about 3½ years old. I said: Tell me this youngster's name. The grandfather said: This is Jude. Of course, I said: Hey, Jude, and I said: Tell me about Jude. The grandfather and now the father walked over and started to talk to me, and what they said is this: Jude is 3½ years old and he has already had five open heart operations at the Omaha Children's Hospital, which is just across the river from Western Iowa, in Nebraska. They

looked at me and they said he couldn't have had these operations had it not been for the Affordable Care Act. Had it not been for the Affordable Care Act, he now would have exceeded his lifetime limit of any policy he could ever get, and he also would have a pre-existing condition because of his heart condition that would render him unable to get insurance for the rest of his life. They looked at me, and—the father especially is a pretty big guy—and they asked: Will you do all you can—will you do all you can to make sure that this act is not repealed? You can strengthen it, you can improve it, but will you do all you can to make sure it is not repealed? I looked at them and I said—because I believed this even before they asked me the question: I will do anything to my last breath to make sure that we improve this but that we don't get rid of it. That is why I stand on the floor today.

Since the Affordable Care Act was passed in March of 2010, 20 million Americans have health insurance and many of them for the first time in their life. That is, I think, the combined population of about 14 or 15 States, having health insurance for the first time in their lives.

Now, when you have health insurance, it is not only that you can get care for an illness or an accident, even when you are healthy, you can go to bed at night with the knowledge that if something happens to my wife tomorrow, if something happens to me tomorrow, if something happens to my child tomorrow, they will be able to receive care.

The percentage in the Nation of people who were uninsured when the Affordable Care Act was passed was 16 percent. One in six Americans was uninsured. Now it is down to 8.6 percent. That is the lowest level of uninsured we have had probably since we have measured it. In Virginia, the drop has been from 13 percent—we were a little better than the national average—and we have dropped down to 9.1 percent uninsured. We are a little higher than the national average now because my State does not accept Medicaid expansion, but the difference in 6 years is 327,000 more Virginians have health insurance in 2015 than had it in 2010. That is a powerful thing.

In addition to having health insurance, families are protected because they can't get turned away because of preexisting conditions, they can't get turned away because they have reached lifetime limits in terms of their medical care, as Jude would have reached by age 3½. Children can stay on family policies until age 26. Women cannot be charged different health care premiums than men. Insurance companies are required to rebate excess premium payments back to consumers if they overcharge.

It is not just about the millions who have health insurance who have never had it before, there are also millions and millions more to receive protec-

tions they have never had before. These are important provisions.

There has been discussion that I have been reading and following that what some want to do is just repeal the Affordable Care Act, with a vague promise that something will happen down the line. Of course, those who want to repeal the Affordable Care Act who voted against it in March of 2010 have had 6 or now nearly 7 years to come up with what they think would be better, and there has been no consensus about what they think would be better. So the notion of we are going to repeal it and don't worry, we will come up with a better alternative, rings pretty hollow to a family like Jude's parents and grandparents who have a three-and-a-half-year-old-boy who needs open heart surgery. The notion that don't worry, we will find a replacement, we will find a fix—I think we could forgive somebody like Jude's family for not having a lot of confidence in that.

If, in fact, we are serious about finding a fix, why don't we go to work finding a fix before we pass legislation to repeal the law.

I have said I think it is health malpractice and economic malpractice. Let me start with the economic malpractice. The worst thing Congress can do for the economy is to inject uncertainty into it. I have been a mayor and I have been a Governor and I am a certainty fanatic. What I have learned about the economy is that our strong and resilient business sector—if you give them certainty, they can plan. They may not like a policy, they might not like a budget number, but if you tell them this is the way it is going to be, the ingenuity of our private sector is significant. They are going to be able to plan, they are going to be able to make the best of it, they are going to be able to figure it out, but if you provide uncertainty and don't tell people what you are going to do, that is very devastating.

I am on the Budget Committee. I came into the Budget Committee in the Senate, and I told my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: I am a certainty fanatic. We should be doing a budget. We shouldn't be doing a continuing resolution right now. We should be doing appropriations bills because when we tell both our own planners in our own departments and also the private economy: This is what it is going to be for the next year, they can figure it out, they can adjust, and they can do well. When we instead deliver a message that we don't know what we are going to do—oh, there will be a fix, but it will be a few years from now, we can't tell you what it is going to be now, and really we can't even promise we will do it since we haven't done it in 6 years—you inject uncertainty into the economy, and that is the worst thing we can do.

I have made the argument that the recovery we have been on economically—which is not a robust recovery, but it is a steady recovery—the principal reason it has been steady but not

robust is because of uncertainty, and the principal generator of uncertainty in the United States is this body, Congress. Congress's inability to do budget in regular order, Congress's inability to tackle priorities, Congress's inability to work on big picture fiscal issues generates uncertainty.

So now we are talking about a repeal of the Affordable Care Act, the single largest sector in the American economy. One-sixth of the GDP of this country is health care. If you tell the entire American economy we are going to go into the largest sector in the economy, we are going to repeal it, and don't worry, we will get to something down the road as a replacement, you will inject uncertainty into an economy in a degree that has never been done by this body that I think will have catastrophic economic consequences even beyond health care.

It is also malpractice in the health lives of Americans. The Urban Institute has come out with a study today, an update of a study they did a year ago. There was a proposal a year ago to repeal the Affordable Care Act that President Obama vetoed. They did a study about what would repeal mean. This is what repeal means to the American public as we get ready to celebrate the holidays, a time when we are mindful of the needs of others:

The number of uninsured people in the United States, if the ACA is repealed, would rise from its current 28.9 million to 58.7 million, an increase of 29.8 million uninsured in this country. The share of nonelderly people without insurance would increase from 11 percent to 21 percent.

Of the 29.8 million newly uninsured as a result of the repeal, 22.5 will become uninsured as a result of eliminating premium tax credits, Medicaid expansion, and the individual mandate, and the additional 7.3 million would become uninsured because of the near collapse of the nongroup insurance market, and 82 percent of the new 29 million who will become uninsured are working families, 82 percent; 38 percent would be ages 18 to 34; 56 percent would be non-Hispanic Whites; 80 percent of adults becoming uninsured are adults who do not have college degrees. There will be 12.9 million fewer people with Medicaid or CHIP coverage in 2019 if the Affordable Care Act is repealed, and nearly 9.5 million people who have received tax credits to help them purchase private nongroup health coverage in 2019 will no longer receive that assistance. This is catastrophic to tens of millions of Americans.

I will tell a third story that is a story about me. I have to have the healthiest family in the United States, my wife and I and our three children. The only hospitalizations we have ever had, until my wife recently broke a bone, was for three child births. Our kids are 27, 24, and 21. We are the healthiest family in the United States. I was required once to go out right after the Affordable Care Act passed to buy

health insurance on the open market. I didn't have an employer who could cover it. Two insurers turned me down because they said: We can't write a policy for your whole family because of a preexisting condition. One insurer turned me down because of something about me, and one insurer turned me down because of something about one of my children. Again, we are the healthiest family there is.

We were able to say: Wait a minute. The Affordable Care Act just passed. You are not legally allowed to do that now. You have to write a policy for the whole family.

The insurance agent who dealt with us on the phone said: Let me talk to my supervisor, and then called back and said: You know, what. You are right. We have to write you a policy.

This is a law that not only provides health insurance to 20 million people who never had it before but for even healthy families like mine provides benefits to protect against some of the worst and most predacious behaviors of insurance companies. If the act is repealed, this all goes away.

Americans agree, repeal is not the answer. A Kaiser Foundation poll that was done in the last 2 weeks showed that only 26 percent of Americans support a repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Of the other 75 percent, some think it should stay the same, some think it should be tweaked backward a little bit, some think it should be advanced, but only one in four Americans believe we should repeal this law. Overwhelmingly, what the American public is telling us is, we should improve the law. That is what we should be about in this body.

When I was the Governor of Virginia, I noticed at the end of every legislative session there would be 1,100 bills on my desk for me to review, sign, veto, or amend. Of the 1,100 bills, pretty much every year 200 or 300 would be new, but 800 would be improvements to existing law. The job of a legislature is more about taking existing laws and reforming and improving it than repealing or doing something brand new. That is what puzzles me. Why aren't we doing that? Clearly, there is no rush. There is no rush because the discussions are, we would repeal the Affordable Care Act with a promise we will find a replacement in 2 or 3 years. So if the notion is we are going to work for 2 or 3 years to find a replacement, there is no rush, and if there is no rush, why aren't we sitting down right now? Instead of repealing the law, why aren't we sitting down right now? Let's sit down around the table, let's talk about what we don't like, let's talk about what we do like, let's talk about what it means to have 20 million people in this country with health insurance, many for the first time in their lives, and what they might think. Let's get the perspectives of hospitals. Let's get the perspectives of insurers, of doctors, and other medical professionals. That is what we should be doing. What is the rush?

I fear the rush is for one reason: a desire to do something before this President leaves office that can be a little bit of a poke in his eye, but it is a poke in his eye politically in a way that takes families like Jude's family or the families I saw at the neighborhood health center in Alexandria and puts deep fear and uncertainty in their lives and also puts uncertainty into one-sixth of the American economy.

I know we will be having this discussion in earnest, I suspect a little bit over the next couple of days but more when the year begins, just as we are going to be having discussions about Medicare and Medicaid, with 1.3 million Medicare enrollees in Virginia as of 2015. The CHIP and Medicaid Programs in Virginia have an additional 970,000 enrollees. I read dramatic discussions about these programs as well, these basic safety net programs.

I will conclude and say there is no reason we shouldn't be able to sit down around the table and talk about improvements. What I might call a reform somebody else could call a replacement. I don't care about the label, but what I do care about is repealing a law that provides millions of people the confidence that they have health care for the first time in their lives, doing it and having the discussion during the holiday season, doing it in a way that will hurt working people, will hurt working people who don't have high school degrees, doing it in a way that will hurt people who are already sick, who are already dealing with illnesses in their families.

I am a student of this body. I am not a historian. I am a student of this body, but my prediction would be this: If this body goes down the path of repealing this important law that provides important protections to millions with no idea about what the replacement is, I think it will be a day we will look back on and those who care about this body will look back on, probably in the not-too-distant future, and will say this will be one of the low moments in the history of the United States Senate. There is no need for it because there are people of good will in this body who are willing to sit down and find solutions and find improvements and find reforms, but nobody seems willing to have that discussion. Let's have that discussion rather than the repeal discussion, and we will serve our constituents better.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote on significant legislation—a bill that aims to make it easier for innovative medical treatments to be approved, while investing over \$6 billion in medical research and combating the opioid crisis. The bill also takes an important step toward improving our mental health system, specifically by strengthening our parity laws to ensure mental health treatments are covered by insurance companies.

Medical research holds tremendous promise, but our commitment to this

funding has not kept pace with what is needed to make more breakthroughs with diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's. In recent years, Congress has supported increased funds for medical research, but these increases have come at the expense of other important domestic programs. We can and should do more.

In October, Vice President BIDEN joined me in Vermont to discuss the future of cancer treatment. We learned that we are on the cusp of so many developments in fighting the disease, but that more research is needed to get there. This bill contains \$1.8 billion dedicated to Vice President BIDEN's cancer moonshot and another \$1.4 billion in precision medicine to help target treatments to individual patients. It also includes \$1.5 billion for President Obama's BRAIN Initiative, to expand brain mapping technologies that help scientists understand brain disorders and diseases affecting the central nervous system. Since the BRAIN Initiative was established in 2013, it has already made significant advances in medical knowledge, including improving artificial limb technologies and discovering more links between brain chemical functions and depression.

I am also pleased that this bill finally fulfills our commitment to fund efforts to combat the opioid crisis. This is especially critical since Congress failed to include necessary funding resources when the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act passed earlier this year. This bill contains \$1 billion to combat the opioid crisis, with the first half of the funding to be dedicated this fiscal year. Each day, 129 people die from drug overdoses in this country. Vermont and many other predominantly rural States have been hit particularly hard by this epidemic. I suspect that almost every Vermonter knows someone who has been impacted by addiction. It is something I hear about regularly when I am home in Vermont. This is not the future we want for our children, for our grandchildren, or for our communities. I am hopeful that the funding included in this bill will help States move people into treatment to eventually stop the tragic cycle of abuse.

While I strongly support this funding, in addition to the bill's expansion of medical research and mental health parity, this bill is far from perfect. Whereas the bill contains \$6.3 billion in upfront cuts to offset funding for its many efforts, these funds are not in fact guaranteed each year. Rather, the Appropriations Committee must act each year to "unlock" the funding. Republican leaders assure us that this funding will go out the door, and as the incoming vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I intend to hold them to that promise.

I am also concerned that the bill includes provisions to fast-track prescription drug approval through the Food and Drug Administration, FDA.

We all want to ensure that patients have access to medications, but we must also be sure those treatments are both safe and effective. I have concerns that this bill may weaken the standards by which the FDA can review certain medications, for example, by allowing the agency to use existing data from different drug trials to prove the safety of new medications that include similar drug compounds.

Furthermore, while the bill makes it easier in many cases to get drugs approved, it does nothing to address the unreasonable price hikes we have seen in some prescription drugs. I filed an amendment with Senators GRASSLEY, KLOBUCHAR, and LEE that would address some of the anticompetitive behavior many drug companies are engaging in to help drive up the cost of their drugs. For example, in order to delay approval of generic drugs entering the market, some drug companies withhold drug samples or refuse to enter into shared safety agreements with generic manufacturers—both of which are necessary for FDA approval. Our amendment, which mirrors our CREATES Act, would close this loophole and help generic drugs come to the market faster.

Unfortunately, the Senate will not have the opportunity to consider this improvement to the bill or any others before we vote on the bill's passage. I am frustrated that a bill of this enormity—that has never been considered by the full Senate—is being placed on the calendar at the end of a session with no opportunity for amendments. I hope the Senate leadership will promptly schedule floor debates on this and other improvements to this package early next year.

Nevertheless, improvements were made to this bill before it was considered by the House last week. For example, the bill no longer includes a provision that would weaken the disclosure requirements for physicians receiving gifts. The bill also now clearly directs opioid funding to States that have been hit hardest by the crisis. Lastly, more of the funding for medical research is set to go out this fiscal year, which will have an immediate impact on improving the important work of the NIH and our overall medical research community.

On balance, this is an important piece of legislation that offers a great promise to move the bar forward on medical research, while also providing critical relief to families suffering from opioid addiction. I believe these strong investments will benefit us for generations to come, and I will support the passage of this bill.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I am pleased to support the 21st Century Cures Act, which includes a number of critical mental health provisions, much needed funding for medical research and innovation at the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration, as well as funding to help combat the opioid crisis in our country.

First, I would like to highlight division B of this legislation, the Mental Health Reform Act. The Mental Health Reform Act represents years of work in Congress across party lines to improve the quality of and access to mental health and substance abuse treatment, such as training more behavioral health workers and strengthening parity for mental health and substance abuse treatment. This bill also includes my legislation, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Reauthorization Act, which supports youth suicide prevention grants for schools—elementary schools through college where children and young adults spend most of their time—to be able to reach at-risk youth. I am especially pleased that, for the first time, this bill will allow funding to be used for mental health treatment on college campuses, the most effective way to prevent suicide. I have worked with advocates across the mental health community for the better part of the last decade on this effort, so I am pleased to see this come to fruition.

This legislation also includes an infusion of funding for National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration—\$4.8 billion over the next 10 years, including \$1 billion to be concentrated over the next 3 years for the Cancer Moonshot initiative. I commend Vice President BIDEN for his work to spearhead the Cancer Moonshot initiative over the last year, and I think it was a fitting tribute that the Senate agreed unanimously to rename this title of the bill after his son, Beau Biden, who tragically lost his life to cancer last year. The remaining funding will be used to support key efforts at the NIH, such as the Precision Medicine Initiative, the BRAIN Initiative, and regenerative medicine using adult stem cells. In addition, the bill contains \$1 billion in funding for States to respond to the ongoing opioid epidemic. Earlier this year, passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act was an important first step in addressing this crisis, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle voted against efforts to fund the legislation and provide access to treatment in our communities. I am pleased that we will finally have real funding going to communities this year to provide this treatment.

However, I am disappointed that this bill does not make this funding mandatory. We will still have to rely on appropriations in the future to ensure that this funding goes out as intended. I am also concerned about the cuts in this bill, which many of my colleagues have spoken about at length during consideration of the bill, and I would like to echo those comments. For example, this legislation cuts the Prevention and Public Health Fund by \$3.5 billion, to the detriment of worthy and vital efforts such as youth suicide prevention, immunizations, and lead poisoning prevention.

While I have these reservations, I am pleased that the Congress is able to

support bipartisan reforms to our mental health system, as well as funding for medical research and the opioid response. I hope that we will be able to work on a bipartisan basis to ensure that these efforts continue to be funded over the next several years.

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I am pleased to rise to talk about the 21st Century Cures bill we have before us today.

At the beginning of this Congress, my good friend Senator ALEXANDER and I issued a report entitled *Innovation for Healthier Americans* in which we asked a simple, but critical, question: how can we do it better? Chairman ALEXANDER and I asked this question because we must do it better for our constituents and their loved ones who are battling devastating diseases—diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, and rare pediatric conditions—for which we have no treatments today, but hope that we will in time to help the courageous individuals with these diseases to win their fight. I commend Chairman ALEXANDER for his resolute focus on this critical work and for his leadership in bringing forward the bill we have before us today.

For decades, our Nation has led the world in medical innovation, but the challenges to maintaining this global edge have never been greater. We recognized that our Nation's biomedical discovery and development must work as well as possible to ensure that Americans are able to benefit from the most cutting-edge medical innovations in as timely a manner as possible. We are at a tremendously exciting era in medicine that will be defined by innovation. Innovation holds great potential. Our ability to respond to public health threats, including those that pose a direct threat to our national security, will in large part be defined by whether or not we embrace innovation. In other words, the stakes could not be greater and innovation will be the key to our success in these endeavors.

The bill before us today reflects a tremendous amount of bipartisan work and covers many areas of health care. I want to take just a few moments to highlight a handful of provisions on which I have partnered with my colleagues and that I believe answer the question of how we can do it better.

I am pleased that the final Cures bill includes the Advancing Targeted Therapies for Rare Diseases Act, legislation that will help advance the development of targeted drugs for patients with serious or life threatening rare genetic diseases. Each of us has met constituents facing a difficult diagnosis, and these cases are particularly devastating when the patient is a young child who should have a lifetime ahead of them, but for which we have no treatment to offer them. These are the patients who move us to bring an unapologetic urgency to our work on these issues. The choice between nothing and nothing is not a choice. And so I want to thank my colleagues, par-

ticularly Senator BENNET, Senator HATCH, and Senator WARREN, for their work on the Advancing Targeted Therapies for Rare Diseases Act. Developing drugs for rare diseases is particularly difficult, but as our genetic understanding of rare diseases increases, there will be new opportunities to pursue treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, and certain cancers, and these provisions will help to pave the way for these therapies to reach patients sooner. With these opportunities will come renewed hope for the children, adults, and families battling these conditions.

I am particularly pleased that the final Cures bill also includes the Advancing Breakthrough Devices for Patients Act. This legislation builds on the Advancing Breakthrough Therapies for Patients Act, which was enacted 4 years ago and has been very effective in helping to bring forward breakthrough therapies for patients. I want to thank Senator BENNET and Senator HATCH for their collaboration and partnership on these breakthrough bills. Like our 2012 bill, these provisions will ensure an all-hands-on-deck approach, this time for devices, with the goal of expediting the development and review of breakthrough technologies. These provisions are appropriately focused on what these technologies will mean for patients. In order to qualify for FDA designation as a breakthrough device, a device must provide more effective treatment or diagnosis of life-threatening or irreversibly debilitating diseases or conditions. These devices must represent breakthrough technologies, have no approved alternatives, offer significant advantages over existing approved alternatives, or their availability must be in the best interest of patients. These devices might be the next technology that better prepares us to respond to needs in a disaster or life-threatening situation or the innovation that improves the manner and quality of an individual's episode of care. In other words, bringing forward these breakthrough devices will improve health care.

The timely and predictable review of medical products is key to promoting and protecting the public health. The FDA Modernization Act I authored in 1997 sought to modernize the agency in a way that supported regulating in the least burdensome manner, while ensuring that innovative products would reach patients in as timely a manner as possible. The FDA Device Accountability Act's bipartisan provisions included in the final Cures bill build on these efforts. I want to thank Senator FRANKEN for his collaboration on this legislation, which will ensure that FDA eliminates unnecessary burdens when reviewing devices. It will also permit more efficient device clinical trials. In addition, the bill will require FDA to update guidance on certain tests performed in doctors' offices to ensure that the guidance on this matter aligns with the FDA Modernization Act's in-

tent that, if the results by trained and untrained users are comparable, a test is considered to be accurate for CLIA waiver purposes. If we are going to ensure devices are able to reach Americans in as timely a manner as possible, we need to focus on what is necessary to know to meet FDA's gold standard for approval. What might be nice to know is not necessarily central to what FDA needs to know to make regulatory decisions. These provisions will help provide needed regulatory certainty and focus when it comes to FDA's review of medical devices.

As we worked on the Cures bill this Congress, we have been reminded of the need to be prepared for the full range of public health threats that may present themselves, whether naturally occurring, like the Zika virus, or the result of a deliberate attack. I want to thank Senator CASEY for his partnership in making sure we are as prepared as possible for these threats. The final Cures bill includes provisions from our bipartisan bill, the Medical Countermeasures Innovation Act, which will encourage the development of the medical products needed to protect the American people in the event of a global pandemic or biological weapons attack. Cochairs of the Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense, Joe Lieberman and Tom Ridge, wrote that this legislation would further strengthen the underpinnings of biological preparedness by creating new incentives for public-private partnerships; clarifying and streamlining contracting processes at the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority; and ensuring that our Nation's health care providers have the guidance they need to use medical countermeasures in an emergency. The Alliance for Biosecurity has said that the medical countermeasure priority review voucher provided for in our legislation, and the final Cures bill, would be a game changer for investment in biodefense. Researching, developing, and getting a medical countermeasure across the approval finish line to market is a long, difficult, costly, and very risky but necessary endeavor. The priority review voucher for medical countermeasures will help to invigorate partnerships to ensure we have the medical countermeasures we need against the most serious identified threats—threats that have been found to affect our national security. We have heard that this program will benefit not only our civilian needs, but those of our Nation's warfighters, and, in doing so, better protect the American people. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure we fully leverage this provision, including ensuring that partners and innovators in this space have the certainty of knowing the Federal Government is committed to seeing this work through and not undercutting it by stopping our work on these fronts before we are fully prepared to protect the American people from these serious threats.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Senator CASEY for working with me in our annual efforts to advocate for the National Institutes of Health having the robust resources it needs to advance its lifesaving work. In addition to the funding increases the NIH has been provided through the appropriations process, this legislation will give NIH a meaningful booster shot in dedicated funding to enhance its work in promising areas.

While passage and enactment of this legislation is a significant step, it is by no means the last. I will continue to hold the NIH and FDA accountable for their work on behalf of America's patients, and I look forward to continuing to partner with my colleagues on these important issues. As I have said before, the day-to-day actions—and, in many cases, inaction—at the FDA has a profound effect on our Nation's patients. It also directly impacts our economy, as FDA-regulated products account for about 25 cents of every dollar spent by American consumers each year. The importance of holding the agency accountable for its actions and inactions—all the way from front-line reviewers to the Commissioner—has never been more important.

The former FDA Commissioner, Dr. Andy von Eschenbach, once wrote that government policy can either inhibit or accelerate the next revolution in science and technology. We must continue to advance and see through policies that spur, foster, and support the innovation and regulatory pathways necessary to realize cutting-edge treatments. Like the FDA Modernization Act in 1997, the bill before us today represents a remarkable opportunity—the opportunity to embrace innovation for healthier Americans. The director of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill summed it up well when he wrote to me and said that passage of this legislation will not only touch lives, it has the potential to save them. Therefore, it is my strong hope that the tools provided by this legislation will be leveraged and the medical products our constituents are counting on accelerated. This will be good for America's innovators, North Carolinians, and our Nation.

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

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, at 2 p.m., the Senate will move to a final passage vote on legislation we call 21st Century Cures. It has been called by the majority leader the most important piece of legislation the Congress is likely to act on this year.

The House of Representatives added to the bill a Mental Health Reform Act—actually three separate bills that Senator MURPHY, Senator CORNYN, and Senator CASSIDY worked on especially here, which is the most important reform of many mental health programs in more than a decade. It is very important to one out of five adult Americans who have a mental illness.

It caused me to think this: This is Pearl Harbor Day. Pearl Harbor Day is a day when we remember the terrifying attacks on the American military that killed more than 2,000 and launched us into World War II. We also remember it as a day that began to create and define what we now refer to as the “greatest generation”—the generation distinguished by the men and women of that era, the era of Bob Dole, George H.W. Bush, and men and women now in their nineties and late eighties. They were defined by being willing to work hard on behalf of the entire country, put their differences aside and work for the greater good; to recognize that our diversity is important, but what is more important is the fact that we are all Americans.

There have been some other times in our recent history when we have been reminded of that, and 9/11 is the most important of those. I remember how I felt after 9/11. I watched President George W. Bush speak, and I thought he spoke eloquently, as did Al Gore at that time, about the principles that unite us a country.

Celebrating our diversity is a good thing. Celebrating our oneness is more important, and it is harder work. What we are doing today is a more modest—much more modest—example of the same sort of spirit. I do not want to suggest that passing a bill in Congress equals going to war or running into a burning building in New York City after it has been attacked, but it is the same spirit. I don't have any apology for suggesting that. It is a spirit of facing up to a big issue, a complex issue that affects lots of people, about which there are lots of legitimate differences, and working hard to resolve those differences so that we are not celebrating those differences, we are celebrating the fact that we came together and—as we did in the House of Representatives last week 392 to 26 and as we did on Monday in the Senate with 85 votes in favor of 21st Century Cures—we moved toward a solution that we all can support.

Sometimes we govern by Executive order in Washington, and Executive orders can be repealed by any new administration. Sometimes we have partisan exercises, as we did with Obamacare 6 years ago, and we have been like the Hatfields and McCoys ever since, shooting each other until we forget what we are arguing about. We actually remember, but it makes it much more difficult than to come together and get a consensus.

Other examples are the civil rights bill of the 1960s, the Medicare bill, and

the bill last December that President Obama called a Christmas miracle when we fixed No Child Left Behind and came forward with a piece of legislation about which there was a consensus not just to fix it but on how to fix it, a consensus supported by Governors as well as teachers unions, classroom teachers as well as school boards. On that bill, there will not be a movement in Congress to repeal it because everybody voted for it. So those who are teaching in our classrooms in our 100,000 public schools and those who are working in State departments of education and the parents will know that for the foreseeable future, there is a consensus and stability about elementary and secondary education.

We hear every day that we have a fractured country, that we have so many differences of opinion, we can't operate. Well, there is one institution in the country that is an institution that is capable of leading the country toward consensus on important issues, and it is the U.S. Senate. Sometimes we are able to do that. We were able to do it last year. As the President said—he called it a Christmas miracle. We fixed No Child Left Behind. We are able to do it today on mental health legislation, which had to navigate its way through gun issues, funding issues, and a whole variety of other issues. We are doing it on 21st Century Cures, which, as I and the majority leader have said, is the most important piece of legislation we will act on.

It is pretty rare that we have legislation that the President of the United States says is an opportunity we just can't miss and the Vice President of the United States is telephoning Senators before they go into their caucus meetings to urge them to support it. At the same time, the Speaker of the House, a Republican, is saying: This is part of my agenda for the future of our country. And the majority leader is saying it is the most important bill we will act on.

It still wasn't easy to pass because we are dealing with a lot of life-and-death issues: How rapidly can we move treatments and cures through the Food and Drug Administration and make sure they are still safe or how slowly can we do it and run up the cost so high that nobody can afford these treatments? How long can we take so that everybody is dead by the time the medicine is ready? We don't want that to happen. Those were the issues we had.

What kind of incentives can we give to drug companies so they can tackle rare diseases in children like the ones at St. Jude whom we see from Mississippi, Tennessee, and across the country? They have rare cancers and other diseases. Nobody is making medicines for those diseases because there is no incentive in the marketplace for it, so we give some incentive in the marketplace for such things.

Electronic medical records have been a real burden to doctors. We spent 30

billion taxpayer dollars, and they were in a ditch. This legislation moves it out of the ditch.

Francis Collins, the distinguished head of the National Institutes of Health, says that in the next 10 years, we will be able hopefully to prevent Alzheimer's or to identify it before symptoms, an artificial pancreas for diabetes, a vaccine for HIV/AIDS, a vaccine for Zika and a universal vaccine for flu, which killed 30,000 last year. According to the Mayo Clinic, regenerative medicine is a game changer—using our own stem cells to restore eyesight or to restore our damaged hearts. There are provisions in this legislation to move that ahead. There is \$4.8 billion in funding for the National Institutes of Health. The bill includes the EUREKA Act, sponsored by the Senator from Mississippi, which is so important. The funding includes money for the President's Precision Medicine Initiative, for the Vice President's Cancer Moonshot, and for the BRAIN Initiative. There is an additional \$500 million for the FDA and \$1 billion for State grants over the next 2 years to fight opioid abuse.

As the President says, this is an opportunity we cannot miss. It is an opportunity we cannot miss and we are not going to miss. We are going to have this bill down to the President very shortly, and he will have an opportunity to be presented with another Christmas miracle.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD following my remarks today's editorial from the Wall Street Journal, which says:

Cures is a stride toward a more rational and humane drug development system, and legislation is about compromise. The bill could become a useful precedent for successful progress as the 115th Congress starts to take shape next year.

On Pearl Harbor Day when we celebrate the "greatest generation" and the contributions they made by remembering that while diversity is important, our oneness is more important, this is a much more modest example but a very important one of the same spirit, one that affects virtually every family in America.

I would like to extend my deep thanks and sincere appreciation to the dedicated staff who worked on the bill. We talk about that a lot here, but every one of us who is a Senator knows how crucial that is. We have worked for 2 years on the bill, numerous hearings, numerous discussions. It passed the House of Representatives twice. It came through our committee, the Senate HELP Committee, in the form of 19 different bipartisan bills. Every one of those bills, by the time it passed, was the largest number of recorded votes against each one of those 19 bills.

The staff did a tremendous job on that. I want to especially thank David Cleary, who is my chief of staff, and Evan Schatz, Senator MURRAY's chief on these issues, for the remarkable way they are able to work together with

both Senator MURRAY's staff and my staff.

On Senator MURRAY's staff, John Righter, Nick Bath, Andi Fristedt, Wade Ackerman, Remy Brim, Colin Goldfinch, Madeleine Pannell, Julia Tierney, Kalah Auchincloss—I thank them very much for their passion for the issue and their willingness to work toward a result.

On our staff, in addition to David, I thank Mary-Sumpter Lapinski, Lindsey Seidman, and Grace Stuntz, who did an enormous amount of work, as did Laura Pence. I thank Brett Meeks, Kara Townsend, Melissa Pfaff, Liz Wroe, Margaret Coulter, Curtis Vann, Kathryn Bell, Andrew Burnett, Bobby McMillin, Lowell Schiller, Jim Jeffries, Liz Wolgemuth, Margaret Atkinson, Taylor Haulsee, Alicia Hennie, and Jamie Garden.

We have had an unusual opportunity in this to work across the aisle with Chairman UPTON, Representative PALLONE, Representative DEGETTE, and others in the House of Representatives and their staffs. I want to especially thank Speaker RYAN and Senator MCCONNELL. Speaker RYAN did a triple somersault to try to find a funding mechanism that would satisfy both Democrats and Republicans, and Senator MCCONNELL made time on the floor for it. Not everyone is satisfied with the funding mechanism, but we are all voting for it because this is such an important bill.

On Chairman UPTON's staff, I would like to thank Gary Andres, Paul Edattel, John Stone, Carly McWilliams, Adrianna Simonelli, Katie Novaria, James Paluskiewicz, Josh Trent, and Clay Alspach.

On Ranking Member PALLONE's staff, I would like to thank Tiffany Guarascio, Kimberlee Trzeciak, Megan Velez, Waverly Gordon, and Arielle Woronoff.

I would like to thank the hard-working staff of our Senate HELP Committee members, who played important roles in reaching this agreement, including Liz Schwartz with Senator ENZI, Anna Abram and Angela Wiles with Senator BURR, Jordan Bartolomeo with Senator ISAKSON, Natalie Burkhalter with Senator PAUL, Olivia Kurtz and Amanda Lincoln with Senator COLLINS, Chelsea Holt with Senator MURKOWSKI, Cade Clurman and Andrew Vogt with Senator KIRK, Claire Brandewie with Senator SCOTT, Matthew Richardson and Stuart Portman with Senator HATCH, Emily Mueller with Senator ROBERTS, Robb Walton and Brenda Destro with Senator CASIDY, Jean Doyle with Senator MIKULSKI, Sophie Kasimow with Senator SANDERS, Sarah Mabry with Senator CASEY, Beth Wickler with Senator FRANKEN, Rohini Kosoglu with Senator BENNET, Jennifer DeAngelis with Senator WHITEHOUSE, Kathleen Laird with Senator BALDWIN, and Joe Dunn with Senator MURPHY, and Beth Pearson with Senator WARREN.

From the Senate Finance Committee, I would like to thank Kim

Brandt, Jennifer Kuskowski, Erin Dempsey, Brett Baker, Chris Campbell, and Jay Khosla.

I would also like to thank much of the hard-working staff from the White House and Department of Health and Human Services who provided great help in getting this bill completed.

From the White House, I would like to thank Chief of Staff Denis McDonough and Kate Mevis.

From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, I would like to thank Secretary Sylvia Burwell, NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, Dr. Kathy Hudson, FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf, Dr. Janet Woodcock, Dr. Jeffrey Shuren, Dr. Karen Desalvo, Acting SAMHSA Administrator Kana Enomoto, Sara Singleton, Jill Adleburg, Dayle Cristinzio, Jennifer Tomasello, Rachel Stauffer, Maren McBride, Karson Mahler, Lauren Higgins, Adrienne Hallett, Laura Berkson, Ned Culhane, Patricia Brandt-Hansberger, Dena Morris, Miranda Katsoyannis, Brian Payne, Brian Altman, and Peggie Rice.

We always rely on the experts at the Congressional Research Service to give us good information in a timely manner, so I extend my thanks to Andrew Nolan, Maeve Carey, and Wendy Ginsberg.

The Senate and House legislative counsel staff worked long hours on the many drafts of this bill, so I would like to extend my thanks to Bill Baird, Jessica Shapiro, Kim Tamber, Katie Grendon, Warren Burke, and Margaret Bomba.

From the Congressional Budget Office, I would like to thank Chad Chirico, Holly Harvey, and Ellen Werble.

On Senator MCCONNELL's staff, I would like to thank Scott Raab.

On Speaker RYAN's staff, I would like to thank Matt Hoffman.

Finally, I would like to thank all the patients, doctors, researchers, innovators, thought leaders, and experts who dedicated time and expertise to helping us come up with this legislation.

I see my colleague, the Senator from Washington, on the floor. I once again thank her for her strong leadership in helping create the environment where 21st Century Cures and the mental health legislation can succeed.

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

[From the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 6, 2016]

CONGRESS'S CURES BREAKTHROUGH

Medicine moves faster than government, thank goodness, but every now and again government tries to catch up. After years of thoughtful bipartisan work, Congress is now poised to pass the 21st Century Cures Act, a bill designed to accelerate the development of new medicines and modernize a malfunctioning corner of the regulatory state.

The sweeping measure cleared a Senate procedural vote 85-13 on Monday night and passed the House 392-96. These margins are testimony to renewed self-confidence in U.S. innovation and health-care progress, not

much expressed in Washington until recently. A few dead-enders like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren are denouncing Cures for its lack of pharmaceutical price controls, which might have become a reality had Hillary Clinton won on Nov. 8.

Cures includes a \$4.8 billion infusion for the National Institutes of Health for basic research. The bill funds the NIH's neurological program on diseases like Alzheimer's, Joe Biden's "cancer moonshot" and rare diseases, while one encouraging earmark is for "high risk, high reward" studies that might not be financed by the private economy.

By the way, these new dollars are roughly offset with budget cuts elsewhere, which exposes the liberal claims of crisis if every program doesn't last forever. Congress is supposed to set priorities.

Perhaps the most promising component of Cures is a new regulatory model for Food and Drug Administration approvals. The FDA remains fused to an outdated clinical model that is too slow, costly and arbitrary. The FDA was not designed to govern an era of genomics, biomarkers, systems biology, artificial intelligence and other advances, not that its own inadequacy has prevented it from trying.

Thus Cures encourages the FDA to supplement classical randomized clinical trials with more information, such as adaptive trial designs that target patient sub-groups who are more likely to benefit. This would allow research to succeed or fail faster at some fraction of the current expense. The agency is also ordered to consider "real-world evidence" in approvals outside of trials.

What the FDA calls "RWE" is controversial because the agency is preoccupied with "proving" how a medicine will perform. But modern trials are so tightly controlled that the results are often artificial, or irrelevant to how a medicine will be used and refined in actual medical practice. In any case, debates about drug approval are never about "proof," but how to interpret evidence of benefits and risks.

The main limitation of Cures is that the problems at FDA aren't due to a shortage of laws. They flow from the agency's institutional culture of control, delay and abuse of regulatory discretion. Cures requires the FDA merely "to evaluate the use of real-world evidence," and this wouldn't be the first political instruction that the bureaucracy has defied.

Still, Cures is a stride toward a more rational and humane drug development system, and legislation is about compromise. The bill could become a useful precedent for successful progress as the 115th Congress starts to take shape next year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of our colleagues in the House and the Senate who worked so hard to make this bill the best it could be for the patients and families we serve. In particular, I want to express my appreciation to Vice President BIDEN for his leadership, vision, and determination. I especially want to thank the chairman of the HELP Committee, Senator ALEXANDER, for his work and his leadership on this bill, as well as Energy and Commerce Chairman FRED UPTON, Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE, and Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude to our staff on both sides of the

aisle who put in very long hours and weekends and more to get this legislation finished.

As a result of a lot of strong bipartisan work, we are now sending a bill to the President's desk that will invest in tackling our hardest-to-treat diseases, put real dollars behind the fight against the opioid epidemic, and make badly needed changes to mental health care in our country. I am particularly thankful for the strong bipartisan work of Senator MURPHY and Senator CASSIDY, as well as Congressman MURPHY.

I am confident that I am not alone in saying that I have heard from so many people in my home State about each and every one of these challenges. There are patients and families waiting and hoping for new cures and treatments, people from every walk of life who make clear that the opioid epidemic has cost too many lives and torn too many families apart, and families who have struggled to get loved ones the mental health care they need, and our broken mental health care system got in their way, rather than helping.

I listened to these stories in my home State of Washington. I brought them back and told them here on the Senate floor, and now I am very proud to be taking bipartisan steps to help give patients, families, and communities the relief they need in response to some of the biggest challenges in health care of our time.

Thank you again to all of the Senators who worked on this and all of our colleagues in the House for this bipartisan effort.

I want to thank the Congressional staff from both Houses and both parties who worked so hard over the last 2 years on this legislation.

From my staff, Wade Ackerman, Kalah Auchincloss, Nick Bath, Jane Bigham, Remy Brim, Andi Fristedt, Colin Goldfinch, Megan Howard, Madeleine Pannell, Melanie Rainer, Julie Tierney, Elizabeth Wagner, Eli Zupnick, Helen Hare, Evan Schatz, John Righter, Aravind Sreenath, Natalie Kirilichin, and Kate Blizinsky.

From Chairman ALEXANDER's staff David Cleary, Margaret Coulter, MarySumpter Lapinski, Brett Meeks, Laura Pence, Melissa Pfaff, Kara Townshend, Curtis Vann, Lindsey Seidman and Elizabeth Wroe.

From Representative PALLONE's staff, Eric Flamm, Waverley Gordon, Tiffany Guarascio, Rachel Pryor, Kim Trzeciak, Arielle Woronoff, and Megan Velez.

From Chairman UPTON's staff, Paul Edattel, Adrianna Simonelli, John Stone, Carly McWilliams, JP Paluskiewicz, Adam Buckalew, Jay Gulshen and Josh Trent.

Thank you to the staff from all our committee Democrats who worked so hard on the package: from Senator MURPHY's staff, David Bonine and Joe Dunn; from Senator WHITEHOUSE's staff, Jen DeAngelis and Anna Esten; from Senator BALDWIN's staff, Kathleen

Laird and Jasmine Badreddine; from Senator CASEY's staff, Sara Mabry and Doug Hartman; from Senator FRANKEN's staff, Beth Wilder and Rachel Cumberbatch; from Senator BENNET's staff, Rohini Kosoglu and Rina Shah; from Senator MIKULSKI's staff, Jean Doyle, Jessica McNiece, and Amanda Shelton; from Leader REID's staff, Kate Leone and McKenzie Bennet; from Senator SCHUMER's staff, Veronica Duron; from Leader PELOSI's office, Wendell Primus; from Representative HOYER's office, Charlene MacDonald.

Thank you to the tireless staff of the Senate legislative counsel: Kim Tamber, Bill Baird, and Katie Grendon; and Holly Harvey, Ellen Werble and Julia Christensen of the Congressional Budget Office.

At the White House, let me thank Amy Rosebaum, Jeanne Lambrew, Carole Johnson, and Kate Mevis. Each of the agency heads played a crucial role in pushing this bill forward: Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell, National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf, Principal Deputy Administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Kana Enomoto, and National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Dr. Vindell Washington and his predecessor Dr. Karen DeSalvo. The staff of each of these agencies did invaluable work over a long period of time: Andrea Palm, Jim Esquea, Sara Singleton, Jeremy Sharp, Dayle Cristinzio, Rachel Sher, Sara Walinsky, Adrienne Hallett, Laura Berkson, Lauren Higgins, Alex Khalife, Rachel Stauffer, Maren McBride, Steven Posnack, Karson Mahler, Tom Coderre, Brian Altman, Brian Payne, Peggie Rice, and Jon White.

I thank Senator ALEXANDER, who has worked diligently across the aisle to get this done.

My sincere thanks to you today. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the Senator from Washington knows how much I appreciate her leadership and enjoy working with her, and I think we all respect the fact that she enjoys getting results that help the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 5117

Mr. ALEXANDER. I move to table the motion to concur with the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table.

The motion was agreed to.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 34.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

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

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 157 Leg.]
YEAS—94

Alexander	Fischer	Murray
Ayotte	Flake	Nelson
Baldwin	Franken	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Reed
Booker	Hatch	Reid
Boozman	Heinrich	Risch
Boxer	Heitkamp	Roberts
Brown	Heller	Rounds
Burr	Hirono	Rubio
Cantwell	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Schatz
Cardin	Isakson	Schumer
Carper	Johnson	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Sessions
Cassidy	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Cochran	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Corker	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	McCain
Crapo	McCain	Tillis
Cruz	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Vitter
Durbin	Mikulski	Warner
Enzi	Moran	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Feinstein	Murphy	

NAYS—5

Lee	Sanders	Wyden
Merkley	Warren	

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The motion was agreed to.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany S. 2943, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

Mitch McConnell, Deb Fischer, Thom Tillis, Daniel Coats, James M. Inhofe, John Hoeven, Cory Gardner, Orrin G. Hatch, Mark Kirk, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Mike Rounds, Lisa Murkowski, Dan Sullivan, John McCain.

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 conference

report accompanying S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 92, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 158 Leg.]
YEAS—92

Alexander	Feinstein	Murray
Ayotte	Fischer	Nelson
Baldwin	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Franken	Peters
Bennet	Gardner	Portman
Blumenthal	Graham	Reed
Blunt	Grassley	Reid
Booker	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heinrich	Roberts
Boxer	Heitkamp	Rounds
Brown	Heller	Rubio
Burr	Hirono	Sasse
Cantwell	Hoeven	Schatz
Capito	Inhofe	Schumer
Cardin	Isakson	Scott
Carper	Johnson	Sessions
Casey	Kaine	Shaheen
Cassidy	King	Shelby
Coats	Kirk	Stabenow
Cochran	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Collins	Lankford	Tester
Coons	Leahy	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Tillis
Cornyn	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Moran	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	

NAYS—7

Gillibrand	Merkley	Wyden
Lee	Paul	
Markey	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 92, the nays are 7.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the conference report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany S. 2943, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators who wish to speak in honor of the Presiding Officer be recognized in the following order for up to 4 minutes each: me, the majority leader Senator MCCONNELL, the minority leader Senator REID, Senator SCHUMER, Senator HATCH, Senator LEAHY, Senator MCCAIN, Senator DURBIN, Senator ISAKSON, Senator MURRAY, Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator COLLINS, Senator MIKULSKI, and Senator CARPER.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Delaware amend his request so that Senator MCCONNELL and I will use our leader time. That will not count against his hour.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Delaware.

TRIBUTES TO VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Mr. COONS. Mr. President—and it does bring me some joy to call you Mr. President. I am honored to be here today with so many of our colleagues, and I am grateful to Majority Leader MCCONNELL and Leader REID for their enthusiasm in pulling together this bipartisan tribute. I am honored to be joined by my senior Senator from Delaware, TOM CARPER, who will make closing remarks this afternoon.

Before I begin, I would like to remind my colleagues that there will be a reception for the Vice President in the Mansfield Room, after we conclude here, beginning sometime after 4. We have many Senators who wish to speak so we will move quickly through the order. I encourage my colleagues to submit their remarks for the RECORD, those who are not able to speak in the next hour. Their remarks will be combined with all the other remarks given on the floor, and the resulting speeches printed, bound, and presented to the Presiding Officer.

Mr. President, in a place known these days for some disagreements, my colleagues—our colleagues, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—are all here today because we agree on one powerful and simple thing: our deep gratitude for the difference you have made in your decades in public service.

The greatest honor of my life is to serve in the seat that you held for 36 years—and not just literally this seat in the Senate but also a seat on the 7:15 Amtrak train down from Wilmington

every morning. You logged over 2 million miles on Amtrak and millions more traveling around the world fighting for our country, and as long as I have the privilege of representing our State in the Senate, I will be humbled by the challenge of living up to your legacy of fighting for and making a real difference for the people of our shared home.

Like so many Americans, I have long been inspired by your loyalty to your family, and I am so glad to see so many familiar faces in the Gallery today. This job requires a strong partner and teammate, and to Dr. Biden, Jill, your unwavering support for your family, for Delaware, and your country is something for which we are all deeply grateful.

As a son of Delaware, and of Catherine Eugenia and Joe Senior, you have never forgotten from where you came or for whom you are fighting. Even as Vice President, our fellow Delawareans have the blessing of a surprise visit week in and week out, to see you at the Columbus Day breakfast or Return Day or St. Anthony's Procession.

Whether meeting personally with world leaders you have known for decades, whether chairing the Judiciary or Foreign Relations Committees or just stopping by a Claymont diner, there is universal agreement about what you have brought to this work—your passion, your heart, your character, and your integrity. That is because you genuinely listen to people, you ask them questions, and then you lift them up. We know that when you give us your word as a BIDEN, you mean it, and you will keep it.

Your service as a Senator stands as a model for all of our colleagues and for me. Through challenging times, you always worked across the aisle, through eight Presidents. You were willing to reach across to anyone willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work for the American people.

So many families across Delaware and this country and I, myself, as we have struggled with loss—maybe the loss of a job or loss of hope or the impending loss of a loved one—have experienced the incredible personal comfort and power of a call from you. When it comes to providing advice and inspiration that touches our hearts and makes a real difference, no one—no one—is better than you. We know you will share our challenges, you will give us meaningful comfort and encourage us, and you will fight for us.

As we look ahead to next year and beyond, I know you and Jill have so much more great and good work to do, starting with the fight to cure cancer through the Cancer Moonshot. This next chapter will be every bit as exciting and meaningful as the life of service you have led for 44 years. What an honor to see you in that chair earlier this week as the majority leader led the Senate in a unanimous vote to rename a title of the 21st Century Cures cancer initiative after Beau. That bill,

which we passed finally just an hour ago, would not have happened without your leadership.

Now, let me close with a line you know all too well, a line you shared countless times in this Chamber, sometimes from this very desk. As the Irish poet Seamus Heaney once wrote, "History says, don't hope on this side of the grave. But then, once in a lifetime, the longed-for tidal wave of justice can rise up, and hope and history rhyme."

No one, sir, no one has done more to make hope and history rhyme than you. Thank you, Mr. President, for your service, your counsel, your advice, your friendship, and your leadership.

It is now my pleasure to yield to the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL of Kentucky, who has been so generous with floor time and support this afternoon.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is great to see the Presiding Officer back in the Senate. It is good news for everyone he is in the chair. Good news for him because, as Senator COONS said, the rest of us have to call him "Mr. President." Good news for the rest of us because he has to let everyone else talk.

The amazing thing is, the man we honor today wasn't always a talker. He suffered from a debilitating stutter for most of his childhood. He was teased for it, but he was determined to overcome it, and so he did—with hard work, with determination, with the support of his family. It is classic JOE BIDEN. He has never stopped talking since.

He cites overcoming that stutter as one of the most important lessons in his life. It led him down a path few might have foreseen: winning election to the county council, securing an improbable victory for the U.S. Senate, becoming our Nation's 47th Vice President.

Now, the Presiding Officer would be the first to tell you that he has been blessed in many ways. He has also been tested, knocked down, pushed to the edge of what anyone could be expected to bear, but from the grip of unknowable despair came a new man—a better man: stronger and more compassionate, grateful for every moment, appreciative of what really matters.

Here in the Senate he heeded the advice of Mike Mansfield. Here is what Senator Mansfield had to say:

Your job here is to find the good things in your colleagues. And, Joe, never attack another man's motive, because you don't know his motive.

Look for the good. Don't attack motives. It is the basis of a simple philosophy and a very powerful one.

Vice President BIDEN says he views his competitors as competitors, not enemies, and he has been able to cultivate many unlikely friendships across the aisle—with Jesse Helms, with Strom Thurmond, with me.

Over the years, we have worked together on issues of mutual interest,

like Burma—and regarding the vote we just took a few moments ago—21st Century Cures, and the Cancer Moonshot.

We have also negotiated in good faith when the country needed bipartisan leadership. We got results that would not have been possible without a negotiating partner like JOE BIDEN. Obviously, I don't always agree with him, but I do trust him implicitly. He doesn't break his word. He doesn't waste time telling me why I am wrong. He gets down to brass tacks, and he keeps in sight the stakes. There is a reason "Get JOE on the phone" is shorthand for "time to get serious" in my office.

The Vice President is a likeable guy too. He has a well-developed sense of humor. He doesn't take himself too seriously either. When The Onion ran a mock photo of him washing a Trans-Am in the White House driveway, shirtless, Americans embraced it, and so did he. "I think it's hilarious," he said, but "by the way, I have a Corvette—'67 Corvette—not a Trans-Am." So you see what I mean.

JOE BIDEN may exist in the popular imagination aboard an Amtrak, but this son of a used car salesman will always be a muscle guy at heart.

And what a road he has traveled, from New Castle to the Naval Observatory, from Scranton to the Senate. His journey in this body began by the side of those who loved him; hand on the Bible, heart in a knot, swearing the same oath he now administers to others. It is a journey that ends now by the side of those who care about him still—those like his wife Jill, who understands the full life he has lived.

Here is a man who has known great joy, who has been read his last rites, and who has never lost himself along the way.

"Champ," his father used to say, "the measure of a man is not how often he is knocked down, but how quickly he gets up." That is JOE BIDEN right there—unbowed, unbroken, and unable to stop talking.

It is my privilege to convey the Senate's warm wishes to the Vice President on this Delaware Day as the next steps of his long journey come into view. There are many here who feel this way in both parties.

I am reminded of something the Presiding Officer said when he addressed the University of Louisville several years ago. It was one of the McConnell Center's most popular lectures ever. And as I sat beside him, he offered his theory as to why that might be: I think you're all here today—remember, these are young people, students. He said: I think you are all here today because "you want to see whether or not a Republican and Democrat really like each other," he said. "Well," he continued, flashing a smile, "I'm here to tell you we do." It was true then, and it is true today.

I hope the Presiding Officer won't mind if I conclude with some words directed to the Chair.

Mr. President, you have been a real friend, you have been a trusted partner, and it has been an honor to serve with you. We are all going to miss you. Godspeed.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The minor-league leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, to everyone listening, JOE BIDEN's life has been the material of which movies are made.

JOE was born in Scranton, PA, to Joe and Jean Biden, the first of four children. As a young man, as we have heard about today—once in a while, though not very often, Senator BIDEN talks about his stammering. He didn't get any professional help, no therapy. He did it on his own, long hours of reading, mostly poetry. He would stand in front of a mirror and recite poetry time after time after time, watching himself to make sure he didn't contort his face when he stammered or stuttered. This wasn't easy for a young man. People made fun of him, but he knew he could do it on his own. He felt that, and he did it. He worked hard. He developed a rhythm and a cadence of speaking that helped him overcome his stammer to become one of the United States Senate's all-time great orators, without any qualification.

JOE was an outstanding high school running back and wide receiver. His coach said he had never seen anyone with such hands. His coach saw in JOE what we all see, a hard worker who refuses to fail. His coach said:

Joe was a skinny kid. But he was one of the best pass receivers I had in 16 years as a coach.

In college, JOE continued to display his athletic prowess, playing football for the University of Delaware.

This is quite a story. During spring break, his junior year—JOE and I were traveling from Indianapolis to Reno, NV, and he talked to me about this, just the two of us. I will never forget that conversation. He and one of his college buddies had gotten a tax return, and they were going to take a little vacation away from the cold of Delaware. They went to Florida. Frankly, they didn't like it. They had a few dollars left over from their tax returns, and I believe they went to the Bahamas. They got an inexpensive hotel. I was going to say "cheap," but I will say "inexpensive" hotel.

Right next to them was an exclusive hotel, and they noticed when the people came out of the fancy hotel off that private beach, many times they would lay their towels on the fence. JOE and his pal said: Well, those towels aren't even wet. They went down to that private beach, and it was there that he met a young woman by the name of Neilia, Neilia Hunter. I am sure that, just like Jill, she must have been a knockout to look at. She went to the University of Syracuse. She was on the dean's list. She had been homecoming queen.

That was the beginning of the relationship that they had. JOE had been smitten. After graduating from the

University of Delaware, he enrolled in law school in Syracuse to be closer to her.

The story of his and Neilia's relationship is stunning. I repeat, it was something that movies are made of. Without being too personal, I will say it the way it is because it is a wonderful story, and I can identify with it so well because of Landra and me. There came a time when her father came to her and said: You know, he is not that much. He comes from a family that is not like ours. And she said: Dad, stop. If you make me choose between you and JOE, I am going to choose JOE.

So that was that relationship. I repeat, Landra and I understand that story quite well. They were married a short time later. They had three children, Beau, Hunter, and Naomi.

After starting his law practice and serving as city councilman in New Castle, DE, JOE stunned and embarrassed a few of his friends and relatives by saying he was going to run for the Senate.

You will run for the Senate against a two-term incumbent, Caleb Boggs?

I think I can do it.

I am sure he said to himself: A lot of people said I couldn't overcome certain things, and I did, and I am going to do my best to overcome this race I am in. I am starting way behind.

JOE and his family went at this as hard as they could. They canvassed the entire State. They pulled off an incredible upset. JOE Biden was elected to the U.S. Senate. In every respect, JOE's life has been unique. It has been special. His election to the Senate was no different.

The great Constitution that leads this Nation stipulates that the person must be 30 years old to be elected to the Senate. JOE was 29 on election day. He turned 30 2 weeks after the election. Just a few weeks later, tragedy struck and struck really hard. Neilia and their three children were in a terrible car accident just days before Christmas. He had not been sworn in as a Senator yet.

His wife was killed, their baby girl was killed, and Beau and Hunter were grievously injured—hospitalized, of course. To say JOE was grief-stricken is an understatement. How can you describe how he felt? I am sure, as I have heard, he didn't know what to do. He had two boys to raise. He wasn't a man of great means. He strongly considered: I shouldn't be sworn in to the Senate; I can't do this.

He had friends, people who didn't know him who were Senators, who treated him as fathers. Without the help of Valerie, his sister, JOE BIDEN's life may have been completely different because with the support he got from her, the encouragement he got from Democratic and Republican Senators, and the fact that she moved in, took care of Beau and Hunter to replace their mom—she was there for 4 years helping with those boys.

JOE is a remarkable man. When I was in the House of Representatives, he agreed to come to the house in Nevada

for me. It was a big deal to get this senior Senator to come to Nevada. He came. Every place he traveled, he had one of his boys with him.

With the support of his sister and other members of his family, JOE embarked on a long, storied, 36-year career that was productive and unsurpassed in the history of the Senate.

That was not the end of JOE's difficulties. JOE is, as you can see now, a very well-conditioned man. He always has been. As a Senator, he suffered a massive bleed on the brain, and he was hospitalized for a long time. He didn't come to the Senate for a long time. When I got hurt, one of the first people to call me was JOE. He said: Look, the fact you are going to be missing a little time in the Senate doesn't mean you can't be a good Senator. That was the example that JOE BIDEN set.

He recovered, and he became chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Foreign Relations chair, author of many pieces of legislation—Violence Against Women—too numerous to mention.

In a love story unsurpassed, he also met a woman who has been by his side for 40 years, Jill Biden. It is an incredible love story. JOE says it was love at first sight. It was the same for his boys. JOE remembers the day that Beau and Hunter came to him with the recommendation: "Daddy, we were talking and we think we should marry Jill," not he should marry Jill. "We should marry Jill," a direct quote.

JOE and Jill were married, and before long, Beau and Hunter had a new sister, Ashley, and a new mom. There is not a family that I know of who is any closer, more tight-knit than the Bidens. JOE BIDEN loves his family above all else. He is a good Senator, a terrific Vice President, but he is a family man.

For the last 8 years as Vice President, he has traveled the world, meeting with dignitaries in trouble spots on behalf of this country, oftentimes at the direction of President Obama. He has done it with dignity—more than a million miles.

As we have heard from the junior Senator from Delaware, that pales in comparison to the miles he has traveled on Amtrak. He has traveled more than 2 million miles on Amtrak. He took the train home every night to Delaware. If we worked late, he would go to a hotel here. If it had been necessary, he would have gone more than 2 million miles to take care of his boys and to be with Jill.

Vice President BIDEN's time serving at President Obama's side has been historic. He has been the President's rock, his confidant, and his friend. I have been told that not by JOE BIDEN but by the President. JOE has had a stellar career as Vice President of our great country. He has used his skills and his experience to help shape American diplomacy.

Vice President BIDEN is helping lead the quest for a cure for cancer. His

Moonshot initiative is the most ambitious plan ever to accelerate cancer research. I say, through the Chair, to my friend LAMAR ALEXANDER, that this would not have happened but for the good man from Tennessee.

We know that JOE and Jill know firsthand the pain and heartache caused by cancer and the toll it takes on families. Tragically, just last year, Beau was diagnosed with terminal cancer, which took his life. He was somebody I knew well. He was an Iraq veteran. He didn't have to go to Iraq, but he did. He was attorney general of the State of Delaware.

Beau was a light to everyone who knew him but especially to his family. Beau's passing broke JOE's, Hunter's, and Jill's hearts and, of course, their sister's. As with all the other heart-breaking challenges and setbacks, JOE BIDEN continues his life's work. He is still the same kid that his coach praised. His No. 1 asset is that he works hard; he does the best he can.

JOE BIDEN continues to serve his country, and he will continue after January 20. He continues to do what is right. And above all, he continues to love and take care of his family.

I have been gratified to call Senator BIDEN a man of the Senate, Senator BIDEN, Vice President BIDEN, JOE. He is an awe-inspiring man, so Steven Spielberg, Hollywood, you should be listening. JOE BIDEN's life is that which movies are made of.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is such a pleasure and honor to rise to recognize a great son of Scranton—sitting next to me, another son of Scranton—a grandson of Ireland—sitting in this Chamber are many grandchildren of Ireland—and a Syracuse University graduate. How many others in the room can say that? More importantly than any of those, he is one of the most dedicated public servants, one of the most successful public servants I have ever had the pleasure to serve with during my time in Washington.

Everyone knows JOE is proud of his ancestry. His ancestors came from Ireland, as many millions have. He is deeply proud of being an Irish-American. Like so many others from the Emerald Isle, our Vice President inherited the gift of gab, and thank God for that because he has used his booming voice to speak out on so many issues.

We have only a little time today. I know my colleagues are eager to speak, so I will just focus on one of the issues that Senator BIDEN led the charge on and changed America. I worked with him on the Assault Weapons Ban and the Brady law when he was a Senator and I was Congressman and we were each head of the crime committees. But maybe the thing he was proudest of was the Violence Against Women Act. It sounds like a different world, but a few years ago, a few decades ago, rape and domestic violence and abuse

were considered in many ways lesser crimes—crimes in which the victim was as much at fault as the perpetrator. It was disgraceful. If you were beaten, abused, sexually assaulted, you faced a hostile, skeptical criminal justice system. That got at JOE BIDEN and his sense of justice, so he exploded the myths behind domestic violence.

I remember hearing the speeches against sexual abuse and put together the strongest ever violence against women law on the books. Not only did the law make women safer; it made men better. It moved our society forward.

Our work on these issues is not nearly over, but I am certain there are literally millions of women who have avoided pain and suffering—both physical and mental—because of the courage, the steadfastness, and the legislative brilliance of the then-senior Senator from the great State of Delaware.

I could go on and on and almost write a book on accomplishments like that where JOE almost singlehandedly changed the world. He was also a great friend and leader to so many of us.

I will conclude with one little story. I was elected to the Senate after 18 years in the House, and an issue I wanted to get going on was college affordability. I had run for the Senate on the promise of making college tuition tax deductible. So I get to the Senate, introduce my bill, make my speech, and get ready to lead the way on what I thought was my issue. We have all experienced this. A call comes into my office from JOE's chief of staff. Of course I spoke to him. "Mr. Biden has been working on this issue for 10 years. Go work on something else." That was the nice version. Naturally, me and my brandnew office were in a panic. I was chastened. I didn't know what to do. I am sitting on the floor and feeling really forlorn. Why did I even come here? I was a senior Member of the House. I feel an arm on my shoulder, and I look up. There is the revered and exalted Senator JOE BIDEN. He says to me: I understand you have your college tuition tax deduction bill. Go ahead, take the issue. I know what it is like for new Senators to carve their own path.

How many times can any freshman say any senior Senator has said that to them? They can't because he is unique. Not only is he a towering figure and superb man, but he has a good heart and looks out for the Members of this body. He always has, does to this day, and always will because I know in JOE's heart, with all of his accomplishments, he is still a Senator—our Senator.

Mr. President, I say to Mr. Vice President, thank you. Thank you for your heart and passion, thank you for bringing every ounce of yourself to public service, and thank you for that lesson of humility and leadership you taught me when I first came to this Chamber.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to rise and talk about our friendship and what you have done for this country.

I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, distinguished leader, and dear friend, Vice President JOE BIDEN.

For more than three decades, I had the distinct privilege of serving alongside JOE in the U.S. Senate. As anyone who worked closely with JOE can tell you, he was no ordinary Senator. He had boundless energy and undeniable charm. He paired an unmatched work ethic with a disarming smile that dared you not to smile back. JOE's innate ability to befriend anyone—and I mean anyone, including his fiercest political opponents—was critical to his success as a legislator. His genuine sincerity endeared him to all, and his gregariousness transcended partisan boundaries.

Even in the most polarizing debates, JOE never let politics stand in the way of friendship. One minute JOE could be scolding you from the Senate floor, and the next minute he could be hugging you in the hallway, cracking jokes and asking about your grandkids. I am, of course, speaking from plenty of personal experience. It is no secret that JOE and I often found ourselves on opposite sides of almost every major issue—that is not quite true. We agreed on a lot of things. In countless legislative battles, JOE proved himself to be a worthy political opponent and an able sparring partner. Whether on the Senate floor or in the Judiciary Committee hearing room, JOE and I locked horns on a number of occasions, sometimes on a daily basis. Indeed, we were at odds about as often as we were on C-SPAN.

At the end of the day, I couldn't help but admire the man. You see, JOE BIDEN was beloved by everyone in this Chamber, even those he drove crazy from time to time, and I count myself among that group. Through his ability to forge friendship even amid conflict, he embodies the ethos of a noble generation of legislators—a generation that embraced the virtues of comity and compromise above all else. I believe this body—indeed, this Nation—could learn from JOE's example of kindness, courtesy, and compassion.

For 17 years, then-Senator BIDEN served as chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, overseeing some of the most significant court appointments of our time. Chairing the Senate Judiciary Committee is no easy task. I know because I have been there. The committee boasts some of the biggest egos on this side of the Potomac—or this side of the Milky Way, for that matter. It takes a certain kind of political genius to navigate the assertive personalities and lofty ambitions of its members, but JOE was more than up to the task. As both chairman and ranking member, he was tough and tenacious but also decent and fair. Through his trademark

work ethic, he won the respect of every member of that committee.

JOE also served admirably as the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee. In this capacity, he played an indispensable role in shaping American foreign policy. When President Obama tapped JOE to be his Vice President, the Senate lost a seasoned statesman, but our Nation gained a wise and capable leader with unparalleled experience in public affairs.

JOE was the administration's bridge to Congress, often serving as an intermediary between the President and legislators. On more than one occasion, his close relationship with lawmakers and his deft negotiating skills helped our Nation to overcome some of its greatest obstacles. He was the President's trusted emissary and an invaluable asset in helping Congress resolve the fiscal cliff dilemma in late 2012—something I wasn't sure we could resolve. He was also a brilliant ambassador for our country, leveraging his foreign policy expertise in meetings with leaders across the world.

I am deeply grateful for my friend JOE BIDEN. I have long admired his devotion to his family, as well as his grace amid suffering, and he did suffer, and I know it. I was here. Having experienced tremendous loss in his family life, he draws from a rich reservoir of empathy to connect with everyday Americans. Ask anyone Vice President BIDEN has served: When you speak, JOE listens. He loves, and he cares. He is perhaps the most personable public figure in American politics today.

In the nearly 8 years he has served as Vice President, JOE BIDEN has become a fixture of American public life. Today, I wish to join my colleagues in thanking Vice President JOE BIDEN for his dedication to the American people. Although his tenure as Vice President is drawing to a close, I am confident that his service to our Nation will only continue. This is said by a Republican who loves JOE BIDEN and believes he is one of the truly great people who served here in this body.

I just want JOE BIDEN to know that we all respect him, and I think most all of us love him. Those of us who have worked with him really appreciated how he would from time to time put his arm around us, put politics aside, and speak the truth.

JOE BIDEN is a wonderful man. I wish him the absolute best as we go into the future, and I will be there to help if he needs it.

God bless JOE BIDEN.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I enjoy calling you by that title. I hope you do, too—because you know that you could easily hold that title as President of this body or President of the United States—you have shown your qualifications for either one.

But let me speak about your role as President of the Senate. It makes you

a Member of this body, a body that can be, and on some occasions has been, the conscience of the Nation. You have served longer in this body than any other member here. The fact is you came here 2 years before I did, so as the other longest serving member, I look at you as my senior Senator, and I am delighted to be your junior.

I think back to some of the things we did together, Mr. President. I remember when I was running for the Senate in Vermont in 1974, and people told me I was far too young to get elected to the Senate at 34 years old. My predecessor was somebody who had been elected here when I was born and served there until I arrived. You put your arm around me and you said, it would be nice to have an older person that I could look up to. I believe you were 32, and I was 34. But that helped.

Of course, little did I know until I came here how closely we would work together. We served on the Judiciary Committee throughout that time. We worked on such duties as Supreme Court nominations, civil rights, and the criminal justice system. Then, when you were chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and bringing the rest of the world American values—which happened to be JOE BIDEN values—how I enjoyed traveling with you.

I think of the time, Mr. President, when you and I, and our wives, Jill and Marcelle traveled together. We had been good friends throughout all of that time. I will take the liberty of telling one story. When the four of us were in Paris, we had gone out to dinner. It was a cold, winter night. We were coming back. I think Marcelle mentioned that the Eiffel Tower lights up on the hour. You and Jill stood on a bench and were hugging each other, the Eiffel Tower behind you. I snapped a picture. Now, we had a close friendship. We never lied to each other, but that was one time I lied to you because you asked me, "Where is the picture?" I said, I think I lost it. I apologize. We were conspiring to print out that picture, and I know your wonderful wife gave it to you for a wedding anniversary present with words to the effect that you "light up her life."

Well, you lit up many, many lives. I think of our Irish bond of friendship, stories I can't tell. Some of those closed-door sessions with other Irish-Americans, such as Pat Moynihan, Chris Dodd, and Ted Kennedy, when we would have some holy water together. Somehow it came from Ireland. It was usually at least 12 years old. And we would tell Irish stories. And after 42 years here, I know the rules well enough, I can't repeat any of those stories here. But they were good ones because it was a friendship and we worked together. We learned how to bring in others from both parties.

And, Mr. President, I remember you and others showing all of us how to find common ground, and we did things together. And I respect you so much

for that. I must admit, I learned something else on the Judiciary Committee. I learned the Amtrak schedule because, if we had a meeting that was going on a little bit long, we were reminded what time the train was going to Delaware. I know you kept in good shape because you could run to the station in 3 minutes and get on the train, where you would go home to Beau and Hunter and, later, Jill and Ashley—because even though you were a leader in the United States Senate, and later Vice President, you were, first and foremost, a father and a husband.

You and I and Marcelle talked about that this summer, when you came to Vermont for the Cancer Moonshot. I told you what an important part of our lives you have been. You have gone through tragedy and glory, but you have remained yourself throughout all of it.

And the memories of those evenings when you let this Irish-Italian boy come in and sit as a member of the Irish—we would speak of our values, we would speak of America, we would speak of friendship. That is why I admire you, Mr. President, and I am glad to be here on the floor with you.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today in addressing a few thoughts directly to the occupant of the chair, to commend his long and honorable service to the United States and to thank him for his friendship. Mr. President—I know how much you enjoy my calling you Mr. President—you and I have served together in this body for three decades. We have been friends for almost 40 years, since I was the Navy Senate liaison and used to carry your bags on overseas trips.

I joked recently that I resented it ever since. But that was part of my job description—escorting and handling logistics for Senate codels, including making certain everyone's luggage arrived at our destinations. Back then, some Senators, unlike the 100 egalitarians who occupy the Senate today, could be a little haughty and high-handed. A few held an exalted opinion of themselves that exceeded the esteem with which their colleagues and constituents held them in. If they paid any attention to staff, it was only because we had annoyed them somehow.

But not my friend JOE BIDEN—he was fair and courteous to everyone, even people who did not always deserve it. He is always an example of how a powerful person with character and class treats anyone in a subordinate position. He treats them with humility, as God's children, with dignity equal to his own.

In the book "The Nightingale's Song," the late journalist Bob Timberg wrote about one military liaison officer, escorting a codel to Athens, who joined some of the Members in a tavern for a little after-hours merriment and

was later observed dancing on a table-top with Senator BIDEN's lovely wife, Jill.

I don't recall witnessing such an event myself, and I can't testify to it having actually happened. Neither can I imagine the temerity of that rascal, whoever he was. He was lucky the Senator whose spouse he made endure awkward moves he euphemistically called "dancing" was JOE BIDEN. Few other Senators would have seen the humor in it.

Many years have passed since we shared those adventures, and many events have transpired, personal and public, that enriched our lives with the rewards and disappointments, blessings and challenges. We were still young when we came to the Senate. We are old men now. Although you can't tell from looking at us, the Vice President is actually a little younger than me, though we both passed the Biblical threescore and ten.

This place, the Senate, has been central to both of our lives. Here we work together on our country's challenges. Here we fought and argued over the country's direction. Here we compromised and joined forces to serve the public interest. Here we watched history made and made our small contributions to it. Neither of us is the shy and retiring type. We both have been known to hold a strong opinion or two. When circumstances warrant, we would rather make our points emphatically than elliptically. I know that JOE appreciates the adage that I have tried to follow in my public life: a fight not joined is a fight not enjoyed.

When we have had differences of opinions over the years, we have managed to make our positions crystal clear to each other, perhaps in the persistent triumph of hope over experience. We both still cling to the expectation that we can persuade the other that he is mistaken. I think deep down we probably know better.

In addition to being regularly mistaken, here is what I have also known about my friend and occasionally sparring partner. He is a good and decent man, God-fearing and kind, a devoted father and husband, a genuine patriot who puts our country before himself. I know, too, that it has been a great privilege to call him my friend.

Mr. President, if I haven't made clear to you over these many years how much I appreciated your friendship and have admired you, I beg your forgiveness. We both have been privileged to know Members of this body who were legends in their own time and are remembered as important historical figures. But I haven't known one who was a better man than you. You are an exemplary public servant, a credit to your family, to the Senate, and to the country.

On behalf of the country and the Senate, thank you for your lifetime service to America. Thank you for your example of how to represent your constituents with honor and humility and how

to remain the same good guy that you were when you first got here. Thank you, most of all, for your friendship. My life and the lives of many have been enriched by it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there is a story about an Irishman walking down the street. He passes two guys who are fighting. He asks them: Is this a private fight or can anybody get into it?

Well, you know a little bit about that; don't you, Mr. Vice President? For 40 years or more, you have always been ready to fight for those who needed a champion and never walked away from a good fight for a good cause. Your public career has been marked by so many amazing victories but also by unbearable losses and sorrows. You have had joys and passions, determinations and immense accomplishments.

The list of your legislative achievements has been recounted on the floor today. One of them I am sure you are most proud of is the Violence Against Women Act. You made a big difference in the lives of so many people whom you will never meet, in protecting them and giving them hope in a hopeless circumstance.

Between 1993, when your bill was passed, and 2010, the rate of violence against intimate partners—almost all women—declined by 67 percent in the United States. We often wonder here, when bills we take to law are passed and signed by the President, whether they can make a difference. We know that your unsparing effort when it came to violence against women made a significant difference.

I had that in mind 9 years ago when I was riding around Florida in a recreational vehicle. It was with my fellow Senator from Illinois by the name of Barack Obama. He was running for President, and we were in the back of this RV as he was cruising through Florida. We were talking about potential running mates, someone who could be his Vice President.

We went through a short list. We came to your name, and I said to the soon-to-be President, then Senator and my colleague: You couldn't pick a better choice than JOE BIDEN. I know him as a person. I know him as a fellow Senator. I know his heart. You would be blessed to have him on your team.

He made that choice, even though at the beginning, I am sure both of you wondered: Is this going to work? It did. It did for your purpose and for his and for America's. I am reminded of that famous poet Seamus Heaney. He wrote:

History says, Don't hope
On this side of the grave,
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed-for tidal wave
Justice can rise up,
And hope and history rhyme.

Obama-Biden—hope and history certainly did rhyme. The things that you have been able to achieve with this

President have made a difference in America to millions of lives. Whether we are talking about coming out of a recession where we were losing 800,000 jobs a month, making sure that Wall Street didn't make the same mistakes again at the expense of businesses and families across America, or making sure that some father did not face the heartbreak of a sick child with no health insurance. You made a difference in their lives.

Just this week, there is the Cancer Moonshot. Who knows, Mr. Vice President, what will happen as a result of that investment in your son's name. But I sense that something good is going to happen for a lot of people around this country. I am glad that the BIDEN name is closely associated with it.

Mr. President, there is an old story—a joke—about the Pope. The story goes that the day came when he said to his driver: You know, I haven't had a chance to drive the car in a long time. Why don't you sit in the back and I'll drive.

The story goes that the Pope started driving the car and started speeding and got pulled over. This policeman looked inside the car, then looked out again, and looked back and said: Excuse me. He got on his cell phone and he called the police station. He said: I have an extraordinary circumstance here. I have just pulled over a car with someone very important in it.

They said: Well, who is it?

He said: I don't know who he is, but he has the Pope for a driver.

The reason I remember that story is that one time I was on Air Force Two with Vice President JOE BIDEN. We flew you home to Delaware. I was going to catch an Amtrak train at Wilmington, and I asked you to drop me off.

You said: No, I'm going to take you up to the train.

So we get up to the train, and the train is pulling in the station. You look at what I have for a ticket and you said: That ticket is not good. You need a real ticket. I will get it for you.

You grabbed it and took off running, with the Secret Service trailing behind you as the train pulled into the station. I am thinking: Am I going to make this train? Is he going to make it back? You came running up the steps with the Secret Service trailing behind you while the train was stopped. All of these passengers were looking as the Vice President of the United States ran up to me, handed me a ticket, and said: Go ahead and get on the train.

Now, the people on the train had no idea who I was, but they knew if the Vice President was carrying my ticket, I must be somebody important.

Let me say one personal word. You and your wife Jill really embody what I consider to be the best of public life—not only your commitment to people who are less fortunate around the world but your genuine sense of caring and your good heart, both of you. I recall when my colleague Marty Russo of

Illinois had a son who was sick with cancer. There was one person who called every day to make sure that he was doing well.

Well, that is the way you not only build a friendship but you build a reputation as not just a glad-handing politician but someone who really, really cares. I have been honored to count you as a friend. I am honored that the President whom I love chose you as his Vice President. I am honored that we have served in the Senate together and that I can tell my kids and grandkids. I wish you the best whatever life brings you next.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a person who has had a tremendous impact on my life and my career in the Senate and also a tremendous impact on my country, the United States of America. I still remember to this day the date and time MITCH MCCONNELL called me in 2007 and said: Hey, we have an opening for a Republican on Foreign Relations and nobody will take it. Will you take it?

I did not know if that was a benefit—a perk or whoever—but I said: Anytime you are offered a gift, don't look a gift horse in the face. So I did it.

Two days later, JOE BIDEN saw me at the committee and said: I am glad you joined our committee. I am glad to have you. I have an opening on the Africa Subcommittee. I can't get a Republican to take it. Will you do it?

I said: Mr. BIDEN, I have never been to Africa.

He said: Well, you will soon. How about taking it?

I did. I have been to Africa 12 times since. It has become a passion in my career, and I give Vice President BIDEN a lot of credit for the influence he had on that. I also remember the day when the mock swearing-in took place down on the second floor, and I had my nine grandchildren here to watch me being sworn into the Senate.

At the mock signing ceremony, JOE stood there, and we all raised our hand, and we repeated the ceremony that we had done on the floor. Then JOE greeted each one of my grandchildren one by one as they walked by. When little Jack, who was then 7 years old, stopped, JOE BIDEN said: Jack, what do you like about the Capitol?

Jack said: Well, Mr. Vice President, there is no Lego store.

JOE BIDEN said: The next time you come here, there will be one.

I want to tell the Vice President that he is coming on January 2 to see me sworn in again. I have already bought the Lego box. It is on the desk in my hideaway, and I am going to tell him that Vice President JOE made sure he had Legos when he came back to the Capitol. You know the real character of a man and the real credit to a man is what influence he has on children. I can tell you from that story, it is just one of many that JOE BIDEN has had.

On me, personally, I will never forget the day JOE BIDEN called me as Vice

President of the United States and said: JOHNNY, I have got the mayor of Baltimore and the mayor of Philadelphia going with me to Panama City next week to look at the deepening of the Panama Canal. I know Savannah's port is important to you. I know you have been fighting with us to get the authorization you need to deepen the Port of Savannah. How about flying with me down there and let's take a look at it and let's do a press conference together. And I did and he did and we did, and today the Port of Savannah is being deepened to 47 feet. Panamax ships will be sailing through it in 4 more years. I am convinced it would not have happened at the level of the administration had it not been for JOE BIDEN, the Vice President of the United States but more importantly my friend.

JOE, I don't have the words to adequately tell you how much I appreciate you as a person and as a leader, but there is a little poem I know that says more about what you really are than anything I could say.

I'd rather see a sermon
Than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me
Than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil
And more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing
But example's always clear;
And the best of all preachers
Are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action
Is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it
If you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action,
But your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver
May be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons
By observing what you do;
For I might misunderstand you
And the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding
How you act and how you live.

JOE, you have lived the life of a patriot and you act like a gentleman. You are my friend, and may God bless you and your family and thank you for your service to the country and your friendship to me.

I yield back.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President—and it is a pleasure to say that. Some may know him as “the guy in the aviators” debarking Air Force Two or the man in the 1967 Corvette in the viral Internet video, gleeful, as he had the rare opportunity to drive himself around in his favorite car.

Mr. President, it is so clear that the American public has embraced this grinning, approachable, unstoppable life force known as Vice President JOE BIDEN, but little do many Americans know of the heart of our Vice President. They have caught glimpses of it in 1972, when his wife and daughter were killed in a terrible car accident and his two sons severely injured. It is hard to imagine that kind of devasta-

tion, and JOE picked himself up and was sworn in to his first term in the U.S. Senate from his son's hospital room.

Maybe they saw it last year when JOE's son Beau, following in his father's footsteps to be an extraordinary public servant and, more importantly, a wonderful father, lost a long and hard-fought battle with cancer. I know as a mother and grandmother myself that I will never understand what JOE went through.

Mr. President, again, JOE picked himself up and continued to serve our country as a strong, dedicated Vice President in the midst of a raucous election season when Americans needed him the most. JOE BIDEN's commitment to his family, his struggles, and his service encompass what it means to be not just Vice President and a brilliant husband and father but an American.

JOE grew up in a middle-class family who worked hard for everything they had. He was just 29 years old when he ran for a seat in the United States Senate.

Mr. President, you might have been young, but you already saw what divided people in Delaware.

He also knew that people across the State also held the same hopes for themselves and their families, and he believed he could work through those disparities. In an upset victory, he won a seat in the Senate in November of 1972.

Since his swearing in, JOE has worked every day on behalf of families in Delaware and for the entire country, especially the last 8 years.

When JOE lost his son to cancer, he launched a Moonshot for this generation to end cancer as we know it today. He is now working on behalf of every family whoever lost a loved one to cancer to push forward on medical innovations and discoveries. I am so proud JOE's Moonshot is included in the final Cures bill we just voted on this afternoon and even more so that the Senate renamed the provisions to support cancer research in that bill to honor Beau in calling it the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot. We will now use those investments to fight to cure cancer so we can look forward to a world where no family has to go through what the Bidens did and the devastation that millions of other Americans have experienced after being touched by cancer.

Mr. President, back when I was serving with the Presiding Officer, JOE, my friend, in the Senate in 1994, I had the pleasure of working with him to pass the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, as we know it. It was a landmark piece of legislation that changed the way our country responded to domestic violence and sexual assault. JOE has come out as a strong advocate for ending violence against women through his campaign, “1is2Many,” spreading awareness and working to help reduce dating violence and sexual assaults among students, teens, and

young adults. And his “It’s On Us” campaign has been a wake-up call to the epidemic of campus sexual assaults across the country. Women are safer today in America than they were 20 years ago due in part to JOE’s fearless leadership on these issues that affect too many in our Nation.

Despite everything he has been through or maybe because of everything he has been through, he gets back up and he fights on and he fights on behalf of every family in our country, and that is heart. That is heart, the way he always wants to make people happy, no matter what the circumstance.

Last time he was in Seattle, he brought a little stuffed animal—a little dog—to give to my granddaughter. Now, she is very shy, but the second he smiled and handed her that little dog, she became his best friend ever, and she keeps it by her side, JOE. That is why he is going to be missed, by his colleagues and by the entire country, because of his humanity. That is the JOE BIDEN I know and I want everyone else to know that too.

It has been an honor to call JOE a fellow Senator, Mr. Vice President, but mostly a great friend.

I want to thank JOE for what he has taught me and all of our colleagues through his service and thank him for his extraordinary and inspiring leadership throughout his life in the best of times and in the worst. JOE—and his aviators—will be sorely missed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Thank you, Mr. President.

In 1974, a freshman Senator from Delaware named JOE BIDEN was identified as one of Time magazine’s “200 Faces for the Future.” That prescient prediction anticipated the more than four decades of contributions and accomplishments that followed. JOE BIDEN served six terms in the U.S. Senate and became Vice President of the United States, but he is exactly the same person today as he was when more than 40 years ago he took that first train trip from Wilmington to Washington to be sworn in as a United States Senator. He is everybody’s friend—but nobody’s fool. And while JOE BIDEN changed Washington, Washington never changed him.

It is an article of faith among those of us who know and love JOE BIDEN that nothing is more important to him than family. It is, therefore, a cruel irony that this good and decent man has faced so many family tragedies during his long and fruitful career in public service.

Although he has been sorely tested by several wrenching losses, Vice President BIDEN’s irrepressible spirit has never been broken. He is as optimistic about his country today as he was in 1972, when as a county councilman he defeated a long-serving Senate incumbent and began the journey that

ultimately led him to the second highest office in the land. With his Cancer Moonshot Initiative, JOE BIDEN once again has turned personal tragedy into a public cause that undoubtedly will save lives.

To know JOE BIDEN is to admire him, his warmth, his devotion to friends and family, his commitment to all things Delaware, and his fierce loyalty to his party that somehow never alienated those of us on the other side of the aisle. Perhaps that is due to the many thoughtful gestures the Vice President demonstrates every day.

How well I remember bringing my younger brother to the White House holiday party one year and running into the Vice President just as he was leaving after a long day of work. He instantly stopped and asked if we would like for him to give us a personal tour of the West Wing of the White House. For the next 45 minutes, instead of being driven home, the Vice President of the United States took my brother and me on the best tour of the White House that anyone could ever have. I still remember the shocked look on the face of the marine at the situation room when we arrived there.

Another wonderful memory that I have was of the time JOE BIDEN and I were named Irish Americans of the Year by the American Ireland Fund. I thought it was so telling that both of us brought our family members to the celebratory dinner, and both of us talked about our Irish mothers. Now, I do remember that JOE’s speech was considerably better than mine, but mine was much, much shorter.

In a time of almost suffocating partisanship, JOE BIDEN is a breath of bipartisan fresh air. People may disagree with JOE on 1 or 2 or even 10 issues, but nobody finds him disagreeable. It is often said that if you don’t love JOE BIDEN, it is time for some serious introspection. You may have a serious problem.

No one can say with certainty what lies ahead for Vice President JOE BIDEN, but this much is certain: He will face the future with unbridled enthusiasm, extraordinary energy, and an unwavering commitment to his family, his friends, and his country.

I thank the Vice President for his outstanding service to our country, but most of all I thank him for his extraordinary friendship to me. I wish the Vice President and his wonderful family all the best.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Thank you very much, Mr. President and Vice President.

Well, Mr. President, we all take pleasure in calling you that. Mr. Vice President, Senator, foreign policy guru, the Senator who was tough on crime but a soft touch when it came to compelling human need, a longtime colleague, but most of all, I know you as my friend JOE. My friend JOE. It is

not only that I know you as my friend JOE, the people of Delaware know you as “my friend Joe.” The fact is, your colleagues, both present and past, here feel the same way about you and so do the American people.

You have a unique ability to make a visceral connection to people. You actually connect to them, not only on the abstraction of big ideas, of which you were more than capable, but I think your connection was hand to hand, heart to heart. I think when you talk with people, that is why you have this visceral connection.

Sure, you can debate the great ideas, whether it is national security or economic growth, but it is that heart connection you are able to make that I think has been one of your great, great signatures.

We in Maryland know you as a neighbor, the Delmarva gang from Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. We also know you as “Amtrak Joe.” I think that is so fitting because not only have you been a champion of Amtrak and ridden the train so faithfully—which has now become the stories of fact and fiction—but also Amtrak JOE is right because, really, in the way you have lived your life, conducted yourself in public service, you have kept America on track and going in the right direction because you knew what your destinations were. I salute you for that. You have done a great job in everything you have undertaken.

I know you because while others just go for the pomp and they love the policy—if I hear one more “I’m going to dive deep in policy,” I am going to shake my head.

I am like you. I believe that we do need policies that help people, keep our Nation strong and safe, help our people be able to help themselves, and make sure there is an opportunity structure here. But we are here to be champions of the people. That is what you have been, a champion of the people, and you have been a steady friend.

When I arrived in the Senate, I was the only Democratic woman. I have often said that, though I was all by myself, I was never alone. I was surrounded by the good men in the Senate, and particularly the Democrats reached out their hands and helped me.

Of course, my very good friend Paul Sarbanes, who is here today, was my senior Senator when I came and was my colleague and my champion, but you were right up at the top of the list too. I call the men who were so incredibly helpful to me, Galahads. You help me in every way you can.

In my time in the Senate, when I reached out to you, you were always there. When I reached out to fight for women to be included in the NIH protocols, you were there to help me. When I reached out to fight against the skimpy and spartan money for breast cancer research, you were there to help me. When we organized the women of the Senate, the Democratic women, to fight then-Bush on the privatizing of

Social Security, when we said we shouldn't rely on the bull of political promises while we fear the bear market, you joined right there with us, side by side, shoulder to shoulder. Whether it was equal pay for equal work or so many issues, you were always there when we called upon you. You were always such tremendous help.

I was also there to try to help you. I remember a day in the mid-1990s when I got a call from you. Maybe you remember that, but I remember it. You said you really wanted to stop violence against women. You knew of my social work background, my advocacy for what was then called battered women. You said: Can you help me kind of go over this legislation to make sure that the money goes to people who will help those women and not to people who just want to get grants?

So we worked together. We talked about the need for shelters. We talked about the reform of police, courts, and so on. Then you came up with that fabulous, fabulous idea to have a hotline. So it didn't matter whether you lived in Delaware or in Des Moines or in San Diego, there was always help on the other side of that line.

I was so happy to work with you and to support you as you led that battle through—as only a good man could—stand for women who were being battered in their own homes and facing danger.

Lately I checked on the statistics on that hotline. JOE BIDEN, since that hotline legislation passed, over 1.5 million have called that hotline. Many of them were in lethal danger—lethal danger. Because of you, JOE BIDEN, there are thousands, if not tens of thousands, of women and children alive today because you had the foresight and the fortitude to create this legislation. That in and of itself would have been enough for a career. But, oh, you did so many other things.

Now we know you are advocating the national Cancer Moonshot, but you have been a champion on finding the cure for cancer for a long time, whether it was for women with breast cancer or others. I am so pleased that in that cloture vote we are going to include \$352 million for that. So on issue after issue, we were there.

I know you have been a great leader, but I also know that behind great men there are also very terrific women. I think we owe a salute to Jill. She is a wonderful woman, a leader in her own right, with a belief in higher education, a belief in working at the community college level so people who had big dreams in their hearts but not a lot of money in their pockets could be able to go on to college. What a champion she has been there and also what a champion for our veterans and for our wounded warriors. Wow, she is just terrific. I know she has been at your side.

There are so many stories I could tell, but I want to wrap up with one. I met your mother. She was spunky. She

was feisty. She was a delight. If there is anything spunkier, feistier, or more delightful than an Irish mother, it is a Polish mother. I wish you could have met mine. Those two would have been kindred spirits.

Do you remember when the Pope came to Baltimore? The Pope was coming to Baltimore, and I told my mother I wanted to greet the Pope in Polish. My mother's response was: Oh, my God.

I grew up in a family that before World War II was bilingual. I was bilingual as a child, but during World War II we stopped speaking all foreign language, so my pronunciation is really awkward. My mother made me practice Polish words, how to say hello to the Pope and how to say goodbye to the Pope.

You and I were at the Baltimore-Washington airport. There goes the Pope in his popemobile. He is heading up, he is getting on "Shepherd Two," and you are saying goodbye: Goodbye Your Holiness.

I say: No, say it in Polish. You have a large Polish community.

I taught you how to say one simple phrase, "sto lat." In the tongue of my ethnic heritage, when you say "sto lat" to someone, you say may they live 100 years.

So, JOE, sto lat.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the presence in the Chamber of five former Senators—Senators Bayh, Harkin, Kaufman, Salazar, and Sarbanes—and to thank many Senators who have asked that their comments be placed in the RECORD.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, given the lateness of the hour, the lengthy and moving remarks that former Senator and now Secretary of State Kerry has provided.

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

SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY
STATEMENT ON JOE BIDEN
DECEMBER 7, 2016

Mr. President: Almost four years ago this winter, after almost 29 years serving in the Senate from Massachusetts, and after five times the people of Massachusetts voted to send me to Washington—my Senate colleagues were kind enough to vote to send me away, but not far away, just up the street to the State Department.

So, as a prodigal United States Senator, I am especially grateful to Senator Coons for the privilege to share some thoughts about my colleague of a quarter century in the Senate, and my colleague of the last four years in the Obama Administration—the Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden. That Senator Coons—who sits in the Senate seat which Joe held for almost thirty seven years—organized this remarkable tribute says something about Delaware—a small state where politics is personal, where courtesy is still the currency—but it says much more about the kind of friend and mentor Joe has been to Chris, and to so many of us who have known the Vice President. It is, simply, the right thing to do—but the kind

of thing that doesn't happen enough these days in Washington, in politics, or in the institution which Joe reveres, the U.S. Senate.

I first heard the name "Joe Biden" about 38 years ago. 1972—The first year Joe and I ran for national office. We shared a set of friends and political teammates in progressive politics, friends Joe and I have shared to this day—and they shuttled between Wilmington, Delaware and Lowell, Massachusetts, trying to help both us to victory. In that improbable year, I lost and Joe won—and weeks later tragedy intervened and changed the trajectory of Joe's life not as a Senator, but as a father and a person. I won't forget reading his words back then: "Delaware can find another Senator, but my boys can't find another father." We are all grateful that Joe was persuaded not to give up on public service, but to be sworn in, and to rely—as the Bidens do in their remarkable way—on the closeness of family—of Val and Jimmy in particular—to help him be both a remarkable father and a remarkable public servant.

Twelve years as Joe was elected, I finally arrived in Washington—a junior Senator, second to last in seniority—and one of the first people to pull me aside and offer himself up not as a generational rival, but as a slightly older big brother ready to show me the ropes was the then, senior Senator from Delaware—two years older than me, Senator Joe Biden.

I loved serving with Joe—and I don't just mean we served contemporaneously; we were friends and partners in so many efforts—environment, civil rights, the empowerment of women, foreign policy—and always—always with Joe Biden, whether you agreed or disagreed with him, no matter where you were from in the country or where you stood ideologically, you knew exactly what you could expect: a person of conviction, a person of character, a person who studied the issues and never cut corners—and a Senator in the best tradition whose word was his bond.

For Joe, that's a quality that's deeply personal. The Vice President lives by a very old-fashioned code of loyalty: You always tell the truth, you never forget where you came from, and your word is your bond. And I can't tell you how many times in the Senate when I was listening to Joe negotiate or we were working on something he would say, "I give you my word as a Biden." And you knew you had a very special commitment that would not be broken. That never changed when he became Vice President.

That code also guided his approach as a legislator—not just in how he worked with his colleagues, but to how he approached the issues. I'd been a prosecutor back in the days when some people still argued that violence against women wasn't crime—but it was Joe Biden who was far, far ahead of the curve in the Senate—throughout the 1980's and 1990's—beating the drum on the Judiciary Committee to pass a Violence Against Women Act because there was no crime comparable, as he saw it, in robbing a human being of two things to which everyone is entitled, two words Joe talks about often: dignity and respect.

That is why he was so outspoken about the horrors happening in Bosnia and Kosovo—thousands of miles from our shores—and why as one of those most powerful voices on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee he stood up to Slobodan Milosevic, looked him in the eye, and called him a war criminal. That's Joe Biden—on issues of moral clarity, you know exactly where he stands. It is no surprise to me then that long before he served in Iraq, his beloved son Beau volunteered to go to Kosovo and do legal work helping victims find justice, helping victims

reclaim dignity through the judicial system. For the Bidens, this was an article of faith.

Over the years, I had the privilege of traveling with Joe overseas—often with Chuck Hagel and Lindsey Graham. I saw firsthand that when Senator Biden traveled overseas, it wasn't government tourism, whether the Administration was Democratic or Republican. Joe always traveled with a constructive purpose in mind: To learn first-hand about foreign leaders and other perspectives—to forge relationships—and to advance America's cause. In long flights and long meetings headed into places like Afghanistan and Pakistan, again and again I saw someone who leads by listening, who leads by learning, and who speaks with conviction—wherever the place, whatever the language.

Joe's leadership as Vice President has been a terrific asset on domestic issues, and his fluency in the ways of the Senate a special tool called upon at many key moments by Leaders McConnell and Reid. But as Secretary of State I've been particularly grateful for the role he has played on foreign policy. Joe believes to his core that American diplomacy isn't about admiring problems—it's about solving them. When thousands of unaccompanied children showed up on our southwestern border, Joe Biden worked with Congress to provide funding to help Central America's leaders make the difficult reforms and investments required to address the region's multifaceted challenges—because he knew the security and prosperity of Central America are inextricably linked with our own. As the conflict in Ukraine has pressed on, Joe has worked hard—not only to keep the Minsk deal in place, but to encourage and help the government of Ukraine take on corruption and make necessary economic reforms that will help Ukraine flourish and thrive in the years to come. And again and again, in our breakfasts at the Naval Observatory and in phone calls from far flung places, he always encouraged me to keep pressing—to speak up and speak out, and to fight—even inside the Administration—for the policies I believed in, even when he didn't agree. That's Joe Biden.

We still joke about a trip that we took with Chuck Hagel to Afghanistan back in 2008. We went up to a forward operating base up in Kunar province. And our helicopter, on the way back, got caught in a snow squall in the mountains. And our pilot found himself effectively snow blind, and suddenly we were banking and heading down and braced for an emergency landing on this snow-covered road high in the mountains near Bagram Airbase. And Joe Biden turned to Hagel and me and he offered an alternative. He said, "Maybe we could keep the helicopter aloft if the three of us just started to give a speech." But laughter aside, on that frozen mountaintop, as we waited to be rescued, you learn the measure of a person. And throughout that time, what Joe kept coming back to was the gift of family, and the privilege of public service.

America has known Vice President Biden in moments of great triumph and also on occasions of immeasurable pain. We revere the dignity with which he carries himself through all of it. We admire him. We love him. And above all, we thank him—a great Vice President, a "Senate man" still to the core, and someone I know I can call on and count on as a friend long after we both leave office on January 20th. Thank you, Senator—Mr. Vice President—"Joe"—and I know you will carry on in contribution to the cause of country.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor JOE BIDEN, the 47th Vice President of the United States.

After I came to the Senate in 1992—known as "the Year of the Woman"—then-Senator JOE BIDEN invited me to lunch at his office in the Russell Senate Office Building. We sat at small table in his elegant office and discussed the importance of having a woman on the Judiciary Committee, of which he was chairman at the time.

This was in the wake of the Anita Hill hearings, and there were no women on the committee. It was a real honor when JOE BIDEN asked me to join. He then asked Senator Carol Moseley Braun to join, giving the committee two women for the first time.

Serving on the committee with him, I noticed immediately that he had a commanding presence. As I watched him chair the committee, I was impressed by the passion he displayed while working to slow the drug trade, protect women from domestic violence, and help advocate for a ban on assault weapons. These were issues that I, along with millions of other Americans, felt strongly about, and we had a champion in JOE BIDEN.

During discussions about a proposed crime bill in 1993, I told JOE I was working on an assault weapons ban. This was in the wake of a mass shooting in San Francisco that shocked me. I told JOE we had at least 48 votes and I wanted to introduce it as an amendment to the crime bill. He laughed—a big raucous laugh—and said, "Well, you're just a freshman. Wait till the gunners get to you."

He may have had his doubts, but he was a staunch supporter of the amendment, and with the help of President Clinton and CHUCK SCHUMER in the House, we were able to secure bipartisan support and pass the amendment. It was a proud day for me when it was signed into law.

JOE was right about the gunners, though. The gun lobby did come after us, and they continue to oppose commonsense gun laws today.

During that debate and in every fight since then, JOE BIDEN has been staunch, impassioned, and a committed partner.

That crime bill was a monumental piece of legislation. In addition to our assault weapons ban, it put 100,000 more cops on the street, protected children from dangerous predators and included a very important piece of legislation: the Violence Against Women Act.

It has been two decades since JOE introduced the Violence Against Women Act. In that time, domestic violence rates have decreased by 64 percent, conviction rates for abusers increased, and 3.4 million women and men have been helped by the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Beyond the numbers, JOE changed the debate around domestic violence with enactment of this bill. States and localities changed outdated laws. Victims were given courage to speak out and seek help, and millions of women felt empowered knowing that in Amer-

ica, they had the right to be free from violence and free from fear.

JOE's legacy as chair of the Judiciary is matched by his time leading the Foreign Relations Committee. From atop the committee, he was a forceful advocate for peace and stability around the world. He called for strategic arms limitations with the Soviet Union, helped secure peace in the Balkans, helped bring former Soviet bloc states into NATO, called for U.S. action to end the genocide in Darfur, and spoke out against failed policies in Iraq.

He was also a critic of the CIA's detention and interrogation program and backed our efforts to release the torture report. During heated debate, JOE made the argument simple and easy to understand: America will be stronger by saying the following: "This was a mistake, we should not have done what we've done and we will not do it again."

He was right, and our Nation is stronger for having the courage to admit that.

JOE BIDEN's willingness to speak the truth is one of the many reasons President Obama tapped him to be his running mate. The President knew JOE would discuss every issue with the same frank honesty—whether he was offering counsel in the Oval Office or chatting with someone on the train ride back home.

President Obama relied on his Vice President to oversee the recovery after the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. He was tasked with implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Ready to Work Initiative and to chair the Middle Class Task Force.

JOE BIDEN was the perfect choice for the job. He is the product of his Catholic faith and the values instilled in him growing up in Scranton. Those same values that he carried throughout his career in Delaware and into the Vice Presidency.

He is a tough individual who has faced adversity that would knock a lesser man down; yet through it all, JOE never wavered from his commitment to serving others.

To those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him and to millions of Americans, JOE BIDEN is a good and honest man who simply wants to make the world a better place.

After 44 years in this Chamber, the last 8 as the President of the Senate, JOE can leave knowing he has accomplished just that. The world is a better place thanks to you, and it is grateful for your service, JOE BIDEN.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, for more than 30 years, Vice President JOE BIDEN has held a big place in my heart. Through thick and thin, he trusted me to be his partner in so many fights, and I will be forever grateful to him.

JOE first impressed me after he took a stand against the Reagan administration's support of South Africa when it was still in the depths of apartheid. So when he asked me to help organize

women for his 1988 Presidential campaign, I was all in.

While that race wasn't meant to be, I fell in love with JOE's vision of "reclaiming the idea of America as a community" and his beautiful, persistent optimism and hope—qualities we all still love him for today.

I cherished our time serving in Congress together, and I was so honored that he asked me to carry the Violence against Women Act in the House. JOE was determined to put the spotlight on this quiet epidemic—and he has been doing just that ever since.

I took 5 years, but President Bill Clinton finally signed VAWA into law in 1994. It was one of JOE's many monumental achievements.

By then, I had won election to the U.S. Senate where JOE played a major role in one of my own biggest personal accomplishments: the Dolphin-Safe tuna label law. Well, if I am being honest, it was his then 8-year-old daughter, Ashley, who got him involved.

Schoolchildren across the country were boycotting their tuna fish sandwiches after learning that dolphins could be killed as tuna was caught, and Ashley was begging her father to take action.

I was so proud that JOE chose to partner with me on a bill that required companies that sell dolphin-safe tuna to prove that dolphins were not hurt in the fishing process. Like any good father, JOE wanted to show Ashley that he would come through for her—and he did.

Our bill became law in 1992, and it is estimated that it saves tens of thousands of dolphins every year.

JOE also served as an extraordinary chairman on the Foreign Relations Committee, where I am a member. He was gracious and respectful, listening to every viewpoint, but he also wasn't afraid to speak up and take charge. I thought he was very courageous to point out a better way to solve the civil war in Iraq, and I was so proud to stand with him.

For all of these reasons, and so many more, it is no surprise that President Barack Obama chose JOE BIDEN to serve as his Vice President.

And it is no surprise that JOE will go down as one of the most effective Vice Presidents in history because of his warm, open relationship with President Obama. They have spent a great deal of time together, exchanging thoughts and ideas, and JOE was one of the key advisors who influenced President Obama as he successfully confronted horrific challenges, such as: two wars; the worst recession since the Great Depression; and rising violence in our communities.

Who could ever forget JOE BIDEN's immense respect and gratitude for our men and women in uniform and their families and his determined fight to bring them home safely?

Who could ever forget how he shepherded the Recovery Act through Congress—a near impossible feat in this polarized political climate?

Who could ever forget his long history of fighting for community policing and to strengthen the bonds between police officers and their communities?

No one has fought harder for the things he believes in than JOE BIDEN—no one—and there is nothing that he will not do for the country he so deeply loves.

Love of country is second only to the love JOE has for his beautiful family. When he talks about his incredible wife, children, and grandchildren, you know they are his guiding star.

It is because of this love that we have all come to know and adore JOE, and for that same reason, it is why our hearts broke for him over the profound, unspeakable loss of his son, Beau. All of America mourned with JOE.

He had every right to stay down, but JOE is as resilient as they come. He likes to tell the advice that his father gave him as a child: "Champ, when you get knocked down get up. Get up."

Well, JOE always gets up. He gets up again and again and again.

And we are all so fortunate that he does because, from the U.S. Senate to the Office of the Vice President, JOE has never stopped fighting for the things he believes in—for civil rights, women's rights, worker's rights, economic fairness, a world-class education for our kids, health care for all, and a safe and peaceful world.

JOE has taught me so much, and I am so proud to call him my forever friend.

Many of you know that I love to re-write song lyrics.

This is what I wrote for JOE:

Joe is a many splendored thing.
He is tough and smart and strong and wise.
Winter, fall and spring.
He's for kids and health and child care.
Our Joe will always be there.
A smile, a glow,
It's not for show, it's true.
Joe worked with us for years and years,
And there is no sleep for our busy Veep.
He has hope not fears.
Whether guy or gal,
Joe is our pal.
And this we know is true,
Joe Biden, colleagues,
All love you.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today in honoring you and thanking you for the incredible devotion you have shown to the United States Senate and to express my deep respect for you—respect that I know the people of Michigan share.

You have been a longtime friend to me and to the people of my home State. One thing we have always had in common: our parents were both in the automobile industry. As of course you know, your dad was a car salesman, and my father owned an Oldsmobile dealership.

So we have both known, from the very beginning, how critically important American manufacturing is for so many people in Michigan and across the country.

We worked together, both when you were the Senator from Delaware and

then as the Vice President of the United States, to save the auto industry back in 2008.

You know that the only way we succeed is if we do everything we can to support and grow America's middle class, which you have done your entire career.

There are countless instances over your 40 years of service when you were on the right side of history: when you led the passage of the Violence against Women Act; in your work as the chair of the Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committee; through your wise counsel as Vice President and your ability to work with us to get so much done over the last 8 years; with Dr. Biden, who is here today, for your work supporting Michigan's military families and community colleges; and now in your effort to cure cancer through the Cancer Moonshot.

Early on in your career, you said that the work that we do here allows us to "literally have the chance to shape the future—to put our own stamp on the face and character of America, to bend history just a little bit." I would believe, as every one of my colleagues does, that you have done more than bend the future of America "just a little bit."

You have changed this Nation and you have changed this Senate for the better.

There is a great quote from a poet I know that you admire very much, William Butler Yeats.

It is a piece of advice that he gave out frequently to young writers. It goes: "Think like a wise man but communicate in the language of the people."

Yeats—like you Mr. President—understood that the best way to reach people is by appealing to their heart, meeting them where they are.

And I think, moving forward, we have to remember that we all have to reach people's hearts and strive to serve as well as you have.

Thank you for your service to this Senate and to the American people.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, it is fitting that JOE BIDEN ascended from Senator to Vice President—or as the office is known around here, President of the Senate.

JOE was elected to the Senate as a very young man. We have heard JOE talk about how hard it was after losing his wife, Neilia, and baby daughter, Naomi, in an automobile accident, just weeks before he was to be sworn in, to come to Washington and assume his duties. He credits his older colleagues like Mike Mansfield, Ted Kennedy, Danny Inouye, Hubert Humphrey, Fritz Hollings, and Rhode Island's Claiborne Pell, who opened his Washington home to the young Senator, with convincing him to stick it out, just for a few months.

Well, he did more than stick it out. He dove in. The Senate saved his life, he has said, in that time of grief. And in return, he gave his life to the Senate, serving the people of Delaware for more than three decades.

JOE BIDEN presided over Supreme Court nomination hearings as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He shepherded the assault weapons ban and the Violence Against Women Act. He served also as the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, facing down dictators and championing nuclear nonproliferation.

He is, of course, recognized in Senate lore as a particularly strong speaker and debater. From his familiar perch in the back row of the Chamber, JOE would hold forth on the merits of legislative proposals and the positions of his colleagues. If the Chamber was empty of Senators, he would even turn and deliver his speeches to the captive audience in the staff gallery behind him.

But JOE can always be counted on for telling it like it is. Not long ago, he was in my home State of Rhode Island to tout needed infrastructure projects. Now, Rhode Island has one of the highest rates of structurally deficient bridges in the Nation, and my senior Senator, JACK REED, and I have worked hard to bring Federal resources to bear in addressing that need. But JOE put it no uncertain terms. Standing under the East Shore Expressway Bridge on Warren Avenue in East Providence, the Vice President cried, "For 10 years you've had Lincoln logs holding the damn thing up! No, I mean go look at it. The press went and looked at it. If everybody in Rhode Island watched the news tonight and saw that, they'd try to go around the damn bridge!"

Whatever his style or accomplishments, JOE will always pin his success in the Senate on the personal relationships he forged so deeply and so sincerely, with ideological allies and strange bedfellows alike. "Every good thing I have seen happen here, every bold step taken in the 36-plus years I have been here, came not from the application of pressure by interest groups, but through the maturation of personal relationships," he said in his 2009 farewell speech. "Pressure groups can and are strong and important advocates. But they're not often vehicles for compromise. A personal relationship is what allows you to go after someone hammer and tong on one issue and still find common ground on the next."

That is why JOE BIDEN was uniquely well suited for the one job in this country with one constitutional foot in the executive branch and the other in the legislative. He was at the center of a number of high-stakes compromises between the White House, Congress, and the two parties. And every once in a while, he still got to vote.

"Except for the title 'father,'" he said, "there is no title, including 'vice president,' that I am more proud to wear than that of United States senator." JOE BIDEN is a great father to Hunter and Ashley, and to Beau, whose passing last year was felt by the entire Senate family. He served honorably as Vice President. But he will always be the pride of the Senate.

I thank him for his faithful service and for his enduring example. And I wish him and Jill great happiness in the adventures to come.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Vice President JOE BIDEN, a man who has dedicated his life to serving our country, working across the aisle whenever he can, and always doing his best to get things done for the American people.

I am proud to have known and admired JOE a long time. I first met JOE toward the end of his first campaign for the Senate, in the fall of 1972. My father, Stewart Udall, had been called to Delaware to help the young Democratic candidate with environmental issues. I tagged along with my dad and spent a day on the campaign trail with a man who would come to spend 36 distinguished years in the Senate and become our 47th Vice President.

The following summer, I worked as a staffer in his Senate office—writing constituent letters, researching policy issues, preparing press materials. That was my first job in the Senate.

In so many ways, JOE Biden is the same person now as then—caring, passionate, energetic, tenacious, and ready and able to get things done.

JOE gave me my first Senate job, and this January—44 years later—he swore me in for the 114th Congress.

I note that Senators from across our country—from both parties—have lined up to speak to JOE's character and accomplishments. We respect him as a colleague, and we love him for his passion and commitment to public service.

JOE has never forgotten his blue collar roots. He has never forgotten our country's working class. JOE has fought all his life to make sure the working class gets a fair shake. He sounded the clarion call in the last months and weeks of the Presidential campaign—that we not forget working families and, more broadly, America's middle class.

In his words, "The middle class is not a number; it's a value set. It's being able to own your house and not have to rent it; it's being able to send your kid to the local park and know they'll come home safely. It's about being able to send your kid to the local high school and if they do well they can get to college, and if they get to college, you can figure out how to [pay to] get them there, and when your mom or dad passes away, you can take care of the other who is in need and hope your kids never have to take care of you. That's JOE BIDEN's definition of the middle class, and the middle class has been clobbered."

JOE championing the working and middle class helps my State of New Mexico, helps all of our States.

His policy expertise is broad and deep but maybe in no area as much as foreign policy. He has spent decades working on international matters—as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as the committee's chair or ranking member, as President

Obama's foreign relations trouble-shooter.

From my service on the Foreign Relations Committee, I have a keen appreciation for the complexity of foreign policy matters in today's world.

JOE's foreign policy is at once pragmatic and sophisticated. He has stalwartly promoted peace and nonproliferation. But he understands the need for military force when national interests are at stake, diplomacy is not an option, and such action will bear intended results.

JOE recently summed up what can be called the Biden Doctrine in Foreign Affairs. He identifies the broad themes of Obama foreign policy strategy and advises the next administration. The essay should be required reading for anyone serious about foreign policy, and I hope the new administration takes his advice to heart.

While JOE's legislative accomplishments are too many to list, I would like to underscore one achievement that has made a difference in my home State of New Mexico—The Violence Against Women Act.

As chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, JOE drafted VAWA and led the charge for enactment. Passed in 1994, VAWA reordered how the Federal criminal justice system handled rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence cases. VAWA gave victims needed protections and strengthened prosecutors' tools.

I was attorney general of New Mexico in 1994. In the wake of VAWA's passage, I formed the Violence Against Women Task Force. We got strengthened antistalking laws passed in the New Mexico Legislature in 1997.

While VAWA was easily reauthorized and strengthened during the 2000s, reauthorization became difficult in 2012. As Vice President, JOE was instrumental in breaking impasses.

VAWA represented a sea change for how our society addresses violent crime against women.

The law was reauthorized and strengthened in 2013, and now extends protections to gay and transgender persons, immigrant women, and on-reservation Native Americans.

Like JOE, I am a husband and father of a daughter. I am proud to have voted in favor of reauthorization.

We all know that JOE has faced deep, personal tragedies. But he has confronted tragedy with courage and love for his family and with an unimaginable determination to keep working for the American people—turning his own losses into ways to help others.

JOE and his equally capable, determined, and indefatigable wife Jill have brought new energy and urgency to the fight to cure cancer. The Cancer Moonshot has already had many successes. JOE turned the premature death of his son into actions to help others with cancer.

This week, the Senate that JOE gave so much to gave something back, sending the 21st Century Cures Act to

President Obama for signature. The \$1.8 billion cancer initiatives in that bill are the direct result of Vice President BIDEN's Cancer Moonshot initiative.

It is fitting that we named the cancer initiatives in the Cures Act after Beau Biden.

JOE BIDEN leaves the Vice Presidency, but he will never leave the fight for all Americans—Black, Brown, White, poor, working class, middle class, gay, straight, Muslim, Christian—everyone—fighting for what is right, fighting to make sure we all have a fair shot.

JOE's heart is as big as they come. I honor his decades of work, commitment, and accomplishments, and I look forward to JOE continuing being JOE—the same guy I met in 1972—working hard every day to make a difference in the lives of all Americans.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the contributions and the long and colorful career of Vice President JOE BIDEN—the pride of Scranton, PA—and of Wilmington, DE—and the pride of the entire United States.

JOE BIDEN lived, learned, and grew up among hard-working Americans in the 1950s and 1960s, when everything in America seemed possible—and it was. Remarkably, this gifted orator grew up with a crippling stutter—a challenge which he overcame through determination and perseverance. He displayed that same uncommon strength after he lost his wife and daughter in a horrific car accident just weeks after being first elected to the United States Senate.

Vice President BIDEN considered giving up his seat to tend to his injured children. It is one of this country's great fortunes that JOE BIDEN decided against that. Scarred by the tragedy and by a close brush with death himself and more recently by the loss of his son Beau, the Vice President has shown us the power of and the comfort derived from a deep personal faith.

When he was first elected to the United States Senate in 1972, he was only 29 years old. And in a Senate career spanning 36 years, Senator BIDEN left behind a legacy as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Perhaps his greatest achievement was his tireless advocacy for civil rights, especially the protection of women and children from domestic violence. The passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 is an enduring Biden legacy which we will continue to build upon for years to come.

And now, even as he is about to retire from political life, Vice President BIDEN has taken on a new cause: to find a cure for the disease which has claimed too many millions of Americans, including his beloved son, Beau. The Cancer Moonshot has refocused and reinvigorated our Nation's efforts to eradicate this devastating disease, and I was proud to support renaming the legislation to honor Beau Biden.

Vice President BIDEN is as honest and authentic a person as you will find, providing a welcome dose of humanity and authenticity to the business of governing. And he has served with great honor and humility.

I recall a dinner the Vice President attended at my home where, before he greeted a single guest, he made sure to spend time with my children—greeting them and engaging them in a real conversation. They have never forgotten that.

And, as the meal was ending, the Vice President said he wanted to hear from each of our guests. Now, this may come as no surprise to those of you who know JOE BIDEN, but he actually spoke at some considerable length about how important he thought it was to hear from everybody who was there. Two and a half hours into a dinner scheduled to last just 90 minutes, I think one guest got to ask the Vice President a question.

I know Vice President BIDEN and his exceptional partner, Jill, will continue to be engaged in the life of our Nation, so I will simply thank him today for four decades of public service—and pledge my continued respect for his many contributions to this great Nation which he loves so completely.

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I want to join in honoring Vice President BIDEN's lifetime of service and sacrifice to our country.

Throughout his career, Vice President BIDEN has carried out his work with a sense of humility, integrity, and authenticity that often seems missing in today's politics.

He served as either chairman or ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 17 years. In this capacity, he crafted the Violence Against Women Act, which provided critical new protections to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The landmark bill also supported local law enforcement to help increase prosecutions and convictions of abusers. He has continued this legacy by serving as the White House Adviser on Violence Against Women.

Most recently, he led the White House's efforts on the Cancer Moonshot initiative, which seeks to hasten our advances in cancer research, prevention, and treatment. Earlier today, the Senate passed a bill to help make the Cancer Moonshot initiative a reality, which is a further testament to the Vice President's leadership and character.

The Vice President's involvement in the Cancer Moonshot initiative was born out of the death of his son, Beau, who lost his battle with brain cancer last year. The Vice President also grappled with tragedy at a young age when his first wife and his 13-month-old daughter were killed in a car accident. The poise, dignity, and humility that the Vice President has been able to maintain in the face of these tragedies speaks to his strength and his char-

acter. Through all this, he has continued to serve the American people with the utmost integrity and authenticity, which have undoubtedly contributed to his successful career in public service.

The Vice President has also consistently advocated for the leadership role the United States plays in the world. Over the years, Vice President BIDEN has lent his diplomatic hand to U.S. engagement in development and security in places like Eastern Europe and the Northern Triangle countries of Central America. He has worked tirelessly to strengthen our partnerships across the globe, in places like Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, in an effort to further U.S. interests and the values upon which our Nation has thrived.

When he was in Denver this past September to speak at the Korbel School, the Vice President warned against "turning inward." JOE has no capacity to turn inward in any walk of life. His career is characterized by reaching outward to the American people and to the world, working to listen, collaborate, heal, and serve. We can all learn a lot from that open and inclusive approach.

We are grateful for the Vice President's leadership and example. I thank him and his incredible family for their service to our Nation.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to an incredible leader, public servant, mentor, and friend.

It seems impossible to place a period on the public service career of JOSEPH ROBINETTE BIDEN, Jr.

So perhaps this is just an ellipsis.

For 36 years, JOE BIDEN was a towering presence in this body. As a member, ranking member, and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, he dove headfirst into the most challenging issues in a volatile world, shaping a generation of U.S. foreign policy. He tackled arms control issues, stood up directly to Slobodan Milosevic, fought against apartheid in South Africa, and strongly advocated for NATO bombing of Serbia in the 1990s. He once called his contribution to ending the Yugoslav wars one of the "proudest moments" of his political career. For years, he worked to shape our policy in Iraq and the Middle East. He did so not just from his Washington office, but through regular visits to warzones, where he met face to face with military leaders and enlisted men and women, alike. This is JOE BIDEN's legacy.

As a member and chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator BIDEN spearheaded the Federal assault weapons ban, presided over Supreme Court confirmations, and—in perhaps his most significant legislative triumph—authored the Violence Against Women Act.

For generations, violence against women was a private matter—a tragedy suffered over and over by women with no recourse against abusive partners. VAWA brought this scourge out

of the shadows and into the open, affirming that domestic violence survivors would NOT also be victimized by the system that was supposed to protect them. Because of VAWA, which Senator BIDEN helped reauthorize three times, 3.4 million women and men have called the National Domestic Violence Hotline and gotten the support they need. From 1994, when VAWA became law, until 2010, the rate of domestic violence in the United States has fallen by 64 percent. These are real accomplishments and real people—not just statistics. This is JOE BIDEN's legacy.

And, as everyone knows, he did it all commuting daily from and to his beloved Delaware.

Then he got a job that included accommodation in Washington, DC.

JOE BIDEN has transformed the job of Vice President. A key liaison to Congress because of his years of relationships on the Hill, JOE BIDEN stood shoulder to shoulder with President Obama and brought our economy back from the brink. Vice President BIDEN was tasked with implementing and overseeing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which laid the foundation for a sustainable economic future we are experiencing today.

He also tackled longer term economic challenges, traveling the country in support of American manufacturing jobs and working tirelessly to rein in the exorbitant cost of college and spiraling student loan debt. JOE BIDEN believes in his bones that all Americans deserve a fair shot.

That is why he was an early advocate for marriage equality. He accelerated change, forcing a conversation that, at its heart, was about love and the simple premise of all men and women being equal.

His belief in a fair shot for all is why Vice President BIDEN devoted incredible energy after the Sandy Hook shooting to sparing other families the heartbreak felt by too many in Newtown. Some of the most challenging days of the Obama administration were days of mass shootings.

Aurora, San Bernardino, Orlando, Fort Hood, Charleston, Tucson, and of course Newtown—to anyone who has been active in the push for common-sense gun safety measures—as I have—the Vice President's steady hand, commitment, and leadership in this space have been obvious. Along with the President, he has comforted families, devoted countless hours to healing, and contributed energy and ideas to a years-long push that will eventually affect real change and keep the most lethal weapons out of the hands of the most dangerous people.

And that will be JOE BIDEN's legacy.

Vice President JOE BIDEN was taught early on by his parents that hard work mattered, that how you treat others matters, and above all else that family matters most. Throughout his career, he had a rule in his office: if one of his children, his wife Jill, or a sibling called, staff was to pull him out of a

meeting so he could take the call. The same rule extended to staff. He never wanted to hear that someone had stayed at work instead of making it to a graduation, Little League game, or school play.

That, laid bare, is JOE BIDEN. He came to Washington on the shoulders of his family, which fanned out across Delaware and knocked on doors until there were no more doors to knock. When tragedy struck—between his improbable election victory and his swearing in—and he suffered the unimaginable loss of his wife and infant daughter, his family pulled him closer. He stayed by the hospital beds of his two sons, Beau and Hunter, and nursed them back to health, questioning all along whether he would ever serve in the Senate.

But this body—this Senate—pulled him closer, too. Senators Inouye, Mansfield, Humphrey, Hollings, and Kennedy all pleaded with him to give the Senate a chance: “Just six months, JOE. Just stay six months.”

He stayed 36 years. And he learned lessons about character and motives—lessons we are all still learning today. He learned from Mike Mansfield never to question another man's motive—question his judgment but never his motive. It was a lesson that bridged divides that too often keep us apart. The lesson made for lasting friendships with Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond—whose eulogy he delivered.

JOE BIDEN arrived in the Senate after a 1972 campaign heavy on civil rights. Years later, the centerpiece in his Senate office was a large table that had belonged to Senator John Stennis, around which Senator Richard Russell and Southern segregationists had planned the demise of the civil rights movement. In 2009, JOE BIDEN became Vice President to our first African-American President.

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it does indeed bend toward justice.

We have not seen the end of JOE BIDEN. Just this week, he presided over this body as we took an important step toward realizing the dream of the Cancer Moonshot—an ambitious project to end cancer as we know it.

It is another effort that has profound personal meaning to the Vice President, who lost his son Beau to this horrible disease. It is also a place where JOE BIDEN's work will have lasting, indelible effect on Americans—indeed all of humanity—if he is successful.

And that is JOE BIDEN's legacy.

He brought people together. He tackled the impossible. He overcame obstacles. He bridged divides. Tireless and fierce, JOE BIDEN put family and country first. We cannot ask for more than that.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues to pay tribute to Vice President JOE BIDEN.

JOE has made countless contributions to our country throughout his more than 40 years in public service and six terms in the U.S. Senate.

Whether it was passing the Violence Against Women Act, leading the congressional opposition to apartheid South Africa, or advocating for Amtrak, JOE honored the Senate with his service.

This year, after the loss of his beloved son Beau, JOE harnessed his grief to spearhead a new Cancer Moonshot initiative to accelerate finding cures for cancer.

This past Monday night, with JOE presiding, we named this initiative in memory of Beau.

After Monday's vote, JOE said that it made him realize all of the support he has had since Beau's passing.

In the face of his own loss, JOE has supported countless other families in similar situations.

I will remember JOE for this incredible empathy.

This year we lost our colleague and friend Congressman Mark Takai of Hawaii.

I affectionately called Mark my younger brother, and his passing was a shock to many of us.

JOE joined us to honor Mark at a memorial service here in the Capitol.

Reflecting on his own life, JOE spoke directly to Mark's wife, Sami, and his children, Matthew and Kaila:

I promise you that the day will come when Mark's memory brings a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eye.

My prayer for you and your family is that they come sooner rather than later. But I promise you. I promise you it will come.

Like so many times in his life, JOE's words spoke to our hearts.

From his own experience, he comforted the Takais and so many of us who knew Mark.

That is who JOE is—a man of empathy and soul, who always had a kind word, and who will leave a legacy of commitment to doing the right thing, and a legacy of hope.

JOE, you will be missed.

Mahalo for your service.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I would like to join with my colleagues to honor Vice President JOSEPH R. BIDEN.

Though I did not have the privilege to serve with Vice President BIDEN while he was a Member of the Senate, I have long admired JOE and his sincere commitment to the people of this country and especially to those in his beloved home State of Delaware.

The details of JOE's early years are well known to this body and to the Nation, but because they are so central to his character, they bear repeating. After an upset win of a U.S. Senate seat at just 29 years old, JOE experienced a tragedy that most of us cannot even begin to fathom—the death of his wife, Neilia, and his young daughter, Naomi, in a car accident just weeks before he was set to take office. A now-iconic photograph shows a young JOE being sworn into office at his sons' hospital bedside.

A tragedy of that magnitude, so early in JOE's career, would have been

reason for most to put on hold—or even end—a promising future in public service. Indeed, no one would have faulted JOE had he decided that the demands of the work he was set to undertake were not worth pursuing after the unimaginable loss he had just experienced. But, from the depths of his sorrow, JOE summoned the courage to press forward, committing himself to his two sons and to his work fighting for Delaware in the U.S. Senate. Committed to caring for his young family in the wake of such loss, JOE would take the train from Wilmington to Washington each day the Senate was in session.

During his 36 years as a member of this body, JOE distinguished himself as a thoughtful, principled leader on a number of critical issues. JOE's leadership on the Senate Judiciary Committee put him at the center of some of the most consequential debates in recent years, from passage of the 1994 Crime Law to the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act. In his role on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, JOE garnered the respect of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle as he helped to shape U.S. foreign policy. His leadership in both of these areas, as well as the respect of his colleagues in Congress, made JOE a natural pick to join then-Senator Obama as his running mate in 2008.

As Vice President, JOE has been a trusted adviser to President Obama and has been tasked with overseeing significant initiatives within the administration. From his work on the economic stimulus package in 2009 to his continued leadership in the fight against sexual assault and domestic violence, JOE has brought to the White House his characteristic dedication and charisma. It has been a pleasure to observe the real friendship that the Vice President has forged with President Obama, one grounded in mutual respect and admiration for one another.

We saw again last year JOE's strength in the face of adversity when cancer claimed the life of his son, Beau. Like his father, Beau Biden was a gifted communicator, and the Nation mourned alongside JOE at the news of his passing. In the aftermath of Beau's death, JOE accepted the President's charge to lead the Cancer Moonshot initiative to accelerate cancer research—yet another shining example of JOE channeling his experience with loss into advancement for the public good. It is a fitting testament to JOE's leadership that the cancer provisions in the bill currently under consideration in the Senate, the 21st Century Cures Act, were renamed in honor of Beau. I know of few people who have endured the magnitude of loss that JOE has over the course of his life, and the fact that he carries on every day with a full heart and renewed dedication to fighting for the American people is an inspiration.

Beyond his accomplishments—which are many—JOE is perhaps best known for his good humor and genuine ability to connect with people. In a city asso-

ciated more with political rancor than authenticity, JOE has long been a breath of fresh air, an homage to a more amicable past. His ability to get things done while making steadfast friends on both sides of the aisle is a model for all of us and an inspiration to me.

I wish JOE and his wife, Jill, nothing but the best as they move onto their next adventure. I know in times of trial, I will look to JOE's leadership and example for the wisdom to make the right decision.

Mr. Vice President, on behalf of the people of Maine, I thank you for your service to our country.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, today I join my colleagues in celebrating the many contributions of Vice President JOE BIDEN, a man who has spent his career fighting for working families.

For more than four decades, Vice President BIDEN has tirelessly served the people of Delaware and the United States. As many of my colleagues have already noted, he has been on the frontlines of some of our Nation's toughest battles—from steering the Foreign Relations and Judiciary Committees, to introducing the Violence Against Women Act and championing efforts to reduce gun violence in our communities. He takes on every fight with restless energy and relentless optimism.

I first met then-Senator BIDEN back in the 1990s when I was a law professor with no experience in the ways of Washington. We tangled over an issue, each of us laying into the fight with determination. Senator BIDEN won, and I lost. Years later, when I next saw him, he held out his arms and shouted from halfway across the room, "Professor! Come here and give me a hug!"

He had not forgotten our earlier battle, but he made it clear that he continued to think and rethink issues about working families and that, even when we disagreed, we could respect—and even like—each other. And when I was later sworn into the United States Senate, I thought about the example he set to fight hard, but to treat each other with respect.

The Vice President has faced down hardship with exceptional grace and courage, and he continues to wake up every day with a steadfast commitment to ensuring that the voices of ordinary Americans are heard here in Washington. And for me personally, he has provided encouragement, wisdom, and good counsel, time and again—and for that, I am truly grateful.

So, Vice President BIDEN: those of us here in the Senate are fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside you. And I know I speak for millions of Americans when I say that we all are enormously grateful for your many years of service to this country. Thank you, and I wish you the very best as you begin the next chapter of your life and career.

Mr. COONS. We have five Senators remaining who have asked to speak

briefly: Senator ALEXANDER, Senator CARDIN, Senator CASEY, and Senator KAINE. My senior Senator, TOM CARPER of Delaware, will conclude this session today.

I yield the floor to the Senator from Tennessee.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, knowing there is a reception coming, I will try to set a good example. After hearing a speech, my late friend Alex Haley, the author of "Roots," said: May I make a suggestion?

I said: Well, yes.

He said: If, when you make a speech, you would say "Instead of making a speech, let me tell you a story," someone might actually listen to what you have to say.

I have always remembered that, so let me tell one short story about a Vice President who knows how to get things done.

Nearly 2 years ago, you and President Obama invited Senator CORKER and me to go with you to Knoxville when the President announced his community college program. Before that, we had lunch privately, and we talked about many things, but the President talked about his interest in precision medicine.

I said: Mr. President, we are working on something we call 21st Century Cures. Why don't we fold that into your precision medicine interest, and we will do it together.

At the State of the Union address a year later, the President talked about the Cancer Moonshot and announced Vice President JOE BIDEN would be in charge of that. So I talked to you and said: Well, we will just fold that in as well.

It wasn't moving along as fast as I would like because, as you know and as most people here know, it is full of difficult issues—FDA, safety, moving things through, drug companies' incentives, and then the funding issue on both sides of the aisle.

So I called you and I said: JOE, we are not moving as we should.

You said: Well, let me see what I can do.

And you held a meeting of the Democrats and Republicans in the House—Senator MURRAY and me—and you moved us along pretty well and off we would go. You didn't take credit for that; nobody knew much about it. You were the key to that.

Then it got stuck again. So I called you again. I said: JOE, I have the precision medicine, I have the Cancer Moonshot, we have the BRAIN Initiative, we have the opioids money, but I can't get a response. I feel like the butler standing with a silver platter outside the Oval Office, and no one will take the order.

You said: If you want to feel like a butler, try being Vice President.

Well, the fact was, you went to work again. The President called; he went to work. Speaker RYAN went to work,

Senator MCCONNELL went to work, and today that legislation on which you worked so hard passed the Senate with 94 votes. That is an example of a man who understands the issues, who knows how to get things done, and who has the respect of everyone in this body.

This is Pearl Harbor Day. Pearl Harbor Day reminds us of the greatest generation of men and women who cared about the country, didn't care about the credit, resolved their differences, and realized that diversity is important but turning that diversity into one America is even more important. You are not of that generation, but you show the same spirit as that generation did. Your work on 21st Century Cures and the fact that the Cancer Moonshot section is not only something that is your initiative—is named for your son—is important not just to you but to all of us.

You are a friend of every single one of us. We honor you today. We are delighted you came down to let us tell a few stories about your effectiveness as Vice President of the United States.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I also wish to join in thanking you for your incredible service. Senator MIKULSKI talked about a lot of things you have done. The two of us represent the State of Maryland. Other than the two of us, there is no other Senator who has spent more time in Maryland than the Vice President.

Admittedly, most of that time was spent on an Amtrak train, but we consider you to be a resident of Maryland. We have tried to find a way to tax you, but we will let you get by. We very much appreciate your interest in our entire region and in our entire country.

When I was elected to the Senate in 2007, I talked to Senator Sarbanes—the person whom I was replacing in the Senate—about committee assignments, and we talked about the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He said: Get on the committee. JOE BIDEN is an incredible leader. Any time you can spend with him is going to be time well spent.

I talked to Senator MIKULSKI, and she told me the same thing. I was honored to be able to serve on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and saw firsthand your extraordinary leadership on behalf of our country. But bringing us together in that committee, you didn't know who the Democrats and who the Republicans were. We worked together in a unit in the best interests of our country. That really was a model for all of us in the service of the Senate and service on behalf of our people.

A little over 8 years later, I became a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and we had some extremely challenging issues that could have divided us. You helped me through that period. I really wish to thank you for that. Your extraordinary leadership in helping us resolve some

very difficult issues, your openness, your willingness to listen, and your ability to find a way to go forward were incredibly helpful. I think it allowed the Senate to do the right thing on that issue—as well as the oversight. I thank you very much.

That wasn't your only opportunity to help us resolve issues. You have heard Members talk about the Violence Against Women Act and how important that was. The Cancer Moonshot is going to be incredibly valuable. Each one of our families has been affected by cancer. Through your efforts, we know we are going to find the answer to this dread disease. You have done this in so many different areas, law enforcement—the list goes on and on.

Last year I was in Central America. I think there you could easily run for office and have no problems at all. They know what you have done to give them a hope, to give them a future. You take an interest in an area and find a way to be helpful that I think has made our country stronger. You have given hope to people all over the world.

You have a love for people. You hear that. You hear that often. It was Will Rogers who famously said he never met a man he didn't like. That is true of JOE BIDEN. It is incredible.

I remember when I was being sworn in, in the ceremony in the Old Senate Chamber, you not only talked to Members of the Senate, you talked to every member of our families. I don't know if you had the best staff work or not, but you knew every Member's family. To this day my grandchildren talk about the conversation they had with you during that swearing-in ceremony. You really care about people, and that really shows. This is a family here, and you have truly shown that to us. Myrna and I look at you and Jill as people who are part of our family.

I think you are, perhaps, the most ebullient politician in America. Horrific family tragedies and life-threatening cranial aneurysms severely tested, but ultimately didn't diminish, your faith in God or your love for the "retail" aspect of politics—meeting and greeting people, making those human connections.

Mr. President, for those who may not know your story, I would like to tell them part of it. JOE BIDEN was born in Scranton and raised there before his parents moved the family to Delaware. He was the first member of his family to attend college. He earned his B.A. from the University of Delaware and then went to law school at Syracuse University, during which time he married his college sweetheart, Neilia Hunter. They had three children—two sons and a daughter.

In 1972, just four years after JOE graduated from law school and when he was just 29 years old—he ran a bare bones, longshot campaign for the U.S. Senate against the incumbent, Caleb "Cale" Boggs, who had previously been Delaware's Governor and had served three terms in the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives. JOE's sister Valerie ran the campaign; most of the other "staff" were other family members. He demonstrated his extraordinary ability to connect with voters and won the election by 3,162 votes and became the sixth-youngest Senator in U.S. history.

Just a few weeks after the election, JOE's wife and their infant daughter Naomi were killed in a traffic accident; their two young sons, Hunter and Beau, were seriously injured. JOE was sworn in to the U.S. Senate next to his sons' hospital beds and steadfastly began commuting to Washington from Wilmington every day by train, a practice he maintained throughout his career in the Senate.

In 1977, Vice President BIDEN married Jill Jacobs. Jill has a Ph.D. in education and is a lifelong educator. Together, JOE and Jill had daughter, Ashley, who is a social worker.

JOE's affinity for the people of Delaware was reciprocal: he was re-elected to the Senate six times, including in 2008 when he was also elected Vice President.

In February of 1988, JOE was admitted to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He had an intracranial aneurysm that had begun leaking. The situation was dire, a priest had actually administered last rites at the hospital. The surgery was successful but he suffered a pulmonary embolism and had to undergo another operation, which was successful, in May 1988. Two brain operations might slow down most people, but not JOE. Two years after he nearly died, he won re-election to a fourth Senate term.

JOE's Senate career wasn't just long; it was distinguished. He became the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee in 1981. Three years later, he helped to steer the Comprehensive Crime Control Act to passage. It was the first of many major legislative accomplishments which included the Violent Crime Control & Law Enforcement Act of 1994. That bill contained the assault weapon ban and the Violence Against Women Act, and it established the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program.

JOE's accomplishments on the domestic policy side are impressive, but he also became a foreign policy expert. When Congress refused to ratify the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) II Treaty Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and President Jimmy Carter signed in 1979, JOE met with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. He was able to secure changes to the Treaty to overcome the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's objections. He has played a pivotal role in shaping U.S. foreign policy ever since. I was honored to serve on the Foreign Relations Committee for the last 2 years JOE served as Chairman. I have been honored to work with him in his current capacity as Vice President to expand the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, to include the former Warsaw Pact

countries of Eastern and Central Europe and support a sovereign, democratic Ukraine. He is a champion of Israel and has been one of the principal architects of administration's rebalance to the Asia-Pacific. He has developed deep relationships with the world leaders by excelling at face-to-face diplomacy.

Mr. President, we were all devastated when your beloved son Beau lost his battle with brain cancer last year. Beau was just 46. It was a poignant moment on Monday when you were in the Chair, presiding over the Senate as we voted to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the House message to accompany H.R. 34, the 21st Century Cures Act. The bill contains provisions to implement the administration's "Cancer Moonshot"—yet another one of your sparking accomplishments. I want to commend Senator MCCONNELL and the majority for renaming that title of the bill the "Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot and National Institutes of Health (NIH) Innovation Projects". I know it means a lot to you and your family.

I have made my lifetime serving in public life. You have made that profession an honorable profession through the manner in which you have conducted yourself, your integrity, who you are, and the way that you bring people together. I am proud to have served with you in this body.

Mr. President, you have been an extraordinary public servant for nearly half a century. You have also been a dedicated family man and a good friend. I said at the beginning of my remarks that you never met a man you didn't like. I don't think anyone who has ever met you didn't like you, too.

Congratulations.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, it is an honor to be here today. I was thinking about what I would say today and making it as brief and as personal as I could. I have to say that on a day like today it is difficult. We all have the privilege of being able to go to this floor on a regular basis to talk about issues, to talk about our country, and to talk about the world, but we also have one of the great privileges to talk about those with whom we have served and for whom we have great respect.

This is one of those moments. It is of great significance for me that I am able to stand on the floor of the Senate as a native of and as a resident of the city of Scranton in Lackawanna County to talk about a son of Scranton.

I know this is a pretty big day for Delaware—Delaware's No. 1 citizen and on this historic day for Delaware. But I have to say I am so grateful to be able to say on behalf of the people of Scranton and Lackawanna County in Northeastern Pennsylvania how proud we are today to be able to pay tribute to Vice President JOE BIDEN.

There is so much to say about that history, so much to say about what it

means to be able to stand on the floor and talk about his record, his life, his achievements, but mostly to talk about who he is.

When I consider what he has contributed to our country, to his State, and to the world, it is difficult to encapsulate it. I tried to jot down a few notes to remind myself of how best to encapsulate that life.

I guess I would start with the word "integrity." It may be a word that we take for granted, but it is a word that has to be part of the life of a public official. I would say in the case of JOE BIDEN, he has the kind of integrity that is uncommon—uncommon not because it is a rare trait but uncommon because it is so much a part of his whole life. He was a public official with integrity, and we hope he is again when he might consider public office again. But he is also a person of great integrity when it comes to the fights he has had to wage on behalf of people without power, the work he has had to do as a public official infused with that kind of integrity and, at the same time, the same kind of integrity we expect from a family member and a friend. So I would start with that word.

Certainly the word "compassion" comes to mind. Every one of us can tell a story. I was hearing stories just yesterday from a colleague about a phone call the Vice President made over the last couple of years to someone who was grieving, who was in the depths of the darkness of grief, and the phone call he made to that person.

I have heard stories over the years about not just phone calls but visits with people, stopping into a funeral home for a long lost friend who had lost a loved one, letters he has written. I know a personal friend who lost his wife and his sons had lost their mom and what the Vice President wrote to them just this summer. Over and over again, he has demonstrated that kind of compassion.

I can remember my own case in a very personal way. It was only an election loss. I ran for Governor of Pennsylvania in a primary. As many of my colleagues know, primaries are particularly difficult. I lost badly. No one called on Wednesday after Tuesday. One reporter showed up at my door, and I opened the door and I really couldn't say much to this reporter, but I was grateful she was there. But I got one phone call on Wednesday—maybe a couple of family members; I come from a family of eight. I think my wife was talking to me, but other than that, the only person who called me was JOE BIDEN. He made some kind of grand prediction—I thought he was just being nice—that I would somehow come back. But he was right. And he made me feel much better that day. He may not remember it, but I will remember that for the rest of my life.

I think certainly when we think about the Vice President, we could center on another one word: "justice"—an abiding and enduring commitment to

justice. His whole public life could be summarized in that word and the commitment he has had to justice. We could quote from the Bible: "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied." I am not sure JOE BIDEN has ever been satisfied yet with justice. He is always pursuing it, always trying to bring justice to a problem or to a situation or to the life of a fellow citizen.

We think of what Saint Augustine said about justice a long time ago, but it still bears repeating: "Without justice, what are kingdoms but great bands of robbers?" That is what Saint Augustine said hundreds of years ago. JOE BIDEN has lived his life as a public official and as a man, as a citizen, with that same burning desire to bring justice into the dark corners of our world. And he knows that without that justice, someone is, in fact, robbed of so much—robbed of their dignity, robbed of their safety, robbed of a full life.

But I think I would say that maybe the best line, with all due respect to the Scriptures and to Saint Augustine, was one my father said. He wrote it down years ago, but he probably gave maybe the best description of what a public official should be about. I am not sure I have ever attributed this to anyone else but him. He said the most important qualities a public official can bring to their work are two things: No. 1, a passion for justice—which, of course, JOE BIDEN has in abundance—and a sense of outrage in the face of injustice; that if you have both of those, on most days, you are going to get it right. And his life as a U.S. Senator for 36 years, as Vice President for 8 years, and as a citizen for all of those years and more, has been about that passion for justice and a sense of outrage in the face of injustice.

We all know his record; we don't have to recite all of it. From the Violence Against Women Act, which we know is an acronym—VAWA—but it doesn't do justice to the name of what that meant. So many today have talked about how he saved the lives of women and families because of that legislation. So from VAWA to ARRA, as we call it—the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the act that helped dig this economy out of the ditch it was in and rescued this country and improved the lives of so many people—he not only worked to get it passed, but then he made sure it was implemented. It might be the most popular piece of legislation 25 years from now when people really appreciate what happened with the Recovery Act.

From diplomacy, to law enforcement, to not just supporting our troops, not just working on legislation and supporting them not only when his son was a member of our Armed Forces but long before that, to what he did very specifically to protect our troops—we know the scourge of IEDs, which was the No. 1 killer of our troops in Iraq and in Afghanistan. A lot of those troops' lives were saved because of JOE

BIDEN up-arming vehicles and doing all the work he did to protect our troops.

So whether it was national security or security on our streets, whether it was protecting women who would be the subject of abuse or helping children or improving our economy—on and on—we could talk about that record. But just as you can't just list achievements in a record and encapsulate what it means, so the same is true of a 36-year career in the U.S. Senate and then 8 years as Vice President.

Lincoln probably said it best. Lincoln said, "It is not the years in your life that matters, in the end, it is the life in those years." And that is, I think, true of JOE BIDEN as well.

Two more points. One of the best qualities of the Vice President as a man especially but also as a public official is his sense of gratitude. If you knew him for half an hour or for your whole life, you know that almost always he is speaking about people in his life who made him who he is today, whether it is his mother and father or whether it is his whole family, including brothers and sisters and his sons and daughters and, of course, Jill. It is a reminder of how grateful we should be. In so many ways, when you hear JOE BIDEN speak, his speeches tend to be, on many occasions, a hymn to gratitude, and that comes through all the time.

We know how much he suffered with all of the losses he has sustained. I was talking to him recently at an event in Scranton about his son Beau and his life and what a patriot Beau Biden was. I think today we can say the following about the Vice President: This is a man who was a great, great Vice President. This is a man who was a committed and very effective U.S. Senator, but maybe most important, he has been a faithful son, a loving and proud husband and father, and a patriot.

Thank you, sir, and God bless you.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, these speeches were just supposed to go on for 1 hour, and we are already at the 2-hour mark, but perhaps, since we are honoring you, this is most appropriate.

I would say to our colleagues and our guests, you say the name among us of JOE BIDEN, and a smile automatically comes to our lips, and that is because the Vice President is a lover of people. That is true. We know it is true. And that is why today we have this genuine affection being expressed.

Since the hour is late, my remarks are going to be very short, but I just want to highlight that it is very true and it is very characteristic. I can even tell all of the stories of the Biden family because I have heard them so much.

It is also very true that if you are talking to JOE and suddenly your wife comes up or your daughter comes up, all of a sudden, JOE is not focusing on you, he is giving his total attention to the ladies present, and that is most ap-

preciated. That, of course, is why he is such a big fan of the Nelson household, not only of Grace and Nan Ellen but also of Bill Junior. He always treats our children with respect and goes out of his way.

In Florida, fortunately we had the good fortune of seeing him a lot in his two campaigns as Vice President and then the campaign for the ticket in this last campaign. I can remember those days. It was so cold in a horse pasture west of Ocala. And I can remember recently just absolutely cooking in North Palm Beach on the stage in the hot sun, and JOE was always there making the case for whoever it was he was standing up for.

Of course, he always made you feel that you were welcome. I remember one time we got off an airplane, and he was going to his limousine and I am going back to the guest van in the back. He motions, I am to come with him. I said, "Mr. Vice President, I never presumed that I should come here." He says, "I always want you here with me when we are traveling together." That is what makes him so special.

Finally, I want to comment about Moonshot. Why is the effort at cancer research called the Moonshot? It is because we achieved what was almost the impossible when the President said we are going to the moon and return safely within the decade, and America marshaled the will and in fact did that incredible accomplishment. That is why we are going to have the Moonshot for cancer.

We have already made so much progress; but now, with the former Vice President of the United States heading up all the efforts where we can keep the attention on NIH, so it doesn't go from a level rocking along about \$24 billion, \$25 billion a year, and the stimulus shoots it in the first 2 years of the Vice President's office up to \$30 billion a year, then it drops down to \$24 billion, \$25 billion, and Dr. Francis Collins has to cancel 700 of the medical research grants that he has already issued. Because we have the Moonshot headed by JOE BIDEN, we are going to find the cure for all those kinds of cancer. That is the great legacy that the Vice President of the United States will have.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise in honor of your service.

I just want to tell my favorite JOE BIDEN story. This is a story the Vice President has heard me tell, but I want it on the Record because everyone should know this story. It is the story of an interaction between our Vice President on one of the most important days of his life and a young man from Richmond, VA, my hometown, on one of the most important days of his life.

It was election day 2008, and I was Governor of Virginia. I was responsible for the running of the elections in my

State that day when Senator JOE BIDEN was running for Vice President with our President, Barack Obama.

I received a call in the middle of the morning: There was going to be a surprise visit to a polling place in Richmond. After having voted in Wilmington, Senator BIDEN was going to make a stop in Richmond and wanted to meet some voters before he headed to Chicago to await the election results. We gave him the address of an elementary school polling place that was very near the Richmond Airport, and I raced there with my security detail to get there a few minutes before he arrived for a surprise visit with voters who were going to love having the chance to meet the soon-to-be Vice President. I got there a few minutes before Senator BIDEN arrived, and I saw a friend who had come to vote. I asked how he was doing. He said: I am doing great. I am really excited about voting today. And it is also a special day because I have a nephew with sickle cell anemia and he is casting his first vote, but he is so sick, he can't even get out of the vehicle.

I watched the election officials at the polling place take a voting machine from inside the school into the car so that his 18-year-old nephew could cast the first vote of his life. I saw this young man, the nephew of my friend, and he was very ill.

I said to my friend and his nephew: Can you wait here for 5 minutes? Because I think we can do something really exciting.

What?

Well, just wait.

And they said they would.

Within 5 minutes, Senator BIDEN came up to meet voters and shook the hands of those in line. I said: Senator, there is a young man here, and just as this day is very important to you, because I think you are about to be elected Vice President of the United States, for this young African-American male, who is very ill but extremely excited even in his illness to get out of his house to come here and cast his vote to elect the first African-American President—he is sitting there in that vehicle. Will you go and visit with him?

I didn't even have to finish the sentence and put the question mark at the end before Senator BIDEN shot across the parking lot and went up to the vehicle. The press corps was following him. The young man was sitting in the back seat. JOE just jumped in the front seat, closed the door, rolled up the window so nobody could hear the conversation, and the press corps gathered around all four sides of the vehicle with their cameras taking pictures of Senator BIDEN in an extremely animated and somewhat lengthy conversation with the 18-year-old who had just cast his vote. To me, that will always be the quintessential JOE BIDEN story.

JOE BIDEN is the Irish poet of American politicians. He and I share a passion for the Irish poet William Butler Yeats. Yeats, like our Vice President,

was not just a poet. He was a man of the public. He was a public official. People asked him to weigh in on political matters all the time.

Once, in the middle of the First World War, somebody asked Yeats to write a war poem. He wrote a war poem, and the poem was titled "On Being Asked for a War Poem." The poem says this:

I [often] think it better that in times like these

A poet's mouth be silent, for in truth . . .

He has had enough of meddling who can please

A young girl in the indolence of her youth,
Or an old man upon a winter's night.

The meaning of the poem is this: I may be a public figure. I may have a public job to do. I may be asked to do a public job and to claim upon matters of public importance. But sometimes even more than the matter of public importance is the ability to please a young girl or an old man—or an ill young man casting a first vote, an important vote.

The fact that you took your time on that day of importance to you to shed some light and offer some joy to someone who was struggling—that is the JOE BIDEN who has us here for 2 hours offering these tributes.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I never had the privilege of serving with you in this Chamber, but, like many of my colleagues, I have come to know you as a friend and public servant and a model and a mentor. I have barely enough time to say a few words of tribute here, but I will add more to my remarks on the RECORD.

What I want to say very simply is that you have inspired so many of us, beyond this Chamber, beyond the people whom you have known directly, and beyond the people with whom you have worked. Countless young people are involved in this noble profession because of your example.

At a time when public officials and politics are often held in little repute and often challenged in their integrity, you have given us a good name, you have given politics a good name, and you have enabled so many of us to serve with pride in a profession that is so vital to the continuance of our democracy. Beyond pieces of legislation, whether it is the Violence Against Women Act or the assault weapon ban or criminal justice—the list goes on—is that model of public service.

I want to close by saying that as long as I have known JOE BIDEN, I really came to know him through the eyes of his son. I had the honor of working and serving with Beau Biden when he was attorney general of the State of Delaware and I was attorney general of my State of Connecticut. My ambition in life is to have my four children talk about me with the sense of admiration and love and pride that Beau Biden talked about his dad.

I am very proud and grateful that we had the opportunity to vote today on a law that bears his name. As proud as

his dad is of him, his pride in his dad is an example that all of us as parents hope our children have for us.

I am proud to be in this Chamber and to have been sworn in to this Chamber by you, Mr. Vice President. I hope our paths will continue to cross, as I know they will, with so many of us in this Chamber and in this country. Thank you for your service.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, me too.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, in 1972 I was a young man in my last year at Boston College Law School, and I decided to run for State representative. I had a cousin who worked at NASA, an older cousin, the smart one, the physicist. He said: Well, there is a young man in Delaware who is running for the Senate.

So what is his name?

JOE BIDEN.

From that moment on, I was following the career of this Irishman, this latter-day descendent of Hubert Humphrey, a happy warrior, the man who stands up for the common man and woman in our country.

In 1972 you had this great campaign team led by John Marttila—the great John—who captured your spirit, your soul, what you represented now in this half century of American politics.

In 1976, when I ran for Congress, just 4 years later—the same as you, age 29—saying "I think I can run," I walked into the office of this man, John Marttila, in Boston, and it looked like a museum to JOE BIDEN with all the JOE BIDEN literature and messages on his wall. So from that moment on, from John Marttila, through Larry Rasky, through Ron Klain—through all of these people who worked for me and worked for you, I have been privileged to be able to chronicle your journey of work and inspiration for our country.

I think it is just perfect that you are the commander in chief of this rocket ship to the Moon to find the cure for cancer because that is a mission that has the right man who is going to be leading it. I think that each and every one of us out here knows that one of the reasons this bill is receiving such an overwhelming vote today is because of you, Mr. President. It is because of the respect we have for you. It is the knowledge that when you were negotiating this bill, at the end of the day, you were going to put the American people first, you were going to make sure that bill reflected the highest aspiration of every American.

So I want to speak briefly because there is a reception after this, and many people are still waiting to say hello to you. I think every Member wanted to come out here, and you inspired them to speak a lot longer than they may have intended on speaking, but it is because of the incredible respect and admiration they have for you. My best to you. My wife Susan's best to you. There has never been a

better public servant in American history. All my best.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, on behalf of all the people in our great State—and our dear colleague Senator Bayh is here because of his love as well—we want to tell you how grateful we are for your services, for the extraordinary job you have done as Vice President for President Obama.

Everybody is telling stories. As you know, I had the privilege of having you put your arm around me, and when everybody said there was no chance I could ever win, you said: You and I are a lot alike and you can do this and you can win.

I came back, and they said: What advice did Vice President BIDEN give you?

I said: He told me that I could win.

They said: Well, he is right a lot; I don't know about that one.

You turned out to be right.

Then we were blessed that your sons, Hunter and Beau, often came to Indiana during the summers. You would then come out as well. I will never forget going to the coffee shop one Sunday morning. The lady at the coffee shop said to me: This has been an unbelievable day because the Vice President came in with all his grandchildren; and, by the way, JOE, he bought ice cream for everybody in the store, and you have never done that.

I said how sorry I was that I never did that.

She also said: This is one of the greatest days of my life, to meet somebody who has always looked out for working families, who has always looked out for us.

That is how we see you back home. You have always looked out for us. You have always cared about us. As a second-generation Irish immigrant, you have always been an example to all of us that we can accomplish anything we dream of.

God bless you and Jill and your whole family. We are so lucky to have been touched by you.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Vice President BIDEN, earlier Hubert Humphrey's name was mentioned. You know the great love the people of Minnesota have for you. Vice President Humphrey was your mentor when you first got to the Senate, where you didn't even know if you were going to last a few months here, and he was there for you. You have extended that kindness to so many since then.

Vice President Mondale, another Minnesotan, has great affection and love for you, and I will report back to him tonight that I was here with you today.

When I first got elected to the Senate and made one of my first speeches about police funding to a completely empty Chamber—and I thought even my mom wasn't watching on C-SPAN—I walked out of this place and I got a

phone call on my cell phone and it was JOE BIDEN, then a Senator, saying “that was a really great speech.”

When you came to my State and one of my best friends suddenly lost her husband and you heard about it, you did not know who she was, you just heard the story, and in 2 weeks, on her first day back at work, she was driving home and she got a call from you. You talked to her for 20 minutes. When you were done and had given her all this wonderful advice, you said: We are not done; I want you to write down my phone number.

She said: I am driving, Mr. Vice President; I can't do that.

You said: Pull over.

She wrote your phone number on her hand. You did that for her, Mr. Vice President, and you have done that for so many Americans. On behalf of our entire State of Minnesota that has loved you forever, thank you.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, a few minutes ago, I sent up a note to you that I handwrote that said: “Flattery won't hurt you if you don't inhale, so don't breathe too deeply up there.”

I also recall walking into a hearing with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy not too long ago in the House of Representatives, a joint House-Senate hearing. A lot of people had been there asking questions, and she was in the seat for 4 hours. It finally became my turn to ask a question, and I said to her: Is there any question, Administrator McCarthy, that you have not been asked today? She said: I wish somebody had asked me if I needed a bathroom break.

There are 30 more Senators in the cloakroom who want to come out and speak. If you need one, let us know and one of the pages or somebody will take your spot up there.

It has been a joy to sit here and listen to all these stories. JOHN CARNEY, our Congressman, Governor-elect, has been here and come and gone. He has gone back to the House to go into session. He used to work for you, and you are one of his great mentors. He wants you to know he was here, in case you didn't.

I want to say to CHRIS COONS, who put this all together, making possible a wonderful tribute, this is the Senate at its best. It is wonderful to see some of our still young colleagues who have come back to visit us and to be with us on this special, special day.

Over the years, people have asked me why I have had some success in my life, and I say that my sister and I picked the right parents. My sister and I picked the right parents. JOE BIDEN and his brother and sister picked the right parents. I have had the privilege of knowing them both. When your dad was sick and in the hospital, I visited and spent time with him, just the two of us.

JOE, I want to say for those who maybe didn't know your parents, they

valued education and made sure you got a good one, along with his brother and sister. Val is up there somewhere. I want to say hi to Val. They valued education and people of faith. I am Protestant, and JOE and his family are Catholic, but he doesn't wear it on his sleeve. I will tell you this, nobody believes in the Golden Rule of treating other people the way you want to be treated any more than JOE BIDEN.

Nobody adheres to Matthew 25, the “Least of These,” any more than JOE BIDEN. Nobody does a better reading of James 2: “Show me your faith by your words, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.” He doesn't just talk a good game. He doesn't talk a whole lot about his faith, but he sure lives it.

From his family—from his mom and dad—he learned the importance of family and the importance of loyalty to his family and, frankly, to his friends—his multitude of friends. He learned there is a difference between right and wrong and figure out what it is and do right. Do it all the time.

He learned a little bit about common sense. My dad used to say to my sister and me when we did some boneheaded stuff, just use some common sense. I think your dad said that to you once or twice as well. One of the things your mom used to say to you was, if you are knocked down, get up—the idea you just never give up. You know you are right, never give up. That is JOE BIDEN.

People say to us in this Chamber I am sure every day that they wouldn't want our job. I wouldn't want your job. I know you heard that a lot of times. I think we are fortunate to have these jobs and responsibilities to serve. An even tougher job is to be married to one of us. Several people talked about Jill and your bride—for how many years? Almost 40 years. Is that possible? I first saw Jill Biden when I was a graduate student when I was just out of the Navy. I was a graduate student at the University of Delaware. I happened to see her on campus. I thought then, and I would say now, one of the two loveliest people I think I have ever seen. The other being Martha Carper. Not only is she lovely—as JOE knows—on the outside, really lovely on the inside. She is a person with deep caring, a person with incredible warmth and compassion. She is a terrific educator. She taught in our State in public schools. She taught in a hospital for folks with special needs. She taught at Delaware Technical Community College when it was selected as the best technical community college in the Nation during the time that she was on the faculty there.

She continued as Second Lady to continue to critique, but she started off in a place called Willow Grove, PA. There is a naval air station there where I used to fly P-3 aircraft—mission commander—out of there. I retired as a Navy captain in 1991. She was just down the road, growing up with her four sisters, Jill Jacobs and the Jacobs girls. I am sure they broke a lot of hearts.

In the case of Jill Biden, she helped to mend one. As much as anybody, Val and your family are hugely supportive and helped you get through a terribly tough time, but I think Jill perhaps made you whole. She got her undergrad, I believe, from the University of Delaware. She has two master's degrees—a Ph.D. focused on how to increase retention in community colleges around the country. She got those advanced degrees while working and raising a family, three kids that any of us would be proud to claim as our own.

Last week, I happened to be in a classroom in a school where the Vice President probably has been before, Mount Pleasant Elementary School, right down the road from the high school. I was in a classroom of a woman by the name of Wendy Turner, who is the Delaware Teacher of the Year. I had a chance to be with her and her grade school kids. We all gathered around together, and I sat on a stool. They gathered around me. There were about 20, 25 kids. I said: Why is she such a great teacher? Talking about Wendy Turner, Teacher of the Year.

They said: She loves kids. She loves us. They said: She knows her stuff. She really knows what she is talking to us about. She knows how to make clear why it is important, like when we leave school, and why it is important we learn these things. She believes everybody can learn—everybody can learn.

I thought about her, and I think about Jill Biden today. She is that kind of educator as well, continues to be that kind of educator as well.

A lot has been said today of the Cancer Moonshot that JOE has been leading with great skill and success here, especially today. Before there was Cancer Moonshot, there was JOE BIDEN's breast health initiative, which helped thousands of young women to learn about the importance of early detection for breast cancer.

Beau went into the military, Delaware National Guard, deployed to Iraq. Some people would send cookies and packages to their kids and maybe write emails or Skype with them. Jill decided she was going to take that experience and create something with Delaware Boots on the Ground to look out for families. Later on, as Second Lady, working with Michelle Obama, she created something they called Joining Forces, which focuses on education for military families—education, employment opportunities, access to wellness services.

She even managed to write a book. She wrote a book from a child's point of view of having a loved one in their family deployed overseas in the military. As I said earlier, she helped raise three terrific kids.

Sometimes I like to quote Maya Angelou, who sang at the second inauguration of Barack Obama and JOE BIDEN, and she passed away not long ago. Maya Angelou said something that I think is appropriate for all of us today when she said: People may not

remember what you said, people may not remember what you do, but they will remember how you made them feel. One of the threads through everything that has been said here today really reminds me of what Maya Angelou said because people may not remember what we said. They may not remember what we do, but there are not just thousands, not just tens of thousands, not just hundreds of thousands, but there are millions of people in this country who will remember how you and Jill made them feel—cared for, important, loved.

I know our Vice President likes music, and as a Boomer he later on liked a British group. I forget what their Fab Four was called. I think it might have been the Beatles, and maybe the best rock 'n' roll album ever, "Abbey Road," ends with these lyrics—the last part of Abbey Road, side two, was largely written by Paul McCartney. The last words on "Abbey Road" were these words: "The love you take is equal to the love you make."

You are going to take a lot of love with you, and Jill as well, far from here and for the rest of your lives. God bless you.

Mr. President—I have always wanted to call you Mr. President. With that, Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I would like to invite all of my colleagues to join us in a reception in honor of the Vice President. I remind any colleagues who wish to speak who did not have the opportunity to submit their comments for the RECORD, and I very much look forward to our jointly presenting a bound copy to the Vice President.

Thank you for your service, and we look forward to hearing from you at the reception.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, this is one of those weeks where, every 6 years or 4 years or 2 years, we pause and pay tribute to those who have been elected to the Senate and have served with us and will be retiring or were possibly defeated in the last election.

KELLY AYOTTE

The first Senator I wish to talk about is KELLY AYOTTE, from the great

State of New Hampshire. KELLY's departure from the Senate is a great loss for all of us. I remember the day KELLY AYOTTE became a rising star, not only on the horizon of Republican politics but more importantly on the horizon of the Senate.

During her campaign 6 years ago, we would get phone calls asking: Have you heard about KELLY? Everybody knew who KELLY was. She was the attorney general of the State of New Hampshire, running for the U.S. Senate, and she was catching fire. She did catch fire and won in convincing fashion. She is a great lady with a great family and has done a phenomenal job.

Our U.S. Armed Forces are better today because of her efforts and hard work. We passed the agreement to go to the final passage on the authorization of the military appropriations today, and in large measure, KELLY AYOTTE was behind that. When we were debating our policy on interrogation and torture, KELLY AYOTTE was on top of that. Every significant decision we have made in the last 6 months, whether it was our military, policies, or process, she has been at the forefront of those decisions and has done a phenomenal job.

I wish her the very best in her career and future, and I thank her for the service she has given to our country.

As a son of the South, in Georgia we love New Hampshire anytime we can get one, and KELLY is the best. They have the best lobsters, the best clams, and the best attorney general and Senator in KELLY AYOTTE.

God bless you, KELLY, and best of luck to you.

BARBARA BOXER

At this point, I wish to pause and pay attention to BARBARA BOXER from California. A lot of my colleagues will say: Wait a minute. Why are you talking about BARBARA BOXER? You are a Republican. She is an icon in the Democratic Party. She is a liberal, and you are a conservative.

She is a great Senator, and I will tell you why. BARBARA and I served on the Ethics Committee for the last 9 years. When I was asked to go on the committee, she was the chairman. Later on, I succeeded her as the chairman. I am the chairman today, and she is still a member until she retires.

The Ethics Committee is the one assignment nobody wants to get. But when you get it, you want to have somebody who will do what is right. Regardless of their party, you need somebody who will do what is right for the Member, the institution, and will carry out their responsibilities under the Constitution, which all of us are obligated to do in the Senate.

In the last 9 years, I worked with BARBARA BOXER on any number of complaints, allegations, and cases against Members of the Senate for unethical conduct or conduct unbecoming of a Senator. We have admonished some, cleared some, and recommended the expulsion of some, and some have re-

signed because of our investigation. I take no pride in anyone leaving the Senate because of the actions of the committee, but I take great pride in the fact that no one in 9 years has questioned the integrity of the Senate Ethics Committee, the job it has done, or the final decision it has made, and I give most of the credit for that to BARBARA BOXER. She is a liberal Democrat, and I am a conservative Republican, but when it comes to calling balls and strikes in terms of ethics, we call them down the middle. That is a credit to the institution, a credit to her, and a credit to the Ethics Committee.

At this moment, I want to pause and say to my retiring friend BARBARA BOXER: Thank you for your service to the country, thank you for what you have meant to the State of California, and thank you for what you have meant to the institution of the Senate and the commitment to ethical behavior by our Members. Thank you for making it a standard that you and I stood for. It was a pleasure for me to serve with you and be called one of the members of the odd couple. ISAKSON and BOXER, the two Senate chairs that love our country, are committed to ethics and will always try to do what is exactly right.

God bless you, BARBARA. Best of luck to you.

I yield the floor.

HURRICANE MATTHEW RECOVERY

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, about a month and a half ago, I came into this Chamber to talk about the damage that occurred in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. It was actually 2 months ago to the day that Hurricane Matthew hit eastern North Carolina, and I don't think that many people, unless you have been down there—even in the State, it is hard to really conceive of the extent of damage that Matthew caused, even for people in my part of the State, the middle part of the State, Charlotte, so I know it is difficult for those who may be in other States and did not see the local news coverage. Matthew took 28 lives. It displaced tens of thousands of people in the near term, and now thousands of people are still without homes. It damaged businesses and infrastructure. Miles of Interstate 95 were underwater. Bridges have been washed out. We have a lot of damage we have to recover from.

We have one community that was washed away by Hurricane Floyd and was washed away again just about 17 years later with Hurricane Matthew, neighborhoods completely underwater. I was in Fayetteville. There was a Habitat for Humanity neighborhood that had 90 homes. Six of the houses are uninhabitable now. They were in areas that were not flood plains.

This was a 1,000-year rain event, a 500-year flood event. In other words, this is not likely to happen again in our lifetime, maybe not even in the pages' lifetimes.

It was an incredible event that is going to take a lot of time and effort to

recover from and a lot of resources to rebuild. We are still trying to tally the human and economic toll. It is going to take probably decades to fully recover from this disaster, as we are seeing with Floyd, but we will recover because that is what North Carolinians do. That is what Americans do.

To begin the long rebuilding process, though, we need Federal assistance. That is why Gov. Pat McCrory formally requested a disaster assistance package and why we very quickly got a team together—my staff, who led the effort, working with Congressman PRICE, members of the delegation, Senator BURR—to try to figure out what we need to do to provide assistance to North Carolina so that they can begin their recovery. Over the past weeks, we have worked very closely with the Appropriations Committee.

I want to particularly thank the leadership of the Appropriations Committee. They have done an extraordinary job of working with us, advising us on what we need to do to make our requests clear, to make it more likely that we would be able to get some resources for North Carolina.

I specifically want to thank two of my staff who have worked very hard. They were literally working on the disaster plan after the rains fell and before the rivers started cresting. I want to thank Towers Mingledorff and Kayla Dolan from my office. They did extraordinary work. I am proud of the work they have done on our behalf and on behalf of North Carolinians. At the end of the day, we now have a continuing resolution as a result of their hard work and cooperation with the Appropriations Committee. We have a provision in the continuing resolution to allocate some \$300 million to North Carolina for immediate needs to assist in recovery efforts. This is a beginning. We will continue to work with the Federal agencies which that money will be directed to and then ultimately down to the State so that we can find out what additional needs are there.

I think it is extraordinary that 8 weeks to the day, we were able to work together, get the support of the Members of this body, and get the support of the Appropriations Committee to at least begin the process. We have to help these North Carolinians get back to their normal lives. We have to put people back in their homes. We have to allow businesses to recover and bring people back in and let them go back to their daily lives and working. We are going to do it.

We also need to help the farmers. There are thousands of acres of land that were affected by the floods. In some cases, the flooding was so extensive that these farms—many of them were already ready for next year's crops. Some of them still have crops in the field, covered by sand and sediment. They will need to be cleared.

In other cases, there are washed-out bridges, and there are ditches and drainage areas that will all have to be

cleared out so that we can get the ninth largest agriculture State in the Nation ready to produce crops next year.

I know we will do it. I know we will do it because we have the support of this body, and we are going to be able to start sending that money and that desperately needed support to North Carolina. But in the coming weeks and months, we will also spend time figuring out what more we can do. In the meantime, I want to let everybody in North Carolina know that if they need help, they should contact my office. They can reach me online at tillis.senate.gov. We will do everything we can to help them recover and to get back to their daily lives.

Again, I thank the Members of this body who have supported our efforts to provide this much-needed aid.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to introduce the Senate to a young man I met last Friday. His name is Luke Hwang. Luke was born in Korea. His parents brought him to the United States when he was in the fifth grade. They took him to New Jersey. Luckily he had taken some classes in Korea and was able to speak English. He grew up in Palisades Park.

He said:

It didn't take me long to adjust and assimilate because my elementary school offered bilingual classes. . . . This is the kind of America I have known and experienced—not just mundanely accepting diversity but going above and beyond to serve the unique needs of a diverse community.

This is an amazing young man. He started off with a passion for science. He was accepted into the math and science magnet school called Bergen County Academies, ranked by Newsweek as one of the top five public high schools in the United States. At Bergen County Academies, Luke won several awards at regional science fairs. He volunteered as an emergency medical technician in the local ambulance corps as a high school kid.

Because of his academic achievements, Luke was accepted as a university scholar in the Macaulay Honors College at the City College of New York. In 2013 Luke graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's of science in chemistry. He received an award for the highest grade point average of any chemistry major in the school.

This brilliant young man is currently a Ph.D. candidate in chemistry at the University of Chicago. He works as a researcher at the university. In his spare time, he volunteers for the Chicago Korean American Resource and Cultural Center, an organization that tries to help poor people in that community.

Here is the kicker: Luke is undocumented. He was brought to the United States in the fifth grade and turned out to be one of the smartest chemistry

students in his high school, in his college, and now in his graduate program.

When I met him last Friday—he is a very quiet fellow—I said: What do you want to do, Luke?

He said: I want to teach. That is what I would like to do, research and teaching.

Well, here is the problem: He is undocumented. He is not legally in the United States of America. His family brought him here. They did not file the papers, or if they could have, they did not file the papers. Whatever the case, this young man grew up here in the United States, took advantage of the best schools in New Jersey, and now is going to one of the best universities in the United States and is destined to do great things in his life. Maybe he will teach. Maybe he will start a company. Maybe he will just come up with some breakthrough achievement in chemistry that will change the lives of many people.

What are we going to do with Luke Hwang? Well, there are 744,000 people just like him. These are young people who are undocumented, whom President Obama gave a chance to stay here in the United States after they went through a criminal background check, after they paid their filing fee.

He said: You can stay and study in the United States of America. We won't deport you. You can travel to another country and come back without being arrested. You can work in this country if you wish. You have a work permit.

There are 744,000 of them under what is called the DACA Program. Well, the new President says he is going to eliminate that program and eliminate the only thing that is keeping Luke Hwang in the United States; that is, the DACA Program protection against deportation. We can't let that happen. Why would we do that to this young man who was brought here as a fifth grader? Why would we walk away from his talents? Why would we say: Despite all that you have achieved with the highest grade point average in chemistry, America does not need you, Luke. Of course we need him and many more just like him.

I am trying to find a way to give people like him a chance to stay in the United States without being deported, to continue their education in medical school, in law school, in graduate programs, and in so many other different fields. Well, there was a breath of hope today. The President-elect was interviewed for Time magazine. Here is what he said about DREAMers and people like Luke:

We're going to work something out that's going to make people happy and proud. They got brought here at a very young age, they've worked here, they've gone to school here. Some were good students. Some have wonderful jobs. And they're in never-never land because they don't know what's going to happen.

That statement by the President-elect gives me some hope that I can

give Luke some hope and others just like him.

We can straighten out this immigration system in this country, but let's not do it at the expense of these young people. Let's do our job, but in the meantime, let's us protect them. Let's let them continue their education. Let's let them achieve what they want to achieve for themselves and for America. We will be a better nation for it.

Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and I are working on a bill. Whether you are for immigration reform or against immigration reform, join us in the basic proposition that we need to protect young people like this while we debate this important issue. I think that is the right to do. It is certainly the right thing to do for this young man. Some day, he is going to do something very important in this world. I would like to have it happen in the United States.

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

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

REGULATORY REFORM

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the need for regulatory reform and also on the work that we have been doing and are doing in the Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight, of which I have had the great privilege to chair in the 114th Congress. I would be remiss if I did not also recognize our ranking member from Massachusetts, Senator MARKEY, for his contributions to our oversight efforts.

As chairman, one of our main goals has been to conduct a thorough and systemic review of the regulatory process, focusing on the impacts of these regulations on citizens, businesses, and—most importantly—solutions to these problems. We have sought to make certain that Federal regulations are promulgated in a transparent, open process with adequate public participation. Our subcommittee has held hearings conducting oversight on various aspects of the rulemaking process. This includes the adequacy of the science the agencies rely on when promulgating regulations, the increasing number of unfunded mandates agencies impose on State and local governments, the impact of lawsuits on the rulemaking process, and the impact these regulations have on small businesses, State and local governments, and landowners.

Since I began working in the Senate nearly 2 years ago, it has become increasingly clear that economic growth, American innovation, and job creation are being smothered by heavy-handed

Federal regulations imposed by Washington bureaucrats who think they know what is best for American families, States, local governments, and businesses.

According to the American Action Forum, since 2009 this administration has finalized 2,973 regulations at a cost of \$862.7 billion dollars as of today, December 7.

Of these, 179 regulations have come from the Environmental Protection Agency, costing American taxpayers \$342.5 billion.

Since writing this speech—or beginning to write it, about 1 week ago—10 more regulations have been finalized, with 5 of those coming from the EPA. EPA regulations alone make up nearly half of the cost of all the regulations finalized in the last 7 years.

As chairman of the EPW Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight, it has become clear to me that EPA is one of the most egregious government agencies in imposing burdensome Federal regulations on citizens, States, and businesses. We have found a failure to review the most current and important science the Agency supposedly bases its regulations on.

We have found that the sue-and-settle process utilized by special interest groups leads to a rushed and reckless rulemaking process that does not follow the proper regulatory process or allow for adequate public participation from those these rules will impact the most.

Further, the EPA regularly fails to take into account how their regulations will impact States and shows little regard for how the States will use their limited resources to comply with these regulations, thereby issuing rules that impose Federal unfunded mandates on States and local and tribal governments.

From 2009 to 2015, the EPA issued a total of 19 rules that contained costly, unfunded mandates on State governments.

The Office of Management and Budget's 2015 report to Congress estimated that Federal regulations and unfunded mandates cost States, cities, and the general public between \$57 billion and \$85 billion every single year. State and local governments are then required to enforce these misguided regulations that have been promulgated by Washington bureaucrats who lack any understanding of the real-world consequences of their regulations or the unique characteristics of the various States.

Alarming, we have also found that the EPA regularly fails to conduct a thorough and accurate economic analysis, which should provide an accurate representation of the cost their regulations will impose on taxpayers and businesses.

This leads to grossly inaccurate economic analysis of regulations that affect huge swathes of the U.S. economy and thousands of U.S. businesses and American jobs.

A 2014 report from the Government Accountability Office found that on multiple occasions and with major costly regulations, the EPA did not provide the public with an explanation of the economic information behind its decisionmaking, despite its obligations to do so.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently issued the Michigan v. EPA decision, finding that the EPA unreasonably failed to consider costs when deciding to regulate mercury emissions from powerplants. This impacts the ability of our businesses to conduct business on a daily basis, to compete in a competitive global marketplace, and to employ Americans in steady, well-paying jobs. Notably, small businesses make up 99.7 percent of U.S. employer firms.

Federal agencies are required by law to examine the impact of their regulations and what it will have on small businesses. Throughout our oversight process, we found that the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy submitted comments to the EPA expressing concerns over a number of recent rulemakings, such as the waters of the United States rule and the EPA's greenhouse gas regulations.

However, the EPA moved forward with these regulations with little to no regard for their impact on U.S. small businesses. They are the backbone of the U.S. economy.

As a result, rather than creating jobs and focusing on growing their business, U.S. small businesses are forced to use limited resources to comply with a myriad of costly and burdensome regulations.

This year alone, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals imposed a nationwide injunction on the waters of the United States rule, and the Supreme Court imposed a nationwide stay on the Clean Power Plan. While I applaud these decisions, we should not be forced to rely on the courts to prevent such regulations from taking effect.

I am also deeply troubled by the reports that the EPA and the Army Corps are illegally continuing to implement the Waters of the United States rule despite the court's nationwide stay.

During our subcommittee field hearings in Rapid City, SD, earlier this year, we heard from several witnesses about the difficulty and confusion landowners are facing with regard to the waters of the United States. I am concerned that, if this continues, it may get to the point where the property that is the subject of these burdensome regulations loses its value.

Make no mistake. I understand that rules and regulations have a place in society. We all want clean air, clean water, and safe chemicals, but there is a better way to achieve this without imposing burdensome regulations. These flaws in the EPA's rulemaking process have prevented agencies from making well-informed decisions. Even more troubling, the public, State and

local governments, and American businesses are prevented from understanding the need, basis for, and the real impact of regulations.

This regulatory quagmire did not happen overnight. It comes from decades of increased Federal bureaucracy, out-of-control spending, and Federal agencies not being held accountable for their actions. Similarly, we will not come to a solution overnight. It will take a serious bipartisan effort to move the ball forward to address this problem. Throughout this Congress, the goal of our subcommittee has been to unify and lead an effort to advance meaningful regulatory reform in Congress.

We must make certain the regulatory process reflects transparency and sound science and is based on a realistic economic foundation and meaningful public participation that considers the multitude of facets of the U.S. economy.

With an ally in the White House next year who has committed to reducing burdensome regulations, I plan to continue this effort throughout the next Congress and beyond. The success of the U.S. economy and the creation of American jobs depends on Congress making a concerted effort to take back their authority and rein in the rule-making process.

I thank you, and I yield the floor.

Mr. INHOFE. Will the Senator yield?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, if the Senator from South Dakota would rescind his request to yield the floor, I would like to share one thought.

First of all, I am honored to chair the committee of which you are a subcommittee chairman, and what a Godsend the Senator from South Dakota has been, I have to say to my friend. I was concerned, with this last election coming along, with what might be happening. I think people are aware of what has happened to our military. They are aware of what is happening with the debt going all the way up from \$10.6 trillion to \$20 trillion, the largest increase of all the Presidents, from George Washington, Bush 1, and Bush 2.

My concern was that people wouldn't realize what an impairment the overregulation has been to our businesses in how we are no longer competitive. I think the Senator really struck the note here that it had a lot to do with the awareness of the public.

The Senator knows how many hearings we had on the Clean Power Plan in our committee, and the Senator's subcommittee. We actually had 10 hearings and we had three oversight reports.

I have to say the liberals really like overregulation. Does the Senator know why? This is the question I want to ask the Senator because, generally, if you are of a liberal philosophy, you want to have as much control centered here in Washington, DC. However, when you

get home and they get complaints about overregulation, what this is costing them, they then say: Well, that is not the case now because I had nothing to do with it. That was the regulation.

That is what we are in the midst of right now.

I have a friend who is the head of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau who came to me and he said: Have you seen this document that we have? This is true in South Dakota as well as Oklahoma, that the major problem with the farmers in America today is not anything that is found in the agriculture bill, it is overregulation, primarily by the EPA. The Senator from South Dakota struck a nerve when he spoke about the waters bill, the Waters of the United States. My State is an arid State, but they know full well if the Federal Government can take away from States that jurisdiction of regulating water, what will happen in my State of Oklahoma?

So I would ask my friend—I think a lot of what happened on November 8 has to do with overregulation, and I think we have devoted a lot of time to that. I would suspect the same thing is true in South Dakota.

Mr. ROUNDS. I thank the Senator for the question. The answer is, yes, we have spent a lot of time not only because it is critically a very important item to address—because in the United States today we spend over \$1.9 trillion a year responding to the Federal regulatory morass that we have. That is one-half of a trillion dollars more than what we pay in personal income taxes on April 15.

For people who are producers and have to respond not only in terms of the cost of the regulations but in terms of requesting from a Federal agency the ability simply to mow the ditches, seems to me to be overreach that most people with common sense and the rest of America simply don't think is necessary.

Mr. INHOFE. And, too, I would say the wisdom of the statements brought out that if we stop and think about it, over half of the States had a lawsuit against the Clean Power Plan. That is 29 States. Of course, I am sure that had a lot to do with the U.S. Supreme Court putting a stay on this, and now of course we will have a different administration, but I guess maybe we missed the boat on that one.

Overregulation has been the problem. People have not been as aware of that as they are of other problems. I think that had a lot to do with what happened on November 8 and what is going to happen in the future, particularly in your subcommittee and my committee.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I appreciate those comments, and I appreciate the facts that the Senator is bringing out here. This is something that cannot be done overnight; it has to be done in a businesslike manner.

The real challenge is to listen to the individuals who are impacted and to make reasonable regulations because

we all want to make sure we have a clean America but also an America that can get back to business again employing people, putting them back to work. Then we can begin building the economy so we can afford to actually provide for the next generation so they don't have the problems we see right now with family income down over 6 percent in just the last 9 years.

So this is a part of it. It is a significant part not just in the cost but in the impact on our economy as well.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business, and I ask unanimous consent that our distinguished colleague from Colorado, Senator BENNET, follow my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAMILY FIRST LEGISLATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, right now, this evening, hundreds of thousands of vulnerable youngsters across America are living in foster care, separated from family and growing up in a constant struggle instead of in a loving home. For years, this body has worked on a bipartisan basis to come up with an alternative—we call it the Family First legislation—in order to give new hope to our youngsters.

I am particularly grateful to Senator BENNET because he and I have teamed up on this with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, including Chairman HATCH, KEVIN BRADY—the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee—and Congressman BUCHANAN. We have had a bipartisan team working for this. Now, in the waning moments of this Congress, after the legislation passed the House unanimously, after there were a number of hearings in the Finance Committee, and after objections were raised when we used the process in the Senate called the hotline to see if Senators had problems with this legislation and three indicated they had concerns, and we resolved all of them—yet it looks like this Senate is going to go home and end up continuing a policy that causes so much pain to vulnerable children and their families.

What our bipartisan bill would do is to say that for the first time, foster care dollars could be used to keep families together instead of ripping them apart. For example, if in a family a parent has bumped up against substance abuse challenges or mental health services and a grandparent or an uncle would like to help out, that is exactly what could be done under our proposal.

Now, over Thanksgiving—and I truncated the description of what happened into just a couple of sentences—over Thanksgiving, the Family First Act was included in the 21st Century Cures package. The legislation passed earlier

today. And all of us—Senator BENNET, Chairman BRADY—all of us said together that it sure looks like we are on our way.

After having months to come forward to work out concerns—and I will say to the distinguished Presiding Officer who has been kind enough to talk to me about this, we basically said that if a State is having problems meeting these kinds of opportunities—perhaps there aren't enough families—well, we just give them more time. In effect, we would say: OK. You have made a good-faith effort, we will give you a bit more time. But still, at the last moment, there was opposition that swooped in—opposition that really hadn't registered any specific concerns during those years and months in which we worked on this legislation. At the eleventh hour, the Family First Act was stripped out of the Cures package. That is why I voted no.

By dropping Families First, the Senate basically is sending a message today to the most vulnerable, neglected children in America that it is just fine with us if they just wait a little bit longer. They probably are saying: Well, where else do we look for help? By the way, there aren't a lot of places because Chairman BRADY, Chairman BUCHANAN, Congressman LEVIN, the other part of the Capitol, did a terrific job coming together. So when those families who have been neglected go looking for somebody else to help, when the House has done its job and the administration is with you, there is only the U.S. Senate. I am curious whether anybody is going to come here tonight and say they are not on the side of the neglected youngsters and families whom Senator BENNET and I want to stand up for.

So I am going to just make a couple of additional comments and then turn this over to Senator BENNET.

The Family First Act reaches out to the families who are struggling with addiction to opioids or other substances, it helps with programs that fight child abuse and neglect, and it also makes it a special priority to set basic standards for foster care facilities and group homes. I want to emphasize that point just for a moment. Some troubled or abused youngsters have been through such severe trauma that they need the kind of help you can only get in a temporary, high-quality treatment facility. They are kids who are struggling with mental illnesses and behavioral problems, young people suffering from addiction, victims of sex trafficking. The support they need is unique and they need access to reliable care in a safe place.

But these kinds of placements shouldn't be a destination; they should really be an intervention. And whenever we can, we need to make it possible for the kids to have the opportunity to reunite with kin or join a foster or adoptive family.

For the first time, our bill laid down a roadmap so youngsters don't have to

face the prospect of growing up in the kinds of struggling circumstances I have described. There would be standards guided by the States and laid out to protect the kids. They would raise the bar for group homes and make sure the kids aren't sent away and forgotten. In effect, the bill turns the system on its head. I think I shared that thought with the distinguished Presiding Officer. Instead of paying a dollar for families to be split up, the bill says let's find a way to use that dollar to help the families stay together. Let's see if the dollar can keep a youngster safe at home or with kin, where he or she is most likely to be healthy and happy and succeed in school.

The bill has 28 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate.

I also want to thank Chairman GRASSLEY because he has been in our corner, along with Senator BENNET and Chairman HATCH, month after month after month. I hope we can work this out overnight so Families First can pass; if not tonight, in the morning. It is the right policy for vulnerable kids. It is the right policy for families, the right policy for taxpayers. What we are doing today isn't helping vulnerable kids and families the way it ought to.

Five hundred organizations, led by the pediatricians, nurse practitioners, the Catholic bishops, and the Children's Defense Fund, all agree with our basic premise: try to find ways to keep families together and only look for something else where you have those extraordinary circumstances where you need another kind of care. The status quo is not working, and it seems to me we have a choice. We have a choice tonight and in the morning, with the 114th Congress wrapping up, closing the books, packing up, heading home for the holiday season—let's make sure before that wrap-up is finished that we haven't forgotten vulnerable children and families.

With that, I yield the floor.

I note by virtue of unanimous consent that Senator BENNET has recognition. He has been an invaluable colleague, a terrific member of the Finance Committee, and I appreciate his leadership.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I will be brief.

I want to thank Mr. WYDEN, the Senator from Oregon and the ranking member of the Finance Committee, for his leadership on this bill. I thank, as he did, Senator HATCH for his leadership on this bill and Senator GRASSLEY for his leadership on this bill.

As the Senator from Oregon indicated, this bill passed unanimously in the House of Representatives. This bill passed with 500 groups supporting the bill from every geographic area in the United States. There are groups from Oregon. There are groups from Colorado. There are groups from the Presiding Officer's State that have

weighed in on this and said we should have this legislation passed. We have had testimony in the Finance Committee from people who were foster children who came to the Congress to testify about what had gone wrong in their lives as a result of the system we have in place today, who still made the time to come here to advocate on behalf of children all over the country who are situated in the same way they once were.

Now, because of a disagreement in the Senate, this bipartisan bill that passed the House unanimously, that has almost 30 cosponsors in the U.S. Senate, a bill that was supported universally by the testimony we had in the Finance Committee, somehow can't get done before we leave for the holidays. That would be a terrible shame, a terrible stain on this Senate.

Tonight there are 50,000 children in Colorado who are in foster care. There are over 650,000 children in the United States of America. What we have heard from them, what we have heard from their advocates, what we have heard from people who serve them—Republicans and Democrats alike—is that the institutional settings that too many of them are consigned to because of the way the law is written today is not the best thing for foster children; that families who can support them and who can nurture them, when they get the benefit of some help, are a far better place for foster children to be than these institutions. When it comes to drug addiction, when it comes to graduation rates from high school, when it comes to attending college—all of these things are affected by the way the current law exists.

The Presiding Officer may know that half of the cases of foster children in the United States are related, one way or another, to the scourge of opium addiction that is happening in the United States. This bill allows us to recognize that. It allows the people who serve the children and the families best to be able to intervene in a way that can keep the families together longer. What we know from the testimony in the hearings is that is the best thing for foster kids, it is the best thing for our States, and it is the best thing for the country.

So I join my colleague from Oregon in saying we should not go home with this unresolved. We should not go home, with the kind of momentum that exists for this bill inside the Congress and, much more important than that, outside the Congress, without having addressed this vulnerable population of people who live in the United States.

It is my fervent hope that we in the Senate will find a way to come to our senses and do our job, just as the people who came here to testify did their job, expecting that the U.S. Congress would respond to their description of their life experience, and what went wrong in a foster care setting has been established by the U.S. Congress. It is

up to us to fix it, and that is what we can do tonight or tomorrow morning, I hope, at the very latest.

With that, Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Oregon for his leadership on this bill. I thank, once again, the thoughtful chairman of the Finance Committee, ORRIN HATCH from Utah, for his leadership on this bill, and I hope over the next 12 or 24 hours we find a way to get this through the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PEARL HARBOR DAY AND FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, on this Pearl Harbor Day, we should learn the lessons of the past and seize new opportunities for America and Asia and beyond. The great lesson of Pearl Harbor—and more broadly World War II—was America's commitment to utterly defeat our enemies by whatever means necessary and then, when victory was secure, to bring them back into the community of civilized nations.

It was an extraordinary achievement. To think that if, on December 7, 1941, I were to tell you that Japan would be, on December 7, 2016, a staunchly democratic ally, a vital security and economic partner to the United States, you would have said that I was barking mad.

Here we are, three-quarters of a century later, and the day of infamy has become a day of remembrance, reflection, and above all gratitude—gratitude for that greatest of generations who answered the call to service after Pearl Harbor, who stood staunchly with our allies, looked the evil of the axis squarely in the eyes, and saved the free world. They are leaving us now, making it all the more important that we assure each and every one of them of our boundless thanks while we still can. Indeed, I would encourage each and every one of us to thank every veteran we know, every veteran we encounter, every man and woman serving this country who risks their lives to keep us safe.

We can also find much to be thankful for today as what had seemed unthinkable has come to pass. A nation that brutally attacked us 75 years ago today can now be a great and good friend. It is a tribute to both the Japanese and the American people that we have been able to not ignore or whitewash the past but to learn from it and come to the understanding that we are so much stronger as allies than as adversaries.

As a Texan, I am personally appreciative of the fruits of this alliance. We host a range of Japanese companies who have invested in our State, with Toyota, for example, building its new

North American headquarters in Plano this year and creating some 4,000 new jobs, all in Texas. Also this year, the Lockheed Martin plant in Fort Worth has started to produce the F-35s that Japan is purchasing to bolster its defenses against increasing regional aggression from China and North Korea.

So against all odds, the attack on Pearl Harbor has been transformed, and as we face great challenges around the world, and particularly in Asia, we can be grateful today to have our Japanese friends standing by our side, which is yet another lesson from the post-World War II era to be on the lookout not just for challenges and dangers but for unexpected opportunities. We might be forgiven as we contend with hostile nations with nuclear capability or intent—nations such as North Korea or Iran—to see a glass half empty and become consumed with fears of another Pearl Harbor-like attack potentially so much more catastrophic and deadly than the one in 1941.

That would be a mistake. As with some of the fortitude our parents and grandparents showed, we can now count new allies as our partners, not just Japan but also—and equally stunningly—Germany. The list does not end there. We have Israel, which had yet to be born in 1941, not to mention the eastern and central European countries that languished so long under Soviet domination but now are helping build enduring democracies, many of which have joined NATO.

That is simply amazing. If I had told you even 30 years ago that there would be a Czech Republic or a Republic of Poland that would be key NATO allies, I would have again been met with well-founded skepticism. But they are, and as we look forward to a new American administration, it is my hope that we can get off on a much better foot than the last one did in the region when they canceled the missile defense installations intended for those countries, squandering an opportunity to link them more closely to us.

I have to say I am encouraged in this department by the activities of the President-elect, particularly in terms of the congratulatory phone call he received last week from the President of the Republic of China, Tsai Ing-wen. The liberal foreign policy elites were, of course, shocked and appalled. How, they wonder, could the President-elect have committed such an appalling gaff? Wasn't he aware we had degraded our relationship with Taiwan for more than 35 years and no longer recognized this friendly, prosperous, and democratic country as a nation state? Compounding their consternation was the concern that the People's Republic of China might not like it. Quelle horreur. The Chinese might not like it.

Now, to be fair, given the flaming train wreck that is the Obama foreign policy writ large, our relationship with the PRC is, by comparison, a bright spot. All they have done is throw Mr. Obama's successor as Nobel Peace lau-

reate, Liu Xiaobo, into prison, constructed 3,000 acres of weaponized artificial islands in the middle of one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, and utterly failed to contain North Korea, while dismantling the last vestiges of freedom in Hong Kong. Even so, I don't think our President-elect needs to clear his phone calls with Beijing. The phone call between President Tsai and the new American President was, in fact, an acknowledgement of a simple truth: that Taiwan has become an important friend to the United States, even after Jimmy Carter downgraded them in 1979 in acknowledgement of the "One China" policy the elites are so eager to perpetuate.

That is another thing. Just because a policy is old doesn't make it sacrosanct. I don't think anyone here can honestly say our relations with the PRC is so fantastic that we shouldn't do anything to rock the boat. I don't think the Carter-era foreign policy was such a success that we should unquestionably continue it.

I hope the President-elect continues to make clear that while he understands the importance of China and looks forward to a positive relationship with Beijing, he is not going to ignore our friends in the region.

The call between President Tsai and the President-elect reminded me of another phone call which took place in September of 2013. At the end of that year's United Nations General Assembly in New York, while driving to the airport, the new President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hasan Ruhani, took out his cell phone and called President Obama. The Obama administration was in a tizzy of excitement over Mr. Ruhani's election, as they believed him to be a "moderate" who would be a good-faith partner in their planned and hoped-for negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. Even at this early day, the signs were not promising. Despite Mr. Obama's offers, President Ruhani had refused to have a face-to-face meeting at the United Nations, opting for a call instead. There were no preconditions placed on this first direct exchange between an Iranian and American leader since 1979, such as, say, demanding that the Iranians release their American hostages and acknowledging Israel's right to exist—steps that would have indicated a fundamental shift in Iran's virulent hostility to the United States and our allies and suggested we were truly on a new path.

We all know what has happened over the last 3 years as the Obama administration made concession after concession to get a deal—any deal—with Tehran. Even as Iranian belligerence and hostility had grown, as they have tested ballistic missiles, violated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, detained our citizens, and repeatedly threatened to wipe Israel off the map, Mr. Obama has over and over again proffered his hand in friendship, even sending them \$1.7 billion in cash as a

sweetener, all of which may well result, as I said earlier, in a terrible threat to the United States that could dwarf Pearl Harbor.

In closing, I want to leave you with a message of hope. Our friendship with Japan, as well as Germany, Israel, the Czech Republic, and Poland, makes me hopeful. There is a discrete reason these nations are now aligned allies: the persistence and resolve of American leadership—leadership to discern moral from immoral, freedom from tyranny, right from wrong, life from death, and then to fight for the right. Such leadership has been sorely lacking in the past 8 years. Yet the past month affords ample reason for hope.

Quite frankly, I think talking to President Tsai and not to President Ruhani was a material improvement for the national security interests of the United States, and it demonstrates renewed resolve to once more assume the mantle of leadership. That is enough to make all of us hopeful.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 5456

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in a moment, I am going to ask unanimous consent to pass the bipartisan Family First Act, to help the hundreds of thousands of vulnerable children and their parents stay together and make the biggest improvement in child welfare policy in decades and decades in America.

Right now, Federal policy says taxpayer money can be used to split families apart and uproot the family home. With Families First, our bipartisan bill, terrific work has been done by so many Members on both sides of the aisle. Senator BENNET was here and gave an eloquent address about how important this is. With Chairman HATCH, Chairman GRASSLEY, and Chairman BRADY, this has been a bipartisan effort for months for a number of Members for close to 3 years.

With our reform, the Family First bill, families will finally see that they will get some assistance to stay together and stay together when it is safe to do so. If a parent can get a leg up with some help if they face a drug addiction or a mental health problem, everybody wins because the family stays together.

A grandparent can step in. One of the things I am proudest of is that I wrote the kinship care law as part of welfare reform when I was a new Member of this body. So we know that there are hundreds of thousands of grandparents out there who could step in in those situations, or an uncle, and they could get a little bit of help raising a young-

ster, again, keeping the family together.

Sometimes foster care is lifesaving. I think all of us have said that from the beginning. But it should not be the only option. That is what kids who have been in the foster care system came to the Senate this week to tell us. It is our job as policymakers to protect the most vulnerable. Those kids don't have a powerful lobby. They don't have deep pockets.

It just seems to me, as we wrap up this session and everyone here goes back to their families and their holidays, that it is not in good conscience to turn our backs on the foster kids and allow this important bipartisan legislation to wither and to die in the last days of the 114th Congress.

So in a moment I will make this unanimous consent request. I ask that our colleagues end this standing in the way of providing a new measure of hope for vulnerable kids and their families and that we help lift the weight of this broken status quo—this broken status quo that falls heaviest on the hundreds of thousands of foster kids living in a quiet struggle every single day.

So at this time, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 527, H.R. 5456; that the Wyden substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I was wondering if I could direct a question through the Chair to the Senator from West Virginia. I was curious as to whether or not the good Senator, my friend and colleague, intends to object to this measure.

Mr. MANCHIN. To this measure? No, sir.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I actually think Senator WYDEN has done some good work on this measure. I hope that we can get to a point where we can bridge the gap and address some concerns that some of the Members have in States that are concerned with unintended consequences. But at this time, and for reasons unrelated to this measure but to our inability to get other unanimous consents through, I am going to have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I will be very brief. As I have indicated to our colleague from North Carolina—and he is new to the Senate—he really brings a refreshing openness to these debates. I know this was a new topic for him. He has not had a chance to hear a lot about it over the last few years. He was concerned about what this would mean

to group facilities and group homes in his State.

I said: Look, if there is a problem in North Carolina in terms of trying to meet these measures, we said we will give States more time. We will give them more flexibility. I would just like to point out that there seems to be enormous support across North Carolina with respect to this bill because in North Carolina they seem to be saying that they understand that what this legislation is all about—what Family First is all about—is just getting high-quality care for these youngsters.

All of the providers would be eligible. It does not speak to the type of provider. It is all the providers. So I am just going to wrap up by a few quotes that came into the Finance Committee over the course of this legislation. From the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services, which, as I understand, is the association of entities that administer child welfare programs in the State of North Carolina supports the legislation, we have a letter that reads: "We go on record as supporting the act and respectfully request your support in passing this important legislation."

The North Carolina Association of Social Workers supports the bill. They wrote: "The legislation would strengthen families so that more children could remain safely with their parents and family caregivers and avoid the need for foster care." For the overwhelming majority of children, this North Carolina group says: This legislation could be a lifesaver.

The North Carolina Pediatric Society writes:

The bill is a pivotal opportunity for a major Federal policy shift away from placing children in out-of-home care and toward keeping families together. Congregate care remains one of the options on the continuum, and the bill doesn't impose time limits or restrictions on the use of these settings for children who need them. But the focus is on keeping families together. The only changes this bill makes for congregate care providers is raising the standards for quality so that all children-needs settings benefit from the therapeutic value of the best providers, of which we have several in North Carolina.

So the Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Children's Hope Alliance, the Exchange Family Center, Family Preservation Community Services, and FIRST North Carolina—a number of groups, all based there and serving in North Carolina citizens—have come out for this.

So I recognize that there has been an objection. It is my intention to keep working through the night, through the early part of tomorrow. I appreciate that this Senator from North Carolina has kept an open mind on this. He has indicated in our conversations that he understands that there is a lot of good in this bill, and for the reasons he has stated, he cannot support it tonight and I gather reasons unrelated to the bill.

I look forward to working with him. He has come to the Senate fairly recently, but I have found him open and

accessible. That is all you can ask of a colleague.

With that I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Oregon. I may be new to the Senate, but I am not new to North Carolina. I was speaker of the house for 4 years, and I worked with a lot of the agencies that the Senator from Oregon referenced. But the fact of the matter is that the first time I heard that these agencies supported the bill was about 90 seconds ago.

This has not been fully vetted in the Senate. It sounds like it has a lot of merit, but even having said that, this is not why I am objecting to the bill. I am objecting at this time, in large part, because of a number of other objections we are receiving that are not allowing things that would otherwise move through unanimous consent.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2912

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, on that note, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2912, the Trickett Wendler Right to Try Act of 2016, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I will continue to object to any unanimous consent on legislation until the CR includes a permanent long-term solution for our miners' health care, as included in the Miners Protection Act, S. 3470.

So this is something that we have been talking about and working on for 2 years. That is all we have asked: Fulfill our promises as those representative of people who have given everything. So I will have to object for these reasons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I appreciate that, but the reason I directed the question about the objection to the motion of the Senator from Oregon is that there seems to be maybe selective application of a strategy that the Senator from West Virginia is trying to do to get a measure passed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3084

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, if I may move on. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 695, S. 3084, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, the Gardner substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the

motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we have heard a lot of talk during the election, since the election about communities like my hometown of Mansfield, OH, not far from where the Presiding Officer grew up—communities that have been ignored by their representatives in Washington.

A lot of politicians responded during the election, since the election. They pledged to do better. This is our chance to actually show that we mean it—with the work that Senator MANCHIN has done, and Senator CASEY, Senator WARNER, Senator PORTMAN in my State, a Republican, and Senator DONNELLY of Indiana—simply to take care of these mine workers.

Senator MANCHIN has been on this floor, as I have—but he has been on this floor even more times—talking about taking care of those mine workers, living up to the promise that Harry Truman made, extending their health insurance.

Instead, the only offer we have had from the majority leader, the one person—Senator TILLIS is not standing in the way. Senator SULLIVAN is not standing in the way. It is one Senator—the majority leader. For whatever reason he does not like the United Mine Workers union. I don't really care about what he thinks about the union. I support the union.

But I care about these workers. What they proposed is a 4-month extension, which means these workers, these widows, these retired workers got a notice back in the last couple of weeks saying they were going to lose their health care. We do 4 months, and they will get another notice—Senator MANCHIN, right?—in January.

We are going to make these retired mine workers, these widows who saw their husbands die from an accident in a mine or died from black lung disease or died from heart diseases every 3 months get another notice and then say: Well, we will extend it for 4 months. No, we have to make sure that we provide them—this is not giving them—the health insurance they have earned.

It is the right thing to do. It is the moral thing to do. For one Senator, who happens to be from Kentucky, of all places, who happens to also be the majority leader, to stand in the way—Senator WYDEN is on my committee and Senator HATCH, Senator PORTMAN, Senator TOOMEY.

We passed 18-to-8 a bipartisan bill to move forward on this and do this right. Senator MCCONNELL asked to go through regular order. We have to do this right. Yet we are going to go home for Christmas. We are going to go home for the holidays. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, we are going home for the holidays.

We are going to have fun with our families. These widows, these retired miners, well, it is not so much fun with their families because they don't know when their health insurance is going to run out.

Mr. President, we need to do this. We need to do it right. We need to do it today or tomorrow. We have no business going home before that. For these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Ohio. I believe, if I have the facts correct, that it was the majority leader who pushed for the patch into the CR.

I am not quite sure I agree with some of the specifics that were put forth by the distinguished Senator from Ohio, but I would like to move on.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2763

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 654, S. 2763, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, with a committee-reported substitute amendment. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. DONNELLY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a crisis facing 16,000 retired coal miners and widows across the country. We made promises. Roughly 1,000 of these people are in my State. These retirees will lose their health insurance at the end of this year unless Congress acts.

My colleagues, Senators MANCHIN, BROWN, CASEY, and WARNER have spoken on this topic, and together, along with a larger bipartisan group, we pushed for months for the passage of the Miners Protection Act to guarantee pension and health benefits to hundreds of thousands of retirees.

We have a responsibility to enact this legislation to ensure that the Federal Government makes good on its promise—its promise to the miners. It wasn't a suggestion. It was a promise to these people who risked their lives to help our country meet our energy needs. In fact, many of us stood here together in June calling for action before it was too late.

Well, now it is almost too late. While Congress is in a rush to get out of town, those 16,000 retirees are desperate for help. Their health needs are not dependent on our schedule. Their desire to be able to stay alive shouldn't be subject to our desire to leave town. They are praying this legislation is enacted so the health insurance is still there next month when they still need it.

It is inexcusable. It is beyond disappointing to learn that the bill we are set to consider to keep the Federal Government running includes only a scaled-down provision for our miners. Rather than guarantee the promised benefits, leadership chose only to include the bare minimum of a 4-month extension of health coverage through April without addressing the pension concerns.

I have seen leadership. That is not it. I will repeat once again: 16,000 mining retirees, 1,000 from Indiana, will lose their health coverage in 3 weeks unless Congress acts. For the health and the financial security of thousands of families, immediate attention is required. Kicking the can down the road for 4 months has never been a solution. Enrollment periods for other health plans end this week and next. These retirees are watching us closely and are already in the process of making painful and costly decisions.

This is about life and death for thousands of retirees across the country right now. They are praying that we will stand up and keep our word. We made a promise. The United States made a promise to our citizens, to our coal miners. The provision in the spending bill does not come close to meeting that promise that was made.

I urge the Senate to act immediately to consider a stronger measure that addresses this crisis facing thousands of retirees in my State and in so many other States across the country. These are not just numbers. These are our citizens. These are the people we represent. These are the people who dug the coal to keep the lights on in this building. Their ancestors dug the coal that helped win the war in World War II. We made a promise, and here we stand making a decision whether it will be kept or whether it will not.

This is about who we are as a country and who we are as Senators. Do we honor the word of the people before us?

Do we honor the coal miners with black lung, with broken kneecaps, with broken shoulders, with widows who are wondering if they are going to be able to make it alone?

I will continue to object to any unanimous consent request or legislation until the CR includes a permanent long-term solution for our miners' health care as included in the Miners Protection Act, S. 3470. Therefore, Mr. President, for these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, let me direct a question through the Chair to the Senator from Indiana.

I don't believe the Senator was in at the time that the Senator from Oregon offered his motion. Would the Senator have objected to that motion—Senator WYDEN's motion?

Mr. DONNELLY. I was not here to listen to what he said. I was elsewhere. So I cannot answer the question because I didn't hear what the Senator had to say.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3364

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3364, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to accept the donation of facilities and related improvements for use by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would like to explain why we are here and what is really happening, so people have a good grasp of things.

First of all, the Miners Protection Act—this protection act basically goes back to a commitment, a promise, and a transaction that we have done in Congress in 1946, under President Harry Truman. It is the Krug act. Basically, it was said that from that day forward, we are basically taking certain amounts of money from all the coal that is mined. This is not public funds. We are not asking for public funds. If we had done what we were supposed to do, we would have taken that money and put that money in the funds for the miners' protection of their health and their pension. They had nothing before that. They are the ones who basically gave us the energy that we had to win two world wars and become the super power of the West. All they asked for was that. It wasn't guaranteed by taxpayers going to pay it. It was going to come from the coal that was mined.

Now this same Congress comes back 20, 30 years later, and we changed the bankruptcy laws to allow companies now to declare bankruptcy and to shed their legacy costs. They don't have to pay it no more. So we are caught. Every promise we made now is this: Oh, I am sorry; we can't pay you.

So we did step in. We stepped in a couple of times—in 1993, in 2006. Congress has basically a history with this piece of legislation. So we are working now to shore it up.

AML means abandoned mine lands. That is money that goes from every kind of coal into a reclamation fund that takes care of any reclamation that is needed from the mining process. As you are putting the mines back or putting the environment back and taking the environment and putting the land back, that money would be used for that. If there was not much reclamation or if that money accumulated, then we have a surplus. We have only asked for the surplus.

So we were all on the same page, and we have been negotiating back and forth. This is 2 years ago and up until present. We have been negotiating back and forth, up to 2 weeks ago. Two

weeks ago we were told, and I have had good, honest, upfront negotiations with the majority leader. He said: I just don't think the pension is going to fly this year. I said: I understand it. I am still going to work my tail off for this thing.

I had to tell all the widows and all the people whom we represent—16,300 who were notified in October. They have to give a 90-day notification that you are going to lose your health care benefits. They gave that notification in October for December 31. That happened. I had to tell them now that we are not going to get the pension this year. We are doing everything we can, but I am almost positive we are going to get the health care because I was told we were going to get the health care. Not until 2 days ago did I have any inkling that now, all of a sudden—I am not blaming my colleagues here—the House said: Oh, I am sorry. We are only going to do an extension for the CR—the same extension for the health care.

I know that my colleagues would agree with this. Let's say it was your aunt or your grandmother or a retired person basically being paid those benefits. They were told in October. Now we are supposed to accept this CR coming over with this language that says: Ok, now let's tell Mrs. Smith again. We are basically going to say: OK, we gave you a 4-month extension, but we are going to notify you again in January that you are going to lose it again in April. They don't even have time to work with the deductibles to get any insurance—nothing.

Let me tell you how they were going to pay for it. This is what came from the House—not my colleagues here but from the House. The House says: OK, we are going to take \$47 million from the VEVA transfers. VEVA was money that was set aside for other bankruptcies. These were bankruptcies that were basically going to give people who were retired under those bankruptcies at least health care coverage until June. Those same people are going to lose theirs because it is going to take their money and they are going to lose theirs also. It is almost incomprehensible that they would give us something like this and think it is something we could do.

We got a bipartisan agreement here on this side, and we can't get just a consideration from our colleagues over in the House. So I just can't explain it. I can't go home and explain this. We are walking out of here, trying to get out this weekend because everybody wants to go home. That is wonderful. The only thing we have this time certain is December 31. They know they are going to lose everything—their health care benefits. It is in doubt that they will have their pensions taken care of, and we won't stay here because it is too much of an inconvenience. That is why we are prepared. We are going to stay. If they want to stay through Christmas, fine—through the

New Year, fine. I think that they think: I know everybody wants to go home; so I am sure everybody will fold their hands and leave.

I want to thank all of you and all of my colleagues for jumping up here because you all have been helping us. They just have to get the message that we are sincere about helping these people.

Everybody is standing for the working person. Every campaign ad I saw this year said: We are all for the working man and the working woman. Well, you got a chance to prove it right now. You got a chance to show that I am for you, that I respect what you did, what your husband did, what your family has done for the country, and I am trying to help you.

What we are asking for is to give us a permanent long-term solution for the miners, included in the Miners Protection Act that we have been working on for so long, S. 3470. Reluctantly, therefore, for these reasons, I have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TILLIS. Objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Senator from West Virginia, I believe, is trying to make a compelling argument. I understand that he feels very strongly about this. We feel very strongly about a number of these motions I am going to continue to make and hopefully not get objection.

Mr. President, I do want to remind the Senator from West Virginia that it was the majority leader who worked to at least get the patch in the CR, and like so many things around here, we wish we were working on longer horizons, but that seems to be the challenge we have to deal with and that we will have to deal with in the waning days of this session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1831

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1831, the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the Toomey substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am a bit incredulous. I like the Senator from North Carolina. We sit across from each other in the Veterans' Affairs Committee. We have done at least 2 or 3 bills that reached the President's desk and were signed into law together.

But I think my Republican friends are kind of missing the point here—to give the majority leader credit for fix-

ing this when, No. 1, he wouldn't do it, he wouldn't do it, he wouldn't do it, he wouldn't do it. Senator MANCHIN has asked him for weeks and months and months to take care of the pension and the health insurance, and the majority leader refused month after month after month.

The majority leader said: I need you to do several things. We need you to follow regular order. We did. We went through the Finance Committee, 18 to 8. Senator HATCH, the chairman, helped us. Senator WYDEN, the ranking member, was one of the strongest supporters, joined by Senators CASEY and WARNER, Finance Committee members who represent a lot of mine workers.

The Senate majority leader then said: You have to find a way to pay for it. We did it. We found a way to pay for it. It comes from the abandoned mine fund. There are no tax dollars involved in this. The majority leader still wouldn't do anything.

So finally, Senator MANCHIN comes to the floor, I come to the floor, Senator CASEY comes to the floor, and Senator WARNER comes to the floor over and over, and we say we are not going to agree to anything until you take care of these pensioners, until you take care of these miners' widows. Then, out of the goodness of the majority leader's heart, he gives these miners—these retired miners and widows—4 months. What does 4 months mean?

It means that these widows and miners—these retired miners and widows got a notice in the last couple of weeks saying their insurance will expire December 31. If we agree to the majority leader's bountiful offer, then they will get another notice in January or February saying: Oh, it is going to run out again in 4 months.

What is really interesting around here is, I hear Republican Senators day after day after day—whether it is the Affordable Care Act, whether it is Dodd-Frank—say: All we want is predictability. We want to be able to plan. Businesses can't produce jobs, can't create jobs, unless we have a path forward, unless we can predict what will happen, unless we can have some certainty.

That is all right for corporate America. They want certainty. Corporate America wants to be able to plan. But it is not all right for mine workers' widows? It is OK to jack them around—pardon my language—it is OK for them to stumble around every 4 months and we renew their pensions, we renew their health care? Really.

This is so easy. Give us a year, and then we will be back next year and we will work on this. But, as Senator MANCHIN said, for us to go home for Christmas—whether or not you celebrate Christmas—and be with our families, which I really want to do—I have five grandchildren. I can't wait to get to spend time with them in the next 3 weeks. But we have to do our job. If we don't do it tonight, then we are going to be here tomorrow. If we don't do it

tomorrow, we are going to be here the next day. If we don't do it at the end of this week, we are going to be here next week because we are not leaving. We are going to stay here as long as we need to, even if it means a session on Christmas Day, in order to get these retirees and their widows the pensions and the health care that they earned, not a little 4-month bump.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, earlier the distinguished Senator from Oregon said he recognizes that I am new to the Senate and there may be something different between what we would call a blanket position in the North Carolina House and a blanket position here.

Mr. President, I want to ask a question of the distinguished Senator from Ohio. I might add that I appreciate the kind comments that I think you were recently reported as saying. We are working together on veterans issues, and I look forward to continuing to work for you.

Mr. President, I would ask the Senator from Ohio, if he was in the Chamber at the time of the motion offered by Senator WYDEN, would he have been prepared to object to that motion being consistent with the position that they are having blanket objections to all motions?

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President—Senator TILLIS, I heard the tail end of it. I was in the cloakroom trying to find out exactly what the parliamentary procedure was going to be on this. I would be willing to say yes to a lot of these once we take care of the mine workers. This is a wide-open forum. Let's take care of the mine workers, and then we can consider each of these other bills. But none of these bills has the immediacy of thousands of mine workers, retirees, and their widows in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana. None of them have the immediacy of these mine workers' health care being cut off December 31.

These are important public initiatives. I can't think of anything that we are considering—I mean, I really want to get "Buy American" in the WRDA bill. We had it in the Senate bill. It was bipartisan.

Speaker RYAN—even though we tweeted the President-elect of the United States asking him to weigh in on "Buy American," saving thousands of dollars in Coshocton, OH, in Wheeling, and in other places all over this country, we couldn't get any response to that. I want to see us do that. I would like to stay and do that, but the immediate question is, How do we protect these miners and retirees and how do we protect these widows and widowers, for that matter, make sure their health care is protected? That is the fundamental question. I am willing to do a whole lot of other things. Do this first, and then the floor is open to do other things.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3286

Mr. TILLIS. In a moment, I will be making another unanimous consent request. I will give a classic example of the kinds of things I wish we could get done before we leave here.

The unanimous consent request I am about to make would encourage effective, voluntary private sector investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the U.S. military, with annual Presidential awards to private sector employers recognizing such efforts for their purposes.

This is an example of something that right now, today, without objection, we can get through.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3286, a bill to encourage effective, voluntary private sector investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the U.S. military, with annual Presidential awards to private sector employers recognizing such efforts, which was received from the House. I further ask consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first, I say to my good friend from North Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, I have been in the Senate for 6 years, so I have never used this procedure—never believed it, never thought I would have to, never thought anything would be so direly needed that I would even have to stand here and object to all the good things we both have worked on. I have so many good things on my side that I am not moving right now, and you have so many great things on your side that I would love to help you with.

But, sir, if you were in my position—let me go a little bit further because I don't think maybe I made it. If you want to add insult to injury to what has happened to our retired miners and all the people dependent on their health care benefits, the \$47 million that I told you they transferred—that is what they are going the pay for from the House, the VEBA—basically takes it from other bankrupt funds that were set aside. They are going to do that, and when all is said and done—and it has even been scored that Medicaid and Medicare would save so much because now they are paying for it out of the miners health care fund, and they are not going to have to. But on top of that, from the \$47 million they took, they are going to make \$2 million profit returned back to the Treasury. They are going to take \$2 million from money set aside to pay—that the bankruptcy courts put aside to pay miners because they will lose their health care

by June. Now they are going to lose it by April, by this provision that has been passed by the House. And on top of that, they will have \$2 million in surplus.

I had a lady call me today. She said: You know, Senator MANCHIN, where I come from, they call that theft. They call that theft. And why would you all let them do that? If they don't do anything, some of our miners are, till June—16,000 of us lose. We don't want to punish them, but now you are punishing them. You are punishing them an extra 3 months. Why would you all do that?

I am not sure they really realize it on the other side.

Like I said, I am not at our colleagues here, my friends and Republican colleagues I have here, but why would the House send that to you, and why would you all accept it?

That is all we are asking for. We can all gather forces here and send a large message to them that we are not going to do this until they come to their senses and take care of the miners' health care benefits.

You know what. We can come back. We can let all of this—all of our UCs that have been worked on and that I think are so needed can go right through, we can all go home, and hopefully our miners know they have health care, we know we have done a lot of good for a lot of people, and hopefully everyone will have a better Christmas. So all I am asking for—until the CR includes that permanent, long term, I am going to have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—SENATE RESOLUTION

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of a Senate resolution at the desk designating December 17, 2016, as "Wreaths Across America Day," submitted earlier today. I ask unanimous consent 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object. We can keep doing this. I think it is very clear what Senator MANCHIN and I are asking for. We are not asking for anything unusual; we are asking for the Senate to honor the pledge made by President Truman more or less seven decades ago to take care of the health care that mine workers earned.

Don't ever forget, we all work around here. We wear coats and ties, and our work might be stressful, sort of, but we are not likely risking our lives, we are not likely picking up occupational diseases from the work we do. But we are

saying to these widows and mine workers and retired mine workers that I guess you don't matter very much because we are going to have our Christmas vacation and you are going to have to worry about your health care.

Their health care runs out December 31. Senator MCCONNELL, finally, after great pressure from constituents and mine workers and us, finally said he would give us 4 months. You can't run your life not knowing your health insurance is going to run out in 4 months or 8 months or 3 months.

So we shouldn't keep repeating ourselves, but Senator TILLIS keeps bringing up one issue after another. We are going to keep saying no until we get in this bill much more time for this health care for these retired mine workers and their families and their widows.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I just want to be clear that my friend from West Virginia, whom I actually consider to be one of my favorites, to be honest with you, since I have been here—I have loved serving with him on committees, and I serve with him on the Senate Armed Services Committee and Veterans' Affairs. I asked the Senator from West Virginia if he would have objected to the motion set forth by the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN, and the answer was no. So we have an inconsistency here.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—SENATE RESOLUTION

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of a Senate resolution at the desk honoring the individuals who lost their lives in the tragic fire in Oakland, California, on December 2, 2016, submitted earlier today. I ask unanimous consent 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would like to explain to my good friend, the Senator from North Carolina, that I have been deferring to you the pleasure of objecting, and that is the reason I didn't object to the Senator from Oregon. As you said, we can stay here. I think we all have a lot of appreciation for the situation.

With that being said, we have come to an impasse that if we cannot get the House, with the help of our Senate colleagues on both sides, to agree to a permanent, long-term fix and a solution for the miners' health care—and I would say to the Senator, we took off the pension; you heard me say that. We took the pensions off of that. We thought that might provide us a way to move forward. We thought we had a way to move forward.

With that being said, we stand here today objecting to things that we would all like to move forward on. It pains all of us to be in this position. Hopefully, you all can help us, talking to the House and basically asking them to come to their senses and, hopefully, take care of this.

So for that reason, until we have a long-term solution for our miners' health care as included in the Miners Protection Act, S. 3470, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I would like to direct another question through the Chair to the Senator from West Virginia. I just want to be clear that, hypothetically, if the Senator from Oregon were to come back to the Chamber and offer that motion, would the Senator from West Virginia actually object to that motion?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the Senator posing a question?

Mr. BROWN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, we may have that opportunity.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—SENATE
RESOLUTION

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of a Senate resolution at the desk recognizing the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the lasting significance of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day submitted earlier today. I ask unanimous consent 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. Is there objection?

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I was incredulous at the beginning of the night, not quite believing that Senator MCCONNELL—I don't know what he is doing now—was sending his people to the floor and finding ways to push back against the mine workers in West Virginia and Ohio and Pennsylvania and Indiana and Virginia, not willing to help those pensioners and widows. Now we have this incredible coincidence that the last two resolutions—we are talking about mine workers—retired mine workers' health care; we are talking about widows of mine workers who have either died on the job or died perhaps from an illness that mine workers so often have—brown lung or some kind of heart disease. Instead, my friend from North Carolina has offered two resolutions, one to honor people who died in a fire—a tragedy—and one to mark the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, both reasonable things. But they are not resolutions to provide college to the children of the people who died in the fire, and they are not to increase benefits for the grandchildren of people who died in Pearl Harbor; they are resolu-

tions that don't mean anything except they are nice. I am for these resolutions. I love to support anything we do to say something nice and pat somebody on the back. But we have these two resolutions saying aren't they nice, aren't we nice, compared to taking care of widows who are going to see their health care expire on December 31. I don't understand the equivalency.

I suppose we could go all night if Senator MCCONNELL were perhaps in his office or perhaps out to dinner or perhaps he went home. But it is ordering or asking or however we do things around here—Senators come to the floor and delay and delay and delay and try to change the subject so that people forget about these mine workers. Well, we are not going to let the Presiding Officer or Senator TILLIS or Senator MCCONNELL or Senator CORNYN or anybody else—we are not going to let you forget the mine workers. We are going to keep talking about this.

I don't mind working late tonight. I don't mind working late tomorrow. I would rather not work until December 24, but Senator MANCHIN said he will, and I will. My wife is not thrilled about it, and my children and my grandkids aren't thrilled about it. But these are thousands of people who are going to lose their health insurance on December 31, and all that Senator MCCONNELL can do, after huge pressure from mine workers around the country and his constituents in Kentucky and from us—all Senator MCCONNELL can do is say, well, we can give you maybe 4 months, and that is supposed to satisfy us. It doesn't matter if it satisfies us; it matters that we take care of these retired mine workers and their widows.

For all of those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from Ohio did mention a couple of resolutions, but I would add there was also the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act that we worked very hard on to provide much needed resources for a number of States, including Ohio. There are a number of other items, including I think hiring vets, providing programs or providing preferences and trying to do everything we can to get our veterans hired; preventing animal cruelty and torture I think is a worthwhile cause, and a number of other things.

But, again, the point here is that we are trying to move things that we generally have consent on, and for one reason or another—and I don't question the motives of the Senator from West Virginia—they are being held up. We kind of have a double standard in that some of these things do not rise to the same level as the unanimous consent request made by Senator WYDEN earlier.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 5456

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 527, H.R. 5456; that the Wyden substitute amend-

ment at the desk be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BROWN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection has been heard.

The Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am happy to yield the floor to the Senator from West Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina yields the floor to the Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. I just want to clarify. I think there is some confusion. It seems like everybody is in a hustle right now. I think they think we are being selective. I want to make it very clear. I have been very clear to everybody. I have had to object on everything. I have had to object on my own pieces of legislation to stop everything. With that being said, I think I was asked about Senator WYDEN's request, and I said, no, I wouldn't at that time, and then I think at that time Senator TILLIS objected. For that you were asked did I object, and I said no.

With that being said, I would have objected to everything, and I think everybody knew where I stood in this body that I will and have to reluctantly—I don't want to be in this position. I am so committed to fulfilling the promise and commitment we have made. That is all.

I am sorry if there has been confusion. I have to, for the position we have taken. I think the good fight that we have here—and, basically, what the House has done to us is not humane to the people we represent. That is all I said. I am sorry for that.

So if there is a motion on the table, I object to that too.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Reserving the right to object, but I withdraw my reservation.

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

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in 1922, Rebecca Latimer Felton was the first woman to sit in the U.S. Senate. She served in this body for only 1 day, but

during those 24 hours she made a bold prediction for her time about the future role women would play in the Senate. She said: "When the women of the country come in and sit with you . . . you will get ability, you will get integrity of purpose, you will get exalted patriotism, and you will get unstinted usefulness." I will second that.

BARBARA and I served together in the House—and we have served together in the Senate for 20 years. And let me tell you, no one embodies Senator FELTON's prediction better than BARBARA BOXER.

Throughout the years, I have loved getting to know BARBARA as a colleague, but more importantly as a friend. Loretta and I joined BARBARA and her husband, Stu, on official trips, personal vacations and countless dinners. We have eaten, drank, joked, and bonded. And as her career in the Senate comes to an end, keeping those bonds of friendship strong as she heads west is one my life goals.

BARBARA made quite an impact on the Senate Chamber before she even entered this body. On October 9, 1991, the Senate Judiciary Committee was set to vote on the nomination of Justice Clarence Thomas to serve a lifetime appointment on the U.S. Supreme Court, without listening to Professor Anita Hill's allegations of sexual harassment. At the time, there were two women in the Senate, BARBARA MIKULSKI and Nancy Landon Kassebaum. Now, while this was going on in the Senate, the women of the House tried speaking out in that body. They were censured. And they had enough. So they marched out of the House and over to the Senate—29 women House Members, led by Congresswoman Pat Schroeder from Colorado and BARBARA BOXER from California. American politics has never been the same.

The following year, a number of esteemed women were elected to the U.S. Senate. Several reporters deemed 1992: "the Year of the Woman." Senator MIKULSKI, the dean of women, as she is often referred to, said: "Calling 1992 the Year of the Woman makes it sound like the Year of the Caribou or the Year of the Asparagus. We're not a fad, fancy or a year." She was right. But California made history. For the first time, one State sent two women to represent them in the Senate: DIANNE FEINSTEIN and BARBARA BOXER.

BARBARA often reminds me of the line from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*: "Though she be but little, she is fierce." In 1994, when Republicans took control of Congress, one of the first things they did was go after environmental regulations, including rules to limit the amount of arsenic in the drinking water. BARBARA immediately launched a good, old-fashioned, 3-day "Ms. Smith Goes to Washington" filibuster. And like most of the fights she takes on, she won.

BARBARA is a call-it-as-you-see-it kind of person. Maybe it is because she grew up in the no-nonsense, working-

class town of Brooklyn. Or maybe it is because her parents and Jewish grandparents, who immigrated to this country from Russia instilled in her a deep love for America's Constitution and freedoms—a sense of obligation to give something back and a determination to fight for underdogs, truth and justice.

She has sponsored or cosponsored more than 1,200 pieces of legislation and helped lead the fight on issues ranging from women's rights to healthcare to protecting California's natural wonders to keeping lead and other potentially lethal hazards out of children's toys.

The vote that sealed our spiritual kinship took place in October 2002 when she and I voted against the Iraq war resolution. One of our dear friends, Paul Wellstone, also voted against the resolution. Paul was in a tough reelection fight that year. A reporter asked him if it was a hard choice to vote against the war. Paul said it was a risk, but not a choice. His conscience wouldn't let him vote any other way. It seems to me that is how BARBARA BOXER approaches every one of her votes in Congress: It might be a risk, but it is not a choice. She listens to her conscience, and the people of California respect her for it. But let me be clear: that doesn't mean she will not work hard to find a compromise.

She proved that in recent years when she and JIM INHOFE—the unlikeliest of odd couples—worked together to pass important legislation updating regulations on toxic chemicals and shepherding through a surface transportation bill that no one thought could be done.

I will close with this. Early in BARBARA'S political career, people used to come up to her and say: How did you get so strong, how did you get so tough? BARBARA would humbly respond: Oh, not tough. I am just an ordinary person, and I do what I think is right. I agree with most of that, but let me tell you—BARBARA is as tough as they come. She can't be bullied or intimidated, and she never loses her courage. I want to thank BARBARA for sacrificing so much time with her own family to make the families of America safer, healthier, and more hopeful. For that and a thousand other reasons, I will miss her in the Senate. But I know I can count on her to keep pushing those of us who remain to listen to our consciences—to fight for change and do the right thing.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS BILL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this past Thanksgiving marked the beginning of the holiday shopping season.

In an effort to find deeply discounted electronics, toys, and other Christmas gifts for family and friends, bargain-hunting shoppers searched for Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals.

While these deals provided great savings for shoppers, Main Street retailers and States did not reap the same benefits.

Because we have let another year and holiday season come and go without closing the online sales tax loophole, States missed out on millions of dollars in sales tax revenue owed to them from online purchases. And Main Street retailers continued to lose business.

However, this was not without trying.

Around this time last year, Senators ENZI, ALEXANDER, HEITKAMP, and myself opposed the air dropping of legislation in the customs conference report that would have taken away a State's right to collect taxes on accessing the internet unless we gave States the ability to collect taxes on internet sales that were already owed, and we leveled the playing field for brick and mortar businesses.

Despite our opposition, the customs bill passed, and Majority Leader MCCONNELL promised to give us a vote later this year on the Marketplace Fairness Act or similar e-fairness legislation.

This would give House Republicans the opportunity to go through regular order, a process they said was necessary to address the issue.

Yet, unfortunately, here we are, at the end of the Congress, and House Republicans have still refused to act.

The Marketplace Fairness Act levels the playing field for retailers by allowing States to treat brick and mortar retailers the same as remote retailers in the collection of State and local sales and use taxes.

Internet retailers benefit under our current system with a 5–10 percent price advantage over their Main Street competitors.

This is because customers visit local retailers, browse goods, use their phone to take a picture of it, and go online to purchase the item tax-free.

Products sold online seem cheaper when sales taxes are not collected at the point of sale. But they are not because the tax is still owed, though not paid, by the customer.

This is not fair, and it is not right.

Thousands of Main Street businesses have worked hard to grow their businesses, but have become showrooms because of this price advantage, making it difficult, and, in some cases, impossible for them to compete.

I have come to this floor in the past to share the stories of Main Street businesses, such as Play It Again Sports in Naperville and Soccer Plus in Palatine, that have gone out of business due, in large part, to the unfair advantage of their online competitors.

Since then, Sports Authority has met that same fate, and many department stores and big-box retailers have closed a number of stores because of the increase in online shopping.

These are local jobs and community anchors that no longer exist.

There is nothing we can do now for these shuttered retailers. But we can,

and should, still help thousands of retailers avoid the same fate by leveling the playing field for Main Street retailers.

For the first time in history, consumers said they made more of their purchases online than in stores.

This trend is evidenced by an increase in online retail spending, which grew 14.6 percent last year, to \$341 billion, and is projected to reach \$523 billion in 2020.

During the weekend following Thanksgiving—the biggest shopping weekend of the year—online retail spending was over \$9.3 billion, a 16.4 percent increase from 2015.

As online sales increase, the potential sales tax revenue that States lose increases.

The longer we delay in closing this loophole, the longer we perpetuate an uneven playing field between local and online retailers that erodes the revenues needed by State and local governments to fund essential public services.

Despite the looming budget deficits State and local governments are facing and the competitive disadvantage experienced by brick and mortar businesses, House Republicans have refused to address the issue for more than a decade.

This year is no different.

Numerous requests to the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee to markup e-fairness legislation from the ranking member and other bipartisan members on committee, Main Street retailers, State and local governments, labor, and the sponsors of the Marketplace Fairness Act remain unanswered.

Instead, Chairman GOODLATTE drafted his own proposal that created more problems than it solved.

I didn't support the chairman's proposal, but I supported the process and his calls for regular order and encouraged him to work with his colleagues in the House to send us a bill so that we can resolve our differences.

We are still waiting.

The chairman has continued to refuse to work with us on reasonable compromise legislation that didn't turn 100 years of sales and use tax law on its head, even though he doesn't have the support of the majority of the House Republican Caucus on his approach.

It is apparent that these calls for compromise and regular order are nothing more than veiled attempts to delay and obstruct, which have so far been successful.

If Congress continues to ignore this issue and fails to act, the courts will.

Because States are missing out on an estimated \$23 billion a year in potential sales tax revenue, they are looking to the courts for a solution, heeding the call from Supreme Court Justice Kennedy to reexamine the Court's precedent on the issue.

This year alone, 16 States have introduced over 40 sales tax bills, and others have enacted legislation that have triggered legal challenges that would help

States collect sales tax without congressional action.

This week, a Federal court in South Dakota will begin hearing oral arguments on a South Dakota law that requires remote retailers to collect and remit sales tax.

And we may know, as early as next week, if the Supreme Court will grant review of a law Colorado recently enacted that imposes reporting and notification requirements on remote retailers.

Let me be clear. This is not the approach I prefer. I would rather Congress do its job to pass a uniform, comprehensive Federal solution instead of the States moving forward individually so we don't have a patch work of laws that small businesses have to navigate.

But I understand that, in the absence of Congressional action, the States have no other options. They must either raise taxes or cut vital public services if Congress continues to sit on the sidelines.

As you can see, the States are no longer waiting for Congress to get its act together.

But there is still time for us address this issue.

And I hope my colleagues in the House will work with me to do that before it is too late.

ELECT AND FREEING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE GAMBIA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in recent years, we have seen a troubling trend of democratic backsliding in several parts of the world, including Russia, Thailand, Uganda, Turkey, and Venezuela.

Even some parts of Europe and the United States have seen long established democratic norms challenged in deeply upsetting ways.

So imagine my great surprise late last week when the people of The Gambia peacefully voted for a new democratic government.

Many probably don't know much about The Gambia—a small West African nation whose uniquely odd colonial borders have it straddling the meandering Gambia River almost completely surrounded by Senegal.

Gambia is English speaking—Senegal speaks French—with several local languages shared between the unusual borders.

Some of you may remember The Gambia was the ancestral home in the novel and then-television miniseries "Roots."

Because of its strong ties to the U.S. and geographic location, for some time The Gambia also had a unique distinction of being an emergency landing spot for the Space Shuttle should one need to abort its mission early in the launch phase.

And until 1994, it had the proud distinction of being the longest postcolonial democracy on the African continent.

You see, for the last 22 years, The Gambia was ruled by a regime that

took power in a coup, with troubling arrests and disappearances of journalists, activists, and opposition members.

I and several of my Senate colleagues raised a number of these cases over the years, most notably the 2007 disappearance of journalist Ebrima Manneh—for which I now hope there will finally be a fair and healing accounting.

And yet, last Thursday night, the people of The Gambia, voting with colored marbles placed in different containers to make it easier for illiterate voters, chose a new leader in a peaceful and democratic process.

And outgoing President Yahya Jammeh honorably conceded the election and agreed to a peaceful transfer of power.

He offered to help President-Elect Adama Barrow.

While we have had our differences, I want to acknowledge this important act of leadership and love of country by outgoing President Jammeh.

And not only has there been this notable peaceful transfer of power, but in just the few short days since the election, at least 18 political prisoners have been released from jail, including a key opposition figure.

So to the Gambian people, let me say congratulations on your important demonstration of democracy—a model for the African continent and the world.

I look forward to significantly improved relations between our two nations and working together on a host of shared concerns.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, history is dotted with the stories of trailblazers. People who shape the public discourse at a pivotal moment in time or change the direction of the debate. One of those trailblazers is BARBARA MIKULSKI, the longest serving woman in Senate history, the first woman to represent Maryland in the U.S. Senate, and the first woman to chair the Senate's Appropriations Committee. She is tough. She is direct. She is dedicated. She is a fighter. She is a leader.

BARBARA MIKULSKI has always fought for our families and our children. From her roots as a social worker and community activist to the levels of leadership in the Senate, she has held firm to her adage that she is not just the Senator from Maryland, she is the Senator for Maryland. From her first years in the Senate until now, she has promoted education, nutrition, healthcare, and gender equality in the Senate.

She led our historic efforts to pass the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act—shouting from the rooftops the simple principle that women deserve equal pay for equal work. She continued that legacy with the Paycheck Fairness Act. Wouldn't it be a fitting tribute if the Senate considered and approved that commonsense legislation before she retires?

Like others in this Chamber, she was a vocal and steadfast supporter of Violence Against Women Act and our most recent efforts to reauthorized and expand those lifesaving programs. She led the efforts to ensure that the Affordable Care Act made clear that no one should be discriminated against in preventive care. Who can forget her fierce advocacy to make the letter of the law clear that being a woman is not a pre-existing condition?

And when BARBARA assumed the mantle chairing the Appropriations Committee, she brought with her the tough but fair grit that has been her hallmark in the Senate. When asked about earmarks, her retort was simple: "I've told senators that if you're opposed to earmarks, I'll honor that and won't include any for your state." You always know where you stand with BARBARA MIKULSKI.

Thirty years ago, when she first came to the Senate, women filled just two seats in this body. When the Senate convenes next year, there will be 21. I hope it won't be another 30 years for the Senate to be truly representative of the country we serve.

A lifelong Baltimore resident, "Senator Barb" has never forgotten her roots, probably because she never left. She remains a Marylander through and through, dedicated to her State and never forgetting that listening to your constituents is the most important job of all. When Senator MIKULSKI announced her retirement, she told her constituents that the question came down to whether she wanted to spend her time "raising money or raising hell to meet your day-to-day needs?" That is BARBARA. This rang through in her farewell speech today to the Senate.

We often talk of the lions of the Senate. BARBARA MIKULSKI ranks among them. I will miss her fierce advocacy, her counsel, her commitment, her tenacity, and her grit. I value her friendship, and we will miss her.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-31, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.51 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,
JAMES WORM, Acting Deputy Director,
(For J. W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-31

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$2.60 billion.
Other \$.91 billion.
Total \$3.51 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Forty-eight (48) CH-47F Chinook Cargo Helicopters.

One hundred twelve (112) T55-GA-714A Engines (ninety-six (96) installed, sixteen (16) spares).

One hundred sixteen (116) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) (ninety-six (96) installed, twenty (20) spares).

Fifty-eight (58) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (forty-eight (48) installed, ten (10) spares).

Forty-eight (48) M240H 7.62mm Machine Guns with spare parts.

Non-MDE: This request also includes the following Non-MDE: M134D Mini-Guns or equivalent type guns with support equipment and training; Aircraft Survivability Equipment (AN/APR-39A(V) 1/4, AN/AVR-2B, AN/ARC-231, AN/ARC-201D, AN/APX-123A, ARN-147 VOR/ILS, ARN-153 TACAN, APN-209, IDM-401 Improved Data Modem, and AN/ARC-220); Infrared Signature Suppression System (IRSS); Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System (FRIES); Extended Range Fuel System (ERPS); Ballistic Armor Protection System; facilities; air worthiness support; spares and repair parts; communications equipment; personnel training and training equipment; site surveys; tool and test equipment; Ground Support Equipment (GSE); repair and return; publications and technical documentation; Quality Assurance Team (QAT); U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SR-B-ZAG).

(v) Sales Commission. Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex attached.

(vii) Prior Related Case, if any: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2016.

*as defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—CH-47F Chinook Cargo Helicopters

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested a possible sale of:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Forty-eight (48) CH-47F Chinook Cargo Helicopters.

One hundred twelve (112) T55-GA-714A Engines (ninety-six (96) installed, sixteen (16) spares).

One hundred sixteen (116) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) (ninety-six (96) installed, twenty (20) spares).

Fifty-eight (58) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (forty-eight (48) installed, ten (10) spares).

Forty-eight (48) M240H 7.62mm Machine Guns with spare parts.

Non-MDE: This request also includes the following Non-MDE: M134D Mini-Guns or equivalent type guns with support equipment and training; Aircraft Survivability Equipment (AN/APR-39A(V)1/4, AN/AVR-2B, AN/ARC-231, AN/ARC-201D, AN/APX-123A, ARN-147 VOR/ILS, ARN-153 TACAN, APN-209, IDM-401 Improved Data Modem, and AN/ARC-220); Infrared Signature Suppression System (IRSS); Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System (FRIES); Extended Range Fuel System (ERPS); Ballistic Armor Protection System; facilities; air worthiness support; spares and repair parts; communications equipment; personnel training and training equipment; site surveys; tool and test equipment; Ground Support Equipment (GSE); repair and return; publications and technical documentation; Quality Assurance Team (QAT); U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total overall estimated value is \$3.51 billion.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner which has been and continues to be a leading contributor of political stability and economic progress in the Middle East. This sale will increase the Royal Saudi Land Forces Aviation Command's (RSLFAC) interoperability with U.S. forces and convey U.S. commitment to Saudi Arabia's security and armed forces modernization.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The proposed sale of the CH-47F aircraft will improve Saudi Arabia's heavy lift capability. Saudi Arabia will use this enhanced capability to strengthen its homeland defense and deter regional threats. Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft into its armed forces.

The prime contractors will be The Boeing Military Aircraft Company, Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, and Honeywell Aerospace Company, Phoenix, Arizona. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this sale will require up to sixty (60) U.S. Government and contractor representatives to travel to Saudi Arabia for up to sixty (60) months for equipment de-processing, fielding, system checkout, training, and technical logistics support.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-31

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The CH-47F Chinook Cargo Helicopter is a medium-lift helicopter equipped with the Common Avionics Architecture System (CAAS) cockpit, which provides aircraft system, flight, mission, and communication management systems, five multifunction displays, two general purpose processor units, two control display units and two data concentrator units. The navigation system will have two Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS), two Digital Advanced Flight Control Systems (DAFCS), one ARN-149 Automatic Direction Finder, one ARN-147 Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) marker beacon system, one ARN-153 Tactical Airborne Navigation (TACAN) system, two air data computers, and one Radar Altimeter system. The aircraft survivability equipment includes the AN/APR-39A(V)1/4 Radar Signal Detecting Set, and the AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System.

The Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) is SECRET. The AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) is CONFIDENTIAL. Releasable technical manuals for operation and maintenance are SECRET. The AN/APR-39A(V)1/4 Series Radar Detecting Set (RDS) is SECRET. The AN/AVR-2B, Laser Warning Set is CONFIDENTIAL. Releasable technical manuals for operation and maintenance are SECRET. The AN/ARC-231 (V)(C) is UNCLASSIFIED. The AN/ARC-201D Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS), performance capabilities, Electronic Countermeasures/Electronic Counter Counter-Measures (ECM/ECCM) specifications and Engineering Change Orders (ECOs) are SECRET. The AN/APX-123A, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Transponder is UNCLASSIFIED. The AN/ARN-147, Very High Frequency Omni Ranging/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) receiver is UNCLASSIFIED. The AN/ARC-220 is UNCLASSIFIED. The KN-77 is UNCLASSIFIED. The AN/PYQ-10 (C) Simple Key Loader (SKL) is UNCLASSIFIED. The TSEC KY-58 voice secure equipment is CONFIDENTIAL if software fill is installed. The TSEC KY-100 voice secure equipment is used with the FM Command Radio to provide secure two-way communication. It is Communications Security (COMSEC) Equipment and is classified SECRET if software fill is installed. The AN/AVS-6/7(V)1 is UNCLASSIFIED.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce weapon system effectiveness.

3. A determination has been made that Saudi Arabia can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-62, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Qatar for de-

fense articles and services estimated to cost \$700 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,
JAMES WORM, Acting Deputy Director
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Qatar.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE)* \$ 0 million.

Other \$700 million,
Total \$700 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.
Non-MDE includes: Follow-on support for eight (8) C-17 aircraft, to include contract labor for sustainment engineering, on-site COMSEC support, Quality Assurance, support equipment repair, supply chain management, spares replenishment, maintenance, back shop support, and centralized maintenance support/associated services. Required upgrades will include fixed installation satellite antenna, Mode 5+ installation and sustainment, Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast Out, and two special operations loading ramps.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (QAI).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: QA-D-QAB.

(vi) Sales Commission. Fee. etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2016.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Qatar—Continuation of Logistics Support Services and Equipment

The Government of Qatar has requested a possible sale of continued logistics support for eight (8) C-17 aircraft which will include contract labor for sustainment engineering, on-site COMSEC support, Quality Assurance, support equipment repair, supply chain management, spares replenishment, maintenance, back shop support, and centralized maintenance support/associated services. Required upgrades will include fixed installation satellite antenna, Mode 5+ installation and sustainment, Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast Out, and two special operations loading ramps. The estimated total cost is \$700 million.

The proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the U.S. by helping to improve the security of an important regional ally. Qatar is a vital partner for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East. The C-17 provides a heavy airlift capability and complements the normal, day-to-day operations of the Government of Qatar's C-130J fleet. Qatar will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale will enhance Qatar's ability to operate and maintain its C-17s, supporting its capability to provide humanitarian aid in the Middle East and Africa region and support its troops in coalition operations. Qatar's current contract supporting its C-17 fleet will expire in September of 2017.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be the Boeing Corporation of Chicago, Illinois. The U.S. Government is not aware of any known offsets associated with this sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this sale will require the assignment of approximately five additional U.S. Government and approximately 50 contractor representatives to Qatar.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness, as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex A Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:
1. This sale will involve the release of sensitive technology to Qatar in the performance of services to sustain eight (8) Qatar C-17 aircraft. While much of the below equipment supporting the C-17 is not new to the country, there will be replenishment spares of the below sensitive technologies purchased to support the fleet.

2. The Force 524D is a 24-channel SAASM based Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, with precise positioning service (PPS) capability built upon Trimble's next generation OPS technology. The Force 524D retains backward compatibility with the proven Force 5GS, while adding new functionality to interface with digital antenna electronics, to significantly improve anti-jam (AJ) performance. The host platform can select the radio frequency (RF) or digital antenna electronics (DAE) interface. In the digital mode, the Force 524D is capable of controlling up to 16 independent beams. The hardware and software associated with the 524D receiver card is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. The C-17 aircraft will be equipped with the GAS-1, which is comprised of the Controlled Reception Pattern Antennas (CRPA), with the associated wiring harness and the Antenna Electronics (AE)-1, to provide AJ capability. The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED.

4. The KIV-77 is the crypto applique for Mode V Identification Friend of Foe (IFF). The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED and COMSEC controlled.

5. Software, hardware, and other data/information, which is classified or sensitive, is reviewed prior to release to protect system vulnerabilities, design data, and performance parameters. Some end-item hardware, software, and other data identified above are classified at the CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET level. Potential compromise of these systems is controlled through management of the basic software programs, of highly sensitive systems and software-controlled weapon systems, on a case-by-case basis.

6. Qatar is both willing and able to protect United States classified military information. Qatari physical and document security standards are equivalent to U.S. standards. Qatar has demonstrated its willingness and capability to protect sensitive military technology and information released to its military in the past.

7. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware or software source code in this proposed sale, the information could be used to develop countermeasures, which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of systems with similar or advanced capabilities. The benefits to be derived from this sale in the furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology, where revealed to unauthorized persons.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Qatar.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee On Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-61, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Qatar for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$81 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES WORM, Acting Deputy Director
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-61

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Qatar.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE)* \$51 million.

Other \$30 million.

Total \$81 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Four (4) F117-PW-100 C17 Engines (spares).

Non-MDE includes: Quick Engine Change (QEC) Kits, Engine Transport Trailers, Engine Platforms, Engine Trailers, and other various support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (LAC).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: QA-D-QAB.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc.: Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2016.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Qatar—Spare C-17 Engines and Equipment

The Government of Qatar has requested a possible sale of the following in support of its eight (8) C-17 Globemaster III aircraft procured under a Direct Commercial Sale (DCS): four (4) spare F117-PW-100 engines, Quick Engine Change (QEC) Kits, Engine Transport Trailers, Engine Platforms, Engine Trailers, and other various support. The estimated total program cost is \$81 million.

The proposed sale would contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the U.S. by helping to improve the security of an important regional ally. Qatar is a vital partner for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East. The C-17 provides a heavy airlift capability and complements the normal, day-to-day operations of Qatar's C-130J fleet. Qatar will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale would enhance Qatar's ability to operate and maintain its C-17s, supporting its capability to provide humanitarian aid in the Middle East and Africa region and support its troops in coalition operations.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be the Boeing Corporation of Chicago, Illinois. The U.S. Government is not aware of any known offsets associated with this sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not alter current assignment of additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Qatar. The number of U.S. Government and contractor representatives required in Qatar to support the program will be determined in joint negotiations as the program proceeds through the development, production and equipment installation phases.

There is no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Qatar.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-52, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Morocco for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$108 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES WORM, Acting Deputy Director
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-52

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Morocco.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$101 million.

Other: \$7 million.

Total: \$108 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
One thousand two-hundred (1,200) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (BGM-71-4B-RF)

Fourteen (14) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (Fly-to-Buy Lot Acceptance Missiles)

Non-MDE includes: U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (VTG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: MO-B-USZ for \$137,034.913 signed on 4 May 2016.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc.: Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2016.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Morocco—Radio Frequency (RF) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missile (BGM-71-4B-RF and Support)

The Government of Morocco has requested a possible sale of one thousand two-hundred

(1,200) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (BGM-71-4B-RF) and fourteen (14) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (Fly-to-Buy Lot Acceptance Missiles). Also included with this request is U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated MDE sale is \$101 million. The total estimated value is \$108 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for the political stability and economic progress in North Africa. This proposed sale directly supports Morocco and serves the interests of the Moroccan people and the United States.

The proposed sale of TOW 2A Missiles and technical support will advance Morocco's efforts to develop an integrated ground defense capability. Morocco will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors involved in this program are: Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson, Arizona. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the U.S. Government or contractor representatives to travel to Morocco.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-52

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Radio Frequency (RF) TOW 2A Missile (BGM-71E-4B-RF) is designed to defeat armored vehicles, reinforced urban structures, field fortifications and other such targets. TOW missiles are fired from a variety of TOW launchers in the U.S. Army, USMC, and FMS customer forces. The TOW 2A RF missile can be launched from the same launcher platforms as the existing wire-guided TOW 2A missile without modification to the launcher. The TOW 2A missile (both wire & RF) contains two trackers for the launcher to track and guide the missile in flight. Guidance commands from the launcher are provided to the missile by a RF link contained within the missile case. The hardware, software, and technical publications provided with the sale thereof are UNCLASSIFIED. However, the system itself contains sensitive technology that instructs the system on how to operate in the presence of countermeasures.

2. The highest level of classified information that must be disclosed in training to use the end item is UNCLASSIFIED. The highest level of classified information that must be disclosed in maintenance of the end item is UNCLASSIFIED. The highest level of classified information that could be disclosed by sale of the end item is SECRET. The highest level of classified information that could be revealed by testing the end item is SECRET. The highest level of classified information that could be revealed by reverse engineering of the end item is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Morocco.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-15, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.5 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J. W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-15

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

Prospective Purchaser: United Arab Emirates.

(i) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$1.68 billion
Other \$1.82 billion
Total \$3.50 billion

(ii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Twenty-eight (28) AH-64E Remanufactured Apache Attack Helicopters.

Nine (9) new AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters.

Seventy-six (76) T700-GE-701D Engines (56 remanufactured, 18 new, 2 spares).

Thirty-nine (39) AN/ASQ-170 Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation Sight/AN/AAR-11 Modernized Pilot Night Vision Sensors (28 remanufactured, 9 new, 2 spares).

Thirty-two (32) remanufactured AN/APR-48B Modernized—Radar Frequency Interferometers.

Forty-six (46) AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (31 remanufactured, 9 new, 6 spares).

Eighty-eight (88) Embedded Global Positioning Systems with Inertial Navigation (72 new, 16 spares).

Forty-four (44) Manned-Unmanned Teaming-International (MUMTi) Systems (28 remanufactured, 9 new, 7 spares).

Fifteen (15) new MUMTi System Upper Receivers.

Non-MDE: Training devices, helmets, simulators, generators, transportation, wheeled vehicles and organization equipment, spare and repair parts, support equipment, tools and test equipment, technical data and publications, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (AE-B-GUA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: FMS case: AE-B-JAH-02 Jan 92-\$617M, FMS case: AE-B-UDE-06 Jan 00-\$195M, FMS case: AE-B-UDN-28 Nov 05-\$755M, FMS case: AE-B-ZUL-21 Oct 09-\$252M, FMS case: AE-B-ZUF-22 Dec 08-\$174M

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2016.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Arab Emirates—Apache AH-64E Helicopters and Services

The Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has requested a possible sale of twenty-eight (28) AH-64E Remanufactured Apache Attack Helicopters; nine (9) new AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters; Seventy-six (76) T700-GE-701D Engines (56 remanufactured, 18 new, 2 spares); thirty-nine (39) AN/ASQ-170 Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation Sight/AN/AAR-11 Modernized Pilot Night Vision Sensors (28 remanufactured, 9 new, 2 spares); thirty-two (32) remanufactured AN/APR-48B Modernized—Radar Frequency Interferometers forty-six (46) AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (31 remanufactured, 9 new, 6 spares); eighty-eight (88) Embedded Global Positioning Systems with Inertial Navigation (72 new, 16 spares); forty-four (44) Manned-Unmanned Teaming-International (MUMTi) systems (28 remanufactured, 9 new, 7 spares); and fifteen (15) new MUMTi System Upper Receivers. This request also includes training devices, helmets, simulators, generators, transportation, wheeled vehicles and organization equipment, spare and repair parts, support equipment, tools and test equipment, technical data and publications, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support. Total estimated program cost is \$3.5 billion.

This proposed sale will enhance the foreign policy and national security of the U.S. by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve the UAE's capability to meet current and future threats and provide greater security for its critical infrastructure. The UAE will use the enhanced capability to strengthen its homeland defense. The UAE will have no difficulty absorbing these Apache aircraft into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Boeing in Mesa, AZ and Lockheed Martin in Orlando, FL. Offsets are a requirement of doing business in UAE; however offsets are negotiated directly between the Original Equipment Manufacturers or other vendors and the UAE government and details are not known at this time.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of contractor representatives to the UAE.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-15

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter weapon system contains communications and target identification equipment, navigation equipment, aircraft survivability equipment, displays, and sensors. The airframe itself does not contain sensitive technology; however, the pertinent equipment listed below will be either installed on the aircraft or included in the sale:

a. The AN/APG-78 Fire Control Radar (FCR) is an active, low-probability of inter-

cept, millimeter-wave radar, combined with a passive AN/APR-48B Modernized Radar Frequency Interferometer (M-RFI) mounted on top of the helicopter mast. The FCR Ground Targeting Mode detects, locates, classifies and prioritizes stationary or moving armored vehicles, tanks and mobile air defense systems as well as hovering helicopters, helicopters, and fixed wing aircraft in normal flight if desired, the radar data can be used to refer targets to the regular electro-optical Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation Sight (MTADS). This information is provided in a form that cannot be extracted by the foreign user. The content of these items is classified SECRET. User Data Module (UDM) on the RFI processor, contains the Radio Frequency threat library. The UDM, which is a hardware assemblage, is classified CONFIDENTIAL when programmed with threat parameters, threat priorities and/or techniques derived from U.S. intelligence information.

b. The AN/ASQ-170 Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation Sight/AN/AAQ-11 Pilot Night Vision Sensor (MTADS/PNVS) provides day, night, and limited adverse weather target information, as well as night navigation capabilities. The PNVS provides thermal imaging that permits nap-of-the-earth flight to, from, and within the battle area, while TADS provides the co-pilot gunner with search, detection, recognition, and designation by means of Direct View Optics (DVO), EP²television, and Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) sighting systems that may be used singly or in combinations. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical manuals for authorized maintenance levels are UNCLASSIFIED. Reverse engineering is not a major concern.

c. The AN/APR-48B Modernized Radar Frequency Interferometer (M-RFI) is an updated version of the passive radar detection and direction finding system. It utilizes a detachable UDM on the M-RFI processor, which contains the Radar Frequency (RF) threat library. The UDM, which is a hardware assemblage item is classified CONFIDENTIAL when programmed. Hardware becomes CLASSIFIED when populated with threat parametric data. Releasable technical manuals are Unclassified/restricted distribution.

d. The AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) detects energy emitted by threat missiles in-flight, evaluates potential false alarm emitters in the environment, declares validity of threat and selects appropriate countermeasures. The CMWS consists of an Electronic Control Unit (ECU), Electro-Optic Missile Sensors (EOMSs), and Sequencer and Improved Countermeasures Dispenser (ICMD). The ECU hardware is classified CONFIDENTIAL; releasable technical manuals for operation and maintenance are classified SECRET.

e. The AN/APR-39 Radar Signal Detecting Set is a system that provides warnings of radar-directed air defense threats and allows appropriate countermeasures. This is the 1553 databus-compatible configuration. The hardware is classified CONFIDENTIAL when programmed with U.S. threat data; releasable technical manuals for operation and maintenance are classified CONFIDENTIAL; releasable technical data (technical performance) is classified SECRET. The system can be programmed with threat data provided by the purchasing country.

f. The AN/AVR-2B Laser Warning Set is a passive laser warning system that receives, processes, and displays threat information resulting from aircraft illumination by lasers on the multi-functional display. The hardware is classified CONFIDENTIAL; releasable technical manuals for operation and maintenance are classified SECRET.

g. The Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System plus

MultiMode Receiver (EGI+MMR). The aircraft has two EGIs which use internal accelerometers, rate gyro measurements, and external sensor measurements to estimate the aircraft state, provides aircraft flight and position data to aircraft systems. The EGI is a velocity-aided, strap down, ring laser gyro based inertial unit. The EGI unit houses a GPS receiver. The receiver is capable of operating in either non-encrypted or encrypted. When keyed, the GPS receiver will automatically use anti-spoof/jam capabilities when they are in use. The EGI will retain the key through power on/off/on cycles. Because of safeguards built into the EGI, it is not considered classified when keyed. Integrated within the EGI is an Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) for processing functions. Each EGI also houses a Multi-Mode Receiver (MMR). The MMR is incorporated to provide for reception of ground based NAVAID signals for instrument aided flight. Provides IMC I IFR integration and certification of improved Embedded Global Positioning System and Inertial (EGI) unit, with attached MMR, with specific cockpit instrumentation allows Apaches to operate within the worldwide IFR route structure. Also includes integration of the Common Army Aviation Map (CAAM), Area Navigation (RNAV), Digital Aeronautical Flight Information File (DAFIF) and Global Air Traffic Management (GATM) compliance.

h. Manned-Unmanned Teaming-International (MUMT-I) provides Manned-Unmanned Teaming with Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs), other Apaches and other interoperable aircraft and land platforms. Provides ability to display real-time UAS sensor information to aircraft and transmit MTADS video. Capability to receive video and metadata from Interoperability Profile compliant (IOP) as well as legacy systems. It is a data link for the AH-64E that provides a fully integrated multiband, interoperable capability that allows pilots to receive off-board sensor video streaming from different platforms in non-Tactical Common Data Link (TCDL) bands. The MUMT-I data link can retransmit Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) or Apache Modernized Target Acquisition Designation Sight full-motion sensor video and metadata to another MUMT-I-equipped Apache. It can also transmit to ground forces equipped with the One Station Remote Video Terminal. It provides Apache aircrews with increased situational awareness and net-centric interoperability while significantly reducing sensor-to-shooter timelines. This combination results in increased survivability of Apache aircrews and ground forces by decreasing their exposure to hostile fire.

i. Link 16 is a military tactical data exchange network. Its specification is part of the family of Tactical Data Links. Link 16 provides aircrews with enhanced situational awareness and the ability to exchange target information to Command and Control (C2) assets via Tactical Digital Information Link-Joint (TADIL-J). Link 16 can provide a range of combat information in near-real time to U.S. and allies' combat aircraft and C2 centers. This will contribute to the integrated control of fighters by either ground-based or airborne controllers and will greatly increase the fighters' situational awareness and ability either to engage targets designated by controllers or to avoid threats, thereby increasing mission effectiveness and reducing fratricide and attrition. The Link 16 enables the Apache to receive information from the command-and-control platforms and enables it to share this data with all the other services, making it more efficient at locating and prosecuting targets. The material solution for the AH-64E is currently the Small Tactical Terminal (SIT) KOR-24A

from Harris to satisfy its requirement for an Airborne and Maritime/Fixed Station (AMF) Small Airborne Link 16 Terminal (SALT). The SIT is the latest generation of small, two-channel, Link 16 and VHF/UHF radio terminals. While in flight, the SIT provides simultaneous communication, voice or data, on two key waveforms.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

21ST CENTURY CURES BILL

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I am pleased to see that the 21st Century Cures Act will fix one of the issues associated with payments for hospital outpatient departments that arose from the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. You will recall that section 603 of that act changed the way these departments will be reimbursed by Medicare in the future. Hospital outpatient departments that were billing Medicare prior to November 2, 2015, however, were exempted from these reduced payments.

We have heard from a number of hospitals in Florida that were in the middle of developing hospital outpatient departments when the new law went into effect. They had made substantial investments in these new departments under the assumption that Medicare would pay them just as it had been doing for years. I am pleased to see that the 21st Century Cures Act will permit hospitals that were in the process of developing outpatient departments to be reimbursed under the previous payment system.

In my State, Jackson Health System, a large public hospital which is known throughout the world for its high-quality healthcare and its value as a public hospital in our community, was in the process of building four new outpatient departments for patients in the Miami-Dade County area when the new law was passed. They had executed binding leases on three of the departments, constructed facilities, and finalized contracts for architectural and engineering reviews on several of the facilities. They had gone through a long process of getting the necessary approvals and financing from the county and State governments.

It is obvious that all four of Jackson's outpatient facilities meet the "mid-build" exception contained in section 16001 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The actual construction of these facilities was complete, and Jackson

was in the process of securing all the necessary requirements for the renovations of these facilities when the new law was passed on November 2, 2015. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, clearly agreed when they issued provider numbers to all four new outpatient departments in September and October 2015. For hospitals like Jackson, the subsequent change in the law essentially changed the rules in the middle of the game. I urge CMS to work with all hospitals in similar situations.

I am very pleased that the 21st Century Cures Act will provide relief to the Jackson Health System and hospitals like it that had made these investments in future outpatient healthcare departments prior to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

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

FEDERAL RULE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE 41

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following letters from law enforcement groups be printed in the RECORD in support of the recent changes to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 41 that was the subject of debate on the floor of the Senate on November 30, 2016: a December 6, 2016, letter signed by the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the National District Attorneys Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the Sergeant's Benevolent Association NYPD; a December 5, 2016, letter signed by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; a December 5, 2016, letter signed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Agents Association; a December 5, 2016, letter signed by the National Fraternal Order of Police; and, a December 5, 2016, letter signed by the National Association to Protect Children.

DECEMBER 6, 2016.

Re: Rule 41 Changes.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
*Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY AND RANKING MEMBER LEAHY: We write in support of changes to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that improve the ability of law enforcement to obtain evidence despite efforts by criminals to hide behind technology. The changes encourage judicial oversight of complex online investigations and give investigators a clear roadmap to seek authorization for their techniques.

Rule 41 improvements help solve a simple conundrum for law enforcement: if you don't know where a computer is located that is being used to commit a crime, how do you know which court to ask for a search warrant to find the computer? Investigators sought these common-sense changes because they needed court oversight and authorization to identify criminals hiding behind

technological barriers, not because they wanted to avoid oversight.

Rule 41 only governs cases where investigators are seeking a search warrant issued by a neutral magistrate based upon probable cause, particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized. If these changes are not made, then criminals could hide behind anonymizing services with impunity, knowing that law enforcement could never lawfully figure out which court had jurisdiction over them.

The stated goal of several legislative reforms addressing law enforcement access to digital evidence is to modernize the law to accommodate changing technology, preserving law enforcement access while protecting privacy. Ensuring that law enforcement can access evidence it needs with appropriate judicial oversight is precisely what these Rule 41 changes will do.

Sincerely,

ASSOCIATION OF STATE
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE
AGENCIES,
INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS
OF POLICE,
MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION,
MAJOR COUNTY SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
POLICE ORGANIZATIONS,
NATIONAL DISTRICT
ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION,
NATIONAL SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION,
SERGEANT'S BENEVOLENT
ASSOCIATION NYPD.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2016.

Re: Rule 41 Amendments.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC,

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Ju-
diciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)—the nation's largest professional, non-profit association representing over 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies—I am writing to express our strong support for the recently implemented amendments to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. These amendments will enhance and improve the ability for law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute terrorists, transnational child pornographers, and cyber criminals who use computer networks to conceal their physical location.

FLEOA shares the same opinion of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent's Association (FBIAA), the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys (NAAUSA) and the National Association to Protect Children. We all agree that the Rule 41 amendments are necessary to address investigative hindrances that result from the difficulty of identifying the exact location of a computer when seeking a warrant. Terrorists and criminals frequently use complex computer networks, spread across the country and the world to anonymize communica-

tions, but the previous version of Rule 41 only allowed magistrate judges to issue warrants for evidence within their jurisdictions. This situation created ambiguity and significant burdens for investigators allowing transnational sexual predators and cyber criminals anonymity.

The Rule 41 amendments resolve the uncertainty surrounding the warrant process by establishing a court-supervised framework for conducting investigations that will protect the privacy interests of the public. FLEOA believes these changes, which took effect on December 1, 2016 are reasonable and necessary.

Respectively,

NATHAN CATURA,
FLEOA National President.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AGENTS ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, December 5, 2016.

Re: Rule 41 Amendments.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Ju-
diciary,

U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: On behalf of the FBI Agents Association ("FBIAA"), a voluntary professional association currently representing over 13,000 active duty and retired FBI Special Agents, I write to express our support for the recently implemented amendments to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ("Rule 41"). These amendments will enhance the ability for law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute criminals, such as terrorists and child pornographers, who use computer networks to disguise their physical location.

The FBIAA shares the opinion of FBI Director Comey and the Department of Justice that the narrow changes included in the Rule 41 amendments are necessary to address investigative obstacles that result from the difficulty of identifying the specific location of a computer when seeking a warrant. Criminals frequently use complex computer networks spread across the country and the world to anonymize their communications, but the previous version of Rule 41 only allowed magistrate judges to issue warrants for evidence within their jurisdictions. This situation created uncertainty and significant administrative burdens for investigators, and as Director Comey noted earlier this year, the previous iteration of Rule 41 created problems "for some of our most important investigations."

The Rule 41 amendments resolve the uncertainty surrounding the warrant process by establishing a court-supervised framework for conducting investigations that will protect the privacy interests of the public. The FBIAA believes these changes, which took effect on December 1, 2016, are reasonable and necessary.

The FBIAA is pleased that the Senate did not interfere with the implementation of the Rule 41 amendments, and we look forward to continuing our work with Congress on these important issues.

If you have any questions, please contact me, FBIAA General Counsel Dee Martin, dee.martin@bracewelllaw.com, and Joshua Zive, joshua.zive@bracewelllaw.com.

Sincerely,

THOMAS O'CONNOR,
President.

NATIONAL FRATERNAL
ORDER OF POLICE,

Washington, DC, December 5, 2016.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN AND SENATOR LEAHY, I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong and continued support for the changes to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure made by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The FOP supports these changes and we believe they will benefit law enforcement officers conducting online investigations. These changes will ensure that Federal agents know which judge to go to in order to apply for a warrant when the cybercriminals they are investigating have hidden their location through anonymizing technology. This search warrant will help law enforcement discover where these criminals are located and end their illicit activity.

Law enforcement officers are now able to obtain warrants from a single judge instead of multiple applications in many jurisdictions to obtain the same information. This will help speed up investigations into crimes like computer hacking, where offenders unlawfully access computers remotely and cross jurisdictional boundaries.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for your consistent strong support for the men and women of law enforcement throughout this country. I look forward to working with you and your staff on this issue. If I can be of any additional help in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

CHUCK CANTERBURY,
National President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TO
PROTECT CHILDREN,
Knoxville, TN, December 5, 2016.

Hon. JOHN CORNYN:
U.S. Senate, Majority Whip, Chair, Judiciary
Subcommittee on The Constitution, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CORNYN, We are writing you in support of the amendment to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 41. It has been with great concern over the last decade that we have watched as child sexual predators take advantage of new technologies, including ways to hide their exploitation of children through the use of proxies, anonymizers and encryption.

The internet was not created to give technologically savvy offenders an advantage in obfuscating their crimes, and offenders who participate in the global demand for the rape and torture of children should not be rewarded for being good at hiding.

Make no mistake, the offenders who take advantage of the "dark web" are some of the most dangerous offenders that exist. For proof of this one need look no further than one of the most notorious ICE cases in history, the recent "Operation Delego". This transnational child exploitation case involved between 600-900 of the worst offenders ICE has seen. It led to 72 indictments (of which 15 are for "John Doe" warrants) and 57 arrests. This investigation uncovered a private bulletin board where hands on offenders produced hardcore child rape imagery and shared it by utilizing sophisticated proxies and encryption methods. The members were segregated into groups, including a "Super VIP" section and according to the "Hawkeye

Indictment" provided by the US Department of Justice, "The rules controlling what could be posted in that section were as follows:

"Keep the girls under 13, in fact, I really need to see 12 or younger to know your (sic) a brother".

and:

"It's very young kids, getting (expletive), and preteens in distress and or crying, etc. . . Getting hit hard on the ass, with a belt and so on . . . I can't believe some of you guys can't work it out for yourselves? And "pretend" bondage, "pretend light whipping" is not super hardcore. If the girl looks total (sic) comfortable, she's not in distress, it does NOT belong I (sic) this section (smiley face icon)".

In another transnational child exploitation case investigated by ICE dubbed "Operation Round Table", Jonathon Johnson, a 27 year old predator from Louisiana, operated a 27,000 member hidden service site on TOR for the production and dissemination of child sexual abuse images. Johnson created a "honeypot" site by stealing a young woman's identity and pretending to be her. Not only did he persuade over 251 child victims to provide him with sexually explicit images and video but he was successful in convincing some of his victims to sexually assault their younger relatives on camera for him, some of whom were under the age of 3.

We applaud Congress and the US Supreme Court for providing this amendment to rule 41, which can only be described as long overdue.

The internet has provided vexing challenges to today's law enforcement efforts to protect children and for their sake government must keep pace.

With much gratitude,

CAMILLE COOPER,
*Director, Government
Affairs, The National
Association to
PROTECT Children
& PROTECT.*

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor our colleagues who are leaving us at the end of this Congress, six individuals who have done a lot to shape how the Senate operates today.

First I would like to thank my three Republican colleagues who are departing. Thank you not only for their service to our country but your willingness to work with me and other members of my party on a number of issues.

DAN COATS

Mr. President, Senator COATS and I served on the Intelligence Committee together. He was a supporter of many of our efforts, including our encryption bill to require all companies to abide by lawful court orders.

MARK KIRK

Mr. President, Senator MARK KIRK took a brave stance on gun violence issues, bucking his party by cosponsoring our amendment to close the terrorist loophole.

KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. President, Senator AYOTTE and I have worked very closely to improve breast cancer detection. I am hopeful that together we can pass our bill before the end of this Congress.

I would also like to speak to three of my closest colleagues on our side of the aisle.

Over the past 24 years, I have had the pleasure of serving in the Senate with HARRY REID, BARBARA MIKULSKI, and BARBARA BOXER, and I am grateful not just for our working relationships but for the close friendships I have formed with each of them.

HARRY REID

Mr. President, Senator REID has served in Congress since 1983, and he has been our party's leader for the past decade. Despite more than three decades in Washington, Senator REID still retains the values instilled in him while growing up in Searchlight, NV. Often described as a tough fighter, he has respect from both sides of the aisle for being a consensus builder who is willing to constantly work to find a deal.

One issue on which Senator REID and I share a passion is Lake Tahoe, the High Sierra lake that straddles the California-Nevada border.

Twenty years ago, HARRY invited President Bill Clinton to announce a major commitment to restoring the health of Lake Tahoe. That first summit launched a public-private partnership that has now invested \$1.2 billion in conservation and restoration projects around the lake.

This year, Senator REID told me he wanted to turn the annual summit into a celebration by inviting President Obama to speak. The event was a huge success, with more than 7,000 people attending.

I will miss HARRY's passion and leadership, but if anyone deserves a break, it is him.

BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. President, BARBARA MIKULSKI is another fearless leader whom I admire.

When I first came to the Senate in November of 1992, there were only three female Senators: Jocelyn Burdick of North Dakota, who retired a month later; Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas; and, of course, Senator BARB.

Senator MIKULSKI often quips, "I may be short, but I won't be overlooked." History certainly will not overlook the contributions she has made.

Rising to become the first woman to chair the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI is often described as a trailblazer. To the women in the Senate, she is a mentor, the dean of the Senate women.

From three women in 1992 to 20 women senators today—and 21 in the next Congress, much of that progress can be attributed to the leadership of the longest serving woman in Congress, Senator MIKULSKI.

BARBARA BOXER

Mr. President, finally, I would like to talk about my partner from California, BARBARA BOXER.

Senator BOXER and I were elected to the Senate on the same day in 1992, the "Year of the Woman."

The day BARBARA was sworn in was historic; it was the first time two women represented their State together in the Senate. That is an honor I am grateful to have shared with my good friend.

From the Marin County Board of Supervisors, to the House of Representatives, to the United States Senate—Senator BOXER has been a champion for families, children, consumers, and the environment.

She rose to become the chair and now ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee. I have great respect for Senator BOXER's passion, dedication, and enthusiasm for protecting the environment. No one does it better.

She led an effort to protect California's coast from offshore drilling. She authored the California Missions Preservation Act to restore and protect the 21 historic missions in California. She helped create Pinnacles National Park, Fort Ord National Monument, and Caesar Chavez National Monument. And she led the effort to expand the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries.

In California, there are now more than 1 million acres of protected wilderness thanks to Senator BOXER.

But she was more than just a champion for our environment.

In the Senate, BARBARA was a staunch advocate for issues related to children.

She pushed to protect children from dangerous toys by removing lead or other dangerous chemicals and requiring cautionary warnings on children's products sold over the Internet. She fought to remove arsenic from drinking water to protect children. As chair of the After School Caucus, she wrote legislation to secure Federal funding for afterschool programs. Thanks to Senator BOXER, 1.6 million children now have a safe place to go after school.

She fought for our servicemembers.

She founded the Military Families Caucus to provide support for the families of servicemembers. She helped establish the West Coast Combat Care Center in San Diego, so that southern California veterans with traumatic wounds would have access to quality care.

And Senator BOXER fought for consumers.

She authored a bipartisan measure to prevent a conflict of interest with banks acting as real estate brokers. After the housing crisis, she wrote measures to protect homeowners whose mortgage is transferred or sold. And she pushed for legislation to help homeowners refinance with lower rates—thanks to that effort, 1 million borrowers were able to save thousands of dollars in interest payments each year.

And finally, BARBARA was a staunch defender of women's rights.

She led the floor fight to pass the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act and pushed back against repeated

attacks on women's health and a woman's right to privacy. Her efforts led to the passage of the Violence Against Women Act that protects women from domestic and sexual abuse.

She worked closely with then-Senator JOE BIDEN to pass that landmark bill. After she announced her retirement, the Vice President said: "You always knew in the Senate if you had BARBARA on your side, you didn't need much more."

Well, I have been lucky to have BARBARA by my side for the past 24 years.

She has been a strong advocate for the people of California, and I am grateful to have served with her.

I am also grateful for the friendship we have shared over the years.

BARBARA and her husband, Stewart, are two of the kindest, most caring people I have had the pleasure of knowing. Their marriage of more than 50 years has brought them considerable joy. Together they raised two wonderful children and are now blessed with four grandchildren.

I am sure she is looking forward to spending more time with them.

While she may be retiring from the Senate, the passion BARBARA displayed for public service will not end.

I know she will continue to advocate and remain a powerful voice for the causes she championed here in the United States Senate.

I look forward to seeing what she is able to accomplish in the next phase of her life and offer her best wishes in a well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Senator BARBARA BOXER, who has served her State and country with boundless energy, enthusiasm, and exuberance.

Senator BOXER's 24 years in the Senate are only part of her legacy of leadership and accomplishments. Previously, she served for 10 years in the House of Representatives for California's Sixth Congressional District and before that as the first woman president of the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

That remarkable record of service includes another record. In her reelection in 2004, Senator BOXER received nearly 7 million votes, the most in Senate history until that time and a mark that stood for 8 years.

During her service in the Senate, Senator BOXER has established herself as a champion of the environment, infrastructure, and medical research. Along with Senator INHOFE, she authored a 5-year transportation bill that many thought was an impossible task in a gridlocked Senate. But she worked across the aisle and did it. The United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act she authored in 2012 reaffirmed the special relationship between our two countries and is another of Senator BOXER's accomplishments.

It has been especially rewarding to work with her on legislation to better

protect women from violence, in our country and around the world.

In her first campaign for Congress in 1982, she ran under the slogan, "Barbara Boxer Gives a Damn." She always has and always will. It is a pleasure to thank Senator BARBARA BOXER for her years of service and to wish her and her husband, Stewart, many more years of good health and great happiness.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AYOTTE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Maine and New Hampshire share a border, a history, and an invigorating climate. When KELLY AYOTTE came to the Senate 6 years ago, I immediately saw in her those traits shared by the people of our two States: a strong work ethic, a respect for tradition balanced by a spirit of innovation, and fiscal prudence always tempered by compassion.

During those years, I came to know Senator AYOTTE as a diligent, energetic, and committed public servant.

She brought with her to the Senate a remarkable record of public service. As her State's attorney general, she fought hard to protect the people of New Hampshire and the environment that is so crucial to their way of life.

It has been rewarding to work with her on such bipartisan efforts as the Terrorist Firearms Prevention Act, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and addressing the opioid addiction crisis confronting our States. From her support for land conservation to advancing biomass energy, she has been a strong leader in the wise use of natural resources and their role in growing the economy.

Coming from a military family, she has demonstrated her respect for our men and women in uniform as a member of the Armed Services Committee and is recognized as a leading voice on national security issues and the well-being of our veterans. We have joined together on many occasions to advocate for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard that is so important to our Nation's defense and to the dedicated men and women of our two States who work there.

It has been an honor to serve with KELLY AYOTTE in the United States Senate, and the American people are better off for her service. I wish KELLY and her wonderful family all the best in the years to come.

HONORING SERGEANT STEVEN C. OWEN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sergeant Steven C. Owen, a beloved husband and father who tragically lost his life in the line of duty on October 5, 2016.

Sergeant Owen was born in Encino, CA, and proudly joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department almost three decades ago. He spent most of his career at the Lancaster Sheriff's station, patrolling the streets of his Ante-

lope Valley community with pride. Well known for his courage as well as kindness, Sergeant Owen received a Meritorious Conduct Medal in 2014 after safely rescuing a hostage held at gunpoint, devising the rescue plan and ensuring that his deputies were kept out of harm's way.

Colleagues fondly remembered Sergeant Owen's tireless work ethic, selfless nature, and deep commitment to the community he served. "Sergeant Owen had the qualities of a religious man—maybe a priest, a minister or a rabbi, or someone who took vows to serve mankind," said Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell. "He fed the hungry, he clothed those who needed it, and Steve Owen comforted the traumatized."

Outside of work, Sergeant Owen spent most of his time volunteering, coaching youth football, and mentoring young students. He also taught landlords and businessowners how to reduce crime on their properties. A skilled water-skier and equestrian, Sergeant Owen also enjoyed camping and gardening in his free time.

Above all else, Sergeant Owen was devoted to his family and his faith. On behalf of the people of California, whom Sergeant Owen served so bravely, I extended my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his wife, Tania; children, Branden, Chadd, and Shannon; and his entire extended family.

HONORING OFFICER LESLEY ZEREBNY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring to the life of Police Officer Lesley Zerebny, a beloved wife, devoted mother, and esteemed colleague who was tragically killed in the line of duty on October 8, 2016.

Officer Zerebny was born in Hemet, CA, to David and Luanne Kling. She was raised in a law enforcement family and expressed a desire to become a police officer from a young age. In 2014, Officer Zerebny joined the Palm Springs Police Department as a police officer trainee and was promoted to police officer after graduating from the Riverside County Sheriff's Academy.

Her positive attitude and commitment to the job helped Officer Zerebny stand out at the Palm Springs Police Department. She consistently accepted additional assignments and always offered a helping hand to her colleagues. She was described as "small in stature, but fearless" and "fiery, creative, full of life and tough as nails." Hard-working, dedicated, and compassionate, Officer Zerebny courageously served her community with distinction.

Officer Zerebny took enormous pride in everything she set out to do—especially in her service as a police officer—but her proudest accomplishment was her family. On behalf of the people of California whom Officer Zerebny served so bravely, I extend my heartfelt condolences to her husband, Zach;

daughter, Cora; and her parents, David and Luanne.

REMEMBERING HAROLD JOHN SHIMER

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, today marks the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It was during that fateful event that more than 2,400 American lives were lost and another 1,100 were wounded. While that day took a tragic toll, heroes were made of those who rushed to action. I wish to honor the life and memory of one such Pearl Harbor hero who went on to serve his country for an additional 20 years after that day. That man is Harold John Shimer, who passed away on October 30, 2016, at the age of 97 in Anacortes, WA.

Mr. Shimer was born on February 12, 1919, in Wurstboro, NY, the son of Harold and Irma Shimer. He attended schools in Wurstboro and Middleton, NY, and enjoyed working with his father on their 640-acre dairy farm. After graduating high school, Mr. Shimer joined the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Shimer had begun his naval career as a storekeeper third class aboard the newly commissioned USS *Helena*, where the ship's first assignment was as neutrality patrol in South America, protecting Uruguay and Argentina prior to the United States' entrance into World War II. Mr. Shimer had the very unique and rare account of watching the famous German *Graf Spee* warship and its captain, which had sunk nine merchant ships, scuttle itself after being pursued by English warships.

The USS *Helena* was assigned to the Pacific, where it was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It was hit by a Japanese torpedo and lost 23 men. Mr. Shimer and the other surviving crewmembers immediately fired back against the attackers. He passed ammunition for the new guns that had just been installed that summer. He recalled, "In a superhuman effort we emptied the ammunition locker in less than two hours." Mr. Shimer and his team were credited with saving the USS *Pennsylvania*, the flagship of the fleet in a drydock just forward of the *Helena*. Following repairs, the *Helena* went on to win fame for sinking a number of Japanese ships before being sunk herself by a submarine in 1943.

Mr. Shimer returned to the States before being reassigned to establish a submarine depot in Fremantle, Australia, and was promoted to chief warrant officer. In 1947, he was assigned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, DC, then to Japan Naval Supply Depot, Yokosuka, Japan, and finally Naval Depot, Seattle, WA. Mr. Shimer had served aboard the USS *Philippine Sea*, USS *Mount McKinley*, and USS *Constellation*. He retired from Naval Station Seattle in June 1961, after 22 years of patriotic service to his country.

Mr. Shimer's great pleasure was golfing with all his friends in the Similk

Men's Golf Club, and he was an active member of Pearl Harbor Survivors, life member of VFW and American Legion, and member of the Anacortes Elks Lodge.

Mr. Shimer is survived by his wife, Carolyn; daughters Patricia Armstrong, Terrie Hughes, and step-daughter Brenda Eissenstat; grandchildren Toni Gill and Clayton Hughes and step-grandsons Ethan and Daniel Eissenstat; great-grandchildren Mitchell, Jamie, and Katelin Gill and Hayley and Brynn Hughes; step-sister Gale Angelostro; sister-in-law Blanche Shimer; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Please join me in extending our warmest gratitude to Mr. Shimer and his family for the years of dedicated service to his country and for being an upstanding and active member of the Anacortes community. His stories, which were described as no less than "amazing", will be missed, but they will also live on in the memories of family and friends that knew him well.

REMEMBERING LEROY MAZELL SMITH

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Leroy Mazell Smith, an aviation mechanic from Fordyce, AR, who was part of the illustrious Tuskegee Airmen and served his country with honor and distinction.

Born in 1927, Smith loved to tell the story of his birth with wry humor and fondness. A midwife helped his mother deliver him while on a bridge where some had taken refuge from the great Mississippi River flood of that year. They remained there for 4 days before his birth was documented. The result was that his birth certificate indicated a different date of birth, 4 days after his actual birthday.

From that unusual beginning, he went on to lead a remarkable life. He credited his Baptist grandfather with having a large influence on him growing up, including teaching him the value of hard work. He graduated from high school at age 16 and took preflight aeronautical classes. After graduation, Smith joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and became a mechanic.

He completed basic training in Texas and was stationed at Chanute Field in Illinois. Later, during World War II, he was sent to Europe where he was assigned to the Tuskegee Airmen Red Tail squadron. He remembered being scared during his time in theater but always relayed his sense of pride in the work he did and the fact that the Tuskegee unit never lost a bomber.

Smith also helped break social and racial barriers in the military. As part of the group of African Americans who served in the Armed Forces in the mid-20th century, he was among many servicemembers who confronted segregation within the barracks and beyond. Even so, he recalled his time in the Army Air Corps as "one of his best memories."

Leroy Smith honorably served with the U.S. Army Air Corps and the U.S. Air Force for more than 25 years, including further combat tours in Korea and Vietnam. He retired in 1968 as a master sergeant.

Leroy Mazell Smith passed away on December 1, 2016. He will be laid to rest on December 9, wearing an Air Force uniform complete with the medals he earned during his service, a recent request that the nonprofit veterans' support group Team Red, White and Blue helped fulfill.

Smith is an American hero whose admirable service is recognized and appreciated by all Arkansans. I extend my sincere condolences to his family and friends, and I hope that they take comfort in the wonderful legacy that he leaves behind.

TRIBUTE TO JOE AND LOUISE HEAD

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Joe and Louise Head, recipients of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation's 2016 Jacob E. Davis Volunteer Leadership Award, which is presented annually to honor citizens who have made significant contributions to the greater Cincinnati community.

Recognized for their generosity as philanthropic and civic leaders, Joe and Louise have volunteered their time, talents, and treasure to countless community endeavors to make the greater Cincinnati community a better place to live.

They have both been very active volunteers to many local organizations including Xavier University, Seven Hills School, the Metropolitan Growth Alliance, and the Cincinnati Nature Center. Joe and Louise have also provided significant leadership by serving as trustees and board members to many civic and charitable organizations. Louise is a former governing board chair of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and Joe is a former chair of the Christ Hospital Health Network board of directors. No couple is more community-minded, and the people of greater Cincinnati have been the beneficiaries.

I would like to congratulate Joe and Louise Head on this award.

NASHVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S CENTENNIAL

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Nashville Fire Department in North Carolina. On December 17, 2016, the men and women of the department will celebrate their 100th anniversary.

The Nashville Fire Department has a tremendous history of dedicated service to its community. On December 17, 1916, it was outfitted with their first hose and reel to replace the previous bucket brigades. As the oldest fire department in Nash County, NC, its volunteers and employees continue, to this day, risking their lives to protect

the welfare of their citizens. I am so proud of their dedication to keeping us safe in the Tar Heel State.

The mission of the Nashville Fire Department is to “protect lives, property, and the environment by providing skillful and cost effective fire and life safety services.” The Nashville Fire Department goes above and beyond accomplishing this by answering approximately 1,700 calls for service yearly for either fire protection, EMS response, or vehicle extrication. Additionally, this department specializes in trench rescue—one of the most challenging rescue events that emergency responders can face.

I salute the brave men and women of the Nashville Fire Department for 100 years of protective service to the people of Nashville, NC. Through their efforts, they make their community a better, safer place.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of the city of Santa Barbara, a community that has pioneered efforts in sustainability and environmental preservation for many years.

For over four decades, the city of Santa Barbara has been a leader in protecting and enhancing the local environment. In 1969, a devastating oil spill released an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 barrels of oil into the Santa Barbara Channel, resulting in public outcry over the significant damage to the ocean waters and wildlife. Local residents and civic leaders immediately began advocating for environmental reforms, and a few months later, Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act, one of the first laws to establish a national framework for protecting our environment. Soon after, the California Coastal Commission was created in 1972 as an independent State agency committed to preserving California’s beautiful coastline.

As the Santa Barbara community grew and the effects of global climate change became more apparent, local leaders developed innovative initiatives to reduce waste, decrease emissions, and conserve natural resources. Specifically, the city imposed stormwater requirements for development projects to prevent runoff and implemented a shared-use vehicle program to reduce fuel costs and the number of vehicles in the city’s fleet. These efforts helped cut water consumption by 15 to 20 percent and reduce emissions by 10 percent, respectively. Next year, Santa Barbara will begin using a state-of-the-art water desalination facility that will reduce electrical demand and environmental impacts while supplying roughly 30 percent of the city’s water.

I want to congratulate the city of Santa Barbara for its dedicated efforts to preserve our precious natural resources. Santa Barbara’s leadership will continue to make a profound difference for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRYON J. YOUNG

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the career of Mr. Bryon J. Young, executive director of the Army Contracting Command—Aberdeen Proving Ground (ACC-APG). Mr. Young will be retiring after 40 years of distinguished service to the country. Throughout his career, Mr. Young has proven himself a true public servant and his leadership will be truly missed. I would like to take this time to send my congratulations to Mr. Young on his retirement and reflect upon his long career, exemplified by his hard work, dedication, and passion.

Mr. Young dedicated his career to the defense and service of his Nation and his fellow citizens. A graduate of the University of Delaware and Boston University in the 1970s, Mr. Young went on to complete degrees at the Defense Systems Management College Program manager’s course and executive program manager’s course, as well as the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Prior to his time with the Army Contracting Command, Mr. Young served for 27 years as an air defense officer in the Army with the 101st Airborne Division and as an ROTC instructor at Princeton University. Throughout his career, Mr. Young has displayed a commitment to excellence, and his numerous commands over the years are a testament to his work ethic and dedication. Among his many commands, Mr. Young has served as director of the U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command Contracting Center, director of the U.S. Army Contracting Agency in Falls Church, Virginia, chief of staff to the Army Contracting Agency, commander of the Defense Contract Management Agency Raytheon, and procurement team chief of U.S. Army Missile Command. Mr. Young’s years of service and experience have benefited not only those around him, but the Nation as a whole. In his most recent role as executive director of the Army Contracting Command—Aberdeen Proving Ground, Mr. Young managed a geographically dispersed contracting center responsible for executing more than 35,000 contracting actions valued at \$11 billion.

Mr. Young’s dedication to the Armed Services and our country are evident not only from his four decades of service and leadership, but also from his numerous decorations, which include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

Throughout his long and distinguished career in public service, Mr.

Young has always placed his community and country first. We are all grateful for his dedicated service which will long be remembered. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a grateful Nation, I would like to once again extend my congratulations to Mr. Young on his retirement and thank him for his decades of public service. I wish him all the best in the years ahead.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1555. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 2234. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

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

At 1:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 817. An act to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

S. 818. An act to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

S. 2873. An act to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

S. 3076. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish caskets and urns for burial in cemeteries of States and tribal organizations of veterans without next of kin or sufficient resources to provide for caskets or urns, and for other purposes.

S. 3492. An act to designate the Traverse City VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in

Traverse City, Michigan, as the "Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 756. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for the dissemination of information regarding available Federal programs relating to energy efficiency projects for schools, and for other purposes.

H.R. 875. An act to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3381. An act to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4150. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to modify the hours of employment of physicians employed on a full-time basis by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 4352. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4680. An act to prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5399. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs fulfill the ethical duty to report to State licensing authorities impaired, incompetent, and unethical health care activities.

H.R. 6375. An act to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of nonapplication of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or surveillance systems.

H.R. 6394. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to submit to Congress a report on promoting broadband Internet access service for veterans.

H.R. 6401. An act to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands.

H.R. 6416. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6438. An act to extend the waiver of limitations with respect to excluding from gross income amounts received by wrongfully incarcerated individuals.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 174) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 34.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 795. An act to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

S. 3395. An act to require limitations on prescribed burns.

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

At 5:46 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5790. An act to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3516. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a best-practices peer review of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the efficacy of health care delivered at each such medical center.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 7, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 795. An act to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

S. 1555. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 2234. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 2577. An act to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner officers, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 3395. An act to require limitations on prescribed burns.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 425. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs (Rept. No. 114-395).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 8. A bill to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Con. Res. 30. A concurrent resolution expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 40. A concurrent resolution encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families.

S. Con. Res. 57. A concurrent resolution honoring in praise and remembrance the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 535. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 537. A resolution expressing profound concern about the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, urging the release of political prisoners, and calling for respect of constitutional and democratic processes.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 1150. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1182. A bill to exempt application of JSA attribution rule in case of existing agreements.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2658. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2016 through 2017, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment:

H.R. 2845. A bill to promote access to benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4481. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4939. A bill to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. THUNE for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Ann Begeman, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2020.

*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.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

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

Treaty Doc. 114-12: Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro with 2 conditions and 7 declarations (Ex. Rept. 114-16)

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

As reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations:

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

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Declarations and Conditions.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, which was opened for signature in Brussels on May 19, 2016, and signed on behalf of the United States of America (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 114-12), subject to the declarations of section 2 and the conditions of section 3.

Sec. 2. Declarations.

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

(1) Reaffirmation that United States Membership in NATO Remains a Vital National Security Interest of The United States.—The Senate declares that—

(A) for more than 60 years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has served as the preeminent organization to defend the countries in the North Atlantic area against all external threats;

(B) through common action, the established democracies of North America and Europe that were joined in NATO persevered and prevailed in the task of ensuring the survival of democratic government in Europe and North America throughout the Cold War;

(C) NATO enhances the security of the United States by embedding European states in a process of cooperative security planning and by ensuring an ongoing and direct leadership role for the United States in European security affairs;

(D) the responsibility and financial burden of defending the democracies of Europe and North America can be more equitably shared through an alliance in which specific obligations and force goals are met by its members;

(E) the security and prosperity of the United States is enhanced by NATO's collective defense against aggression that may threaten the security of NATO members; and

(F) United States membership in NATO remains a vital national security interest of the United States.

(2) Strategic Rationale For NATO Enlargement.—The Senate finds that—

(A) the United States and its NATO allies face continued threats to their stability and territorial integrity;

(B) an attack against Montenegro, or its destabilization arising from external subver-

sion, would threaten the stability of Europe and jeopardize United States national security interests;

(C) Montenegro, having established a democratic government and having demonstrated a willingness to meet the requirements of membership, including those necessary to contribute to the defense of all NATO members, is in a position to further the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area; and

(D) extending NATO membership to Montenegro will strengthen NATO, enhance stability in Southeast Europe, and advance the interests of the United States and its NATO allies.

(3) Support for NATO's Open Door Policy.—The policy of the United States is to support NATO's Open Door Policy that allows any European country to express its desire to join NATO and demonstrate its ability to meet the obligations of NATO membership.

(4) Future Consideration Of Candidates For Membership In NATO.—

(A) Senate Finding.—The Senate finds that the United States will not support the accession to the North Atlantic Treaty of, or the invitation to begin accession talks with, any European state (other than Montenegro), unless—

(i) the President consults with the Senate consistent with Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States (relating to the advice and consent of the Senate to the making of treaties); and

(ii) the prospective NATO member can fulfill all of the obligations and responsibilities of membership, and the inclusion of such state in NATO would serve the overall political and strategic interests of NATO and the United States.

(B) Requirement for Consensus and Ratification.—The Senate declares that no action or agreement other than a consensus decision by the full membership of NATO, approved by the national procedures of each NATO member, including, in the case of the United States, the requirements of Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States (relating to the advice and consent of the Senate to the making of treaties), will constitute a commitment to collective defense and consultations pursuant to Articles 4 and 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

(5) Influence Of Non-NATO Members On NATO Decisions.—The Senate declares that any country that is not a member of NATO shall have no impact on decisions related to NATO enlargement.

(6) Support for 2014 Wales Summit Defense Spending Benchmark.—The Senate declares that all NATO members should continue to move towards the guideline outlined in the 2014 Wales Summit Declaration to spend a minimum of 2 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense and 20 percent of their defense budgets on major equipment, including research and development, by 2024.

(7) Support for Montenegro's Democratic Reform Process.—Montenegro has made difficult reforms and taken steps to address corruption. The United States and other NATO member states should not consider this important process complete and should continue to urge additional reforms.

Sec. 3. Conditions.

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

(1) Presidential Certification.—Prior to the deposit of the instrument of ratification, the President shall certify to the Senate as follows:

(A) The inclusion of Montenegro in NATO will not have the effect of increasing the

overall percentage share of the United States in the common budgets of NATO.

(B) The inclusion of Montenegro in NATO does not detract from the ability of the United States to meet or to fund its military requirements outside the North Atlantic area.

(2) Annual Report on NATO Member Defense Spending.—Not later than December 1 of each year during the 8-year period following the date of entry into force of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex, and which shall contain the following information:

(A) The amount each NATO member spent on its national defense in each of the previous 5 years.

(B) The percentage of GDP for each of the previous 5 years that each NATO member spent on its national defense.

(C) The percentage of national defense spending for each of the previous 5 years that each NATO member spent on major equipment, including research and development.

(D) Details on the actions a NATO member has taken in the most recent year reported to move closer towards the NATO guideline outlined in the 2014 Wales Summit Declaration to spend a minimum of 2 percent of its GDP on national defense and 20 percent of its national defense budget on major equipment, including research and development, if a NATO member is below either guideline for the most recent year reported.

Sec. 4. Definitions.

In this resolution:

(1) Appropriate Congressional Committees.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) NATO Members.—The term "NATO members" means all countries that are parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

(3) Non-NATO Members.—The term "non-NATO members" means all countries that are not parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

(4) North Atlantic Area.—The term "North Atlantic area" means the area covered by Article 6 of the North Atlantic Treaty, as applied by the North Atlantic Council.

(5) North Atlantic Treaty.—The term "North Atlantic Treaty" means the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington April 4, 1949 (63 Stat. 2241; TIAS 1964), as amended.

(6) United States Instrument of Ratification.—The term "United States instrument of ratification" means the instrument of ratification of the United States of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

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 Ms. WARREN:

S. 3511. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to expand the Secretarial Designee Program of the Department of Defense to include victims of acts of terror; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 3512. A bill to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 3513. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to facilitate communication between U.S. Customs and Border Protection and border ranchers in Arizona and other border States and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 3514. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 3515. A bill to authorize previously appropriated resources for communities to address persistent or historical crime through collaborative cross-sector partnerships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 3516. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a best-practices peer review of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the efficacy of health care delivered at each such medical center; read the first time.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code 1986 to provide appropriate rules for the application of the deduction for income attributable to domestic production activities with respect to certain contract manufacturing or production arrangements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3518. A bill to impose nonnuclear sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 3519. A bill to address the psychological, social, and emotional needs of children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 632. A resolution supporting a transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy to help consumers, support the economy and national security of the United States, and avoid the worst impacts of climate change; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. Con. Res. 58. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that rates for inmate calling service should not exceed the affordable modified rate caps adopted by the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 24

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 24, a bill to clarify that an authorization

to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority shall not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 1148

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1148, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1524

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1524, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 1911

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1911, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2712

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2712, a bill to restore amounts improperly withheld for tax purposes from severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes.

S. 2748

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 2748, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2878

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2878, a bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

S. 2895

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2895, a bill to extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2957, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

S. 2989

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2989, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 3188

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3188, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the incentives for biodiesel.

S. 3256

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3256, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3284

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3284, a bill to oppose loans at international financial institutions for the Government of Nicaragua unless the Government of Nicaragua is taking effective steps to hold free, fair, and transparent elections, and for other purposes.

S. 3364

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3364, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to accept the donation of facilities and related improvements for use by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3478

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3478, a bill to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

S. 3504

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3504, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to implement Medicare payment policies designed to improve management of chronic disease, streamline care coordination, and improve quality outcomes without adding to the deficit.

S.J. RES. 40

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 40, a joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 632—SUPPORTING A TRANSITION TO 100 PERCENT CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY TO HELP CONSUMERS, SUPPORT THE ECONOMY AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES, AND AVOID THE WORST IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 632

Whereas, in December 2016, nearly 200 nations that are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted an historic international agreement to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change;

Whereas transitioning to clean energy will help reduce carbon pollution in the United States, and combat climate change;

Whereas transitioning to clean energy will help the United States meet its international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

Whereas transitioning to a clean energy economy will create millions of well-paying jobs in the United States, save consumers in the United States money, and boost economic growth;

Whereas low-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous people in the United States are inordinately exposed to pollution from fossil fuels;

Whereas distributed renewable energy and energy efficiency can provide access to local jobs in cities in the United States while cleaning up neighborhoods;

Whereas, in 2005, the United States had fewer than 10,000 megawatts of installed wind and solar electric generating capacity;

Whereas, in 2016, the United States has more than 100,000 megawatts of installed wind and solar electric generating capacity;

Whereas, in 2016, the United States is projected to add more electric generating capacity from solar and wind than from any other source;

Whereas, by the end of 2016, there are projected to be—

(1) 310,000 individuals in the United States employed in the solar industry; and

(2) 88,000 individuals in the United States employed in the wind industry;

Whereas, by 2020, there are projected to be nearly 600,000 individuals in the United States employed in the wind and solar industries;

Whereas more than ½ of all new electricity capacity added in the world in 2015 was renewable; and

Whereas according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the United States has the technical potential to generate more than 100 times the quantity of electricity it consumes each year as of 2016 solely from wind, solar, and other renewable resources: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports a national goal of phasing out fossil fuel emissions and, by 2050, generating 100 percent of the electricity consumed in the United States from clean energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and other renewable resources; and

(2) supports policies to achieve that goal that will—

(A) create jobs for all individuals, especially in communities with high rates of unemployment or underemployment, and build a sustainable economy; and

(B) ensure universal access to clean energy for all homes and businesses in the United States, including for moderate- and low-income families.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 58—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT RATES FOR INMATE CALLING SERVICE SHOULD NOT EXCEED THE AFFORDABLE MODIFIED RATE CAPS ADOPTED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas an estimated 5,000,000 United States children have, or have had, a parent in prison or jail;

Whereas phone calls make it easier for families of incarcerated individuals to maintain positive relationships with their loved ones who are incarcerated;

Whereas phone calls help to reduce recidivism and promote the well-being of children;

Whereas a reduction in recidivism rates by just 1 percent would save United States taxpayers \$250,000,000 per year in correctional costs;

Whereas families of incarcerated individuals frequently experience financial hardship because of the loss of a key wage earner;

Whereas the cost of maintaining contact with incarcerated loved ones through in-person visits can be prohibitive;

Whereas written correspondence, especially with small children and disabled individuals, can be an inadequate way of maintaining communication; and

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission has been steadfast in its efforts, in accordance with its authority under the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.)—

(1) to bring about a compromise on inmate calling service rate caps; and

(2) to ensure that those rates are just and reasonable: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) rates for inmate calling service should not exceed the affordable modified rate caps adopted by the Federal Communications Commission as of the date of the adoption of this resolution; and

(2) reduced inmate calling service rates should be implemented swiftly because of the importance of inmate calling service as a rehabilitative means of communication.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

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

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 7, 2016, at 2 p.m., in room S-216 to the Capitol Building.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 7, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled "Assessing the Security of our Critical Surface Transportation Infrastructure."

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 7, 2016, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, Four Years Later."

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION
POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

The Committee on Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 7, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the Competitive Impact of the AT&T-Time Warner Transaction."

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 7, 2016, from 3 p.m. in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 742 through 765 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Robert N. Polumbo

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

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jerry D. Harris, Jr.

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

To be general

Lt. Gen. James M. Holmes

IN THE NAVY

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

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. William K. Lescher

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Kelly A. Aeschbach

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

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Dixon R. Smith

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Joel E. DeGroot
Col. Christopher M. Faux
Col. Robert J. Gregory, III
Col. Henry U. Harder, Jr.
Col. Eric W. Lind
Col. David D. Zwart

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. David P. Baczewski
Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Cathcart
Brig. Gen. Brian T. Dravis
Brig. Gen. James O. Eiffert
Brig. Gen. Richard W. Kelly
Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Knapp
Brig. Gen. Jon K. Mott
Brig. Gen. Clayton W. Moushon
Brig. Gen. Kerry L. Muehlenbeck
Brig. Gen. Howard P. Purcell
Brig. Gen. David P. San Clemente
Brig. Gen. Michael R. Taheri
Brig. Gen. Roger E. Williams, Jr.

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Jesse T. Simmons, Jr.

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. David M. McMinn
Brig. Gen. Ronald E. Paul

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. William E. Dickens, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Brian K. Borgen
Col. Jeffrey S. Hinrichs
Col. Jay D. Jensen
Col. Bret C. Larson
Col. Todd J. McCubbin
Col. Patrice A. Melancon
Col. Ellen M. Moore
Col. Boyd C. L. Parker, IV
Col. Steven B. Parker
Col. Bryan P. Radliff
Col. Scott A. Sauter
Col. Constance M. Von Hoffman

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Randolph J. Staudenraus

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Craig L. LaFave
Brig. Gen. Pamela J. Lincoln
Brig. Gen. Donald R. Lindberg
Brig. Gen. Randall A. Ogden
Brig. Gen. James P. Scanlan
Brig. Gen. Patrick M. Wade

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Stephen C. Melton

IN THE ARMY

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

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Funk, II

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

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Gary J. Volesky

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

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. James H. Dickinson

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Patrick M. Hamilton

The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Benjamin F. Adams, III
 Brig. Gen. Wayne L. Black
 Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Burns
 Brig. Gen. Kurt S. Crytzer
 Brig. Gen. Ivan E. Denton
 Brig. Gen. James C. Ernst
 Brig. Gen. Kevin R. Griese
 Brig. Gen. Mark G. Malanka
 Brig. Gen. Roy V. McCarty
 Brig. Gen. Blake E. Ortner
 Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Petty
 Brig. Gen. Jessie R. Robinson
 Brig. Gen. Steven T. Scott
 Brig. Gen. Raymond F. Shields, Jr.
 Brig. Gen. Bryan E. Suntheimer
 Brig. Gen. Kirk E. Vanpelt
 Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Wojtecki
 Brig. Gen. Michael R. Zerbernia

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Mark A. Piterski

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Ellis F. Hopkins III

The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Michael A. Abell
 Col. Joseph L. Biehler
 Col. Janeen L. Birkhead
 Col. Marti J. Bissell
 Col. Scott J. Boespflug
 Col. Raymond D. Bossert, Jr.
 Col. Patrick R. Bossetta
 Col. Thomas R. Bouchard
 Col. Robert A. Boyette
 Col. Kenneth E. Brandt
 Col. Stanley E. Budraitis
 Col. Anthony R. Camacho
 Col. Mike A. Canzoneri
 Col. Rita B. Casey
 Col. Gregory P. Chaney
 Col. Paul B. Chauncey, III
 Col. Bobby L. Christine
 Col. Edward J. Chrystal, Jr.
 Col. William E. Crane
 Col. Darrell W. Daniels
 Col. Gregory T. Day
 Col. Henry S. Dixon
 Col. Scott A. Doust
 Col. Dwaine E. Drummond
 Col. Diane L. Dunn
 Col. Robert A. Dwan
 Col. Leonard H. Dyer, Jr.
 Col. Steve D. Elliott
 Col. Francis J. Evon, Jr.
 Col. Kelly A. Fisher
 Col. Robert C. Frick
 Col. Robert B. Gaston
 Col. Andrew L. Gibson
 Col. Kerry W. Goodman
 Col. William D. Griswold
 Col. Dennis J. Humphrey
 Col. Robert W. Intruss
 Col. Richard F. Johnson
 Col. Jeffrey A. Jones
 Col. Eric T. Judkins
 Col. Kipling V. Kahler

Col. Moses Kaoiwi, Jr.
 Col. Eric K. Little
 Col. Zachary E. Maner
 Col. James R. Mathews
 Col. Mark A. Merlino
 Col. Douglas R. Messner
 Col. David J. Mikolaities
 Col. Charles W. Moore
 Col. Leah M. Moore
 Col. Michel A. Natali
 Col. Reginald G.A. Neal
 Col. John M. Oberkirsch
 Col. Stephen E. Osborn
 Col. Rodney B. Painting
 Col. Chad J. Parker
 Col. Roger A. Presley, Jr.
 Col. Jose J. Reyes
 Col. Frank M. Rice
 Col. Timothy L. Rieger
 Col. James W. Ring
 Col. John W. Rueger
 Col. Adam R. Silvers
 Col. Jeffrey D. Smiley
 Col. Michael E. Spraggins
 Col. Steven E. Stivers
 Col. Mechelle M. Tuttle
 Col. Jeffrey P. Van
 Col. Thomas M. Vickers, Jr.
 Col. Louis W. Wilham

IN THE NAVY

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

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) Mary M. Jackson

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1553 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning DANIEL J. BESSMER, and ending CHRISTIE BARTON WALTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2016.

PN1832 AIR FORCE nominations (28) beginning KIP T. AVERETT, and ending DANIEL S. WALKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1833 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning SHAWN M. GARCIA, and ending MORGAN H. LAIRD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1834 AIR FORCE nominations (1903) beginning DANIEL C. ABELL, and ending PETER ZWART, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1835 AIR FORCE nomination of Gary A. Fairchild, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1836 AIR FORCE nomination of Megan M. Luka, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1837 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning BRANDON D. CLINT, and ending EDMUND J. RUTHERFORD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1838 AIR FORCE nominations (90) beginning ISAMETTIN A. ARAL, and ending LESLIE ANN ZYDA-MARTIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

IN THE ARMY

PN1557 ARMY nomination of Brian C. Garver, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2016.

PN1689 ARMY nomination of Clifford D. Johnston, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2016.

PN1692 ARMY nomination of Reinaldo Gonzalez, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2016.

PN1712 ARMY nomination of Graham F. Inman which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2016.

PN1839 ARMY nomination of Eileen K. Jenkins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1840 ARMY nomination of Jeffrey M. Farris, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1841 ARMY nomination of Matthew T. Bell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1842 ARMY nomination of Melissa B. Reister, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1843 ARMY nomination of Charles M. Causey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1844 ARMY nominations (2) beginning STEPHEN A. LABATE, and ending RAYMOND J. ORR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1845 ARMY nomination of Roxanne E. Wallace, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1846 ARMY nomination of Eric A. Mitchell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1847 ARMY nomination of Jonathan J. Vannatta, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1848 ARMY nomination of Dennis D. Calloway, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1849 ARMY nominations (3) beginning KENNETH L. ALFORD, and ending BRUCE T. SIDEBOTHAM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1850 ARMY nomination of Henry Spring, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1851 ARMY nomination of Craig A. Yunker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1852 ARMY nomination of Cornelius J. Pope, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1853 ARMY nomination of Anthony K. McConnell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1854 ARMY nomination of Jennifer L. Cummings, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1855 ARMY nominations (2) beginning DONALD J. ERPENBACH, and ending TIMOTHY A. FANTER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1857 ARMY nomination of Carl I. Shaia, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1858 ARMY nomination of Lisa M. Barden, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1859 ARMY nomination of Roger D. Lyles, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1860 ARMY nomination of Clara A. Bieganeck, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1861 ARMY nomination of Isaiah M. Garfias which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1862 ARMY nomination of Louis E. Herrera, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1863 ARMY nomination of Schnicka L. Singleton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1864 ARMY nomination of John R. Burchfield, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1865 ARMY nomination of Elizabeth S. Eatonferenzi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1866 ARMY nomination of Richard D. Mina, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1867 ARMY nominations (44) beginning TEMIDAYO L. ANDERSON, and ending D0127914, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1869 ARMY nomination of Richard A. Gautier, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1870 ARMY nomination of Joseph A. Papenfus, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1871 ARMY nominations (9) beginning STUART G. BAKER, and ending WALTER D. VENNEMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1872 ARMY nomination of David S. Yuen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1873 ARMY nomination of Donta A. White, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1874 ARMY nomination of Tony A. Hampton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1875 ARMY nominations (18) beginning CHARLES C. ANDERSON, and ending JAMES D. WILLSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1876 ARMY nomination of David A. Yasenchock, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1877 ARMY nomination of Aaron C. Ramiro, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1878 ARMY nomination of Richard M. Strong, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1879 ARMY nomination of Brendon S. Baker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1880 ARMY nominations (19) beginning LANNY J. ACOSTA, JR., and ending LANCE

B. TURLINGTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1900 ARMY nomination of Andrew J. Wade, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 16, 2016.

PN1902 ARMY nomination of Christopher S. Besser, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

PN1903 ARMY nomination of Chad C. Black, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

PN1904 ARMY nomination of Thomas D. Starkey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

* PN1808 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (2) beginning Marva Michelle Butler, and ending Adonis Mariano Matos de Mello, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

* PN1907 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (2) beginning Stephen Donald Mull, and ending Victoria Jane Nuland, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

* PN1908 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (181) beginning Robert L. Adams, and ending Laura Ann Griesmer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

* PN1909 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (5) beginning Robert Stephen Beecroft, and ending Marie L. Yovanovitch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

* PN1910 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (42) beginning Tristan J. Allen, and ending William F. Zeman which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

* PN1911 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (180) beginning Anthony Abba, and ending Michael David Zgoda, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1905 MARINE CORPS nomination of Joshua D. Fitzgarrald, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

PN1906 MARINE CORPS nomination of Anthony C. Lyons, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

IN THE NAVY

PN1633 NAVY nomination of Suzanne L. Hopkins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 13, 2016.

PN1881 NAVY nominations (46) beginning JAFAR A. ALI, and ending ANTHONY K. WOLVERTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1882 NAVY nomination of Meryl A. Severson, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1883 NAVY nomination of Ashley R. Bjorklund, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1884 NAVY nomination of Adeleke O. Mowobi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1885 NAVY nominations (2) beginning MARY K. ARBUTHNOT, and ending JOHN K. WERNER, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1886 NAVY nomination of Stephen W. Hedrick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1887 NAVY nomination of Vincent M. J. Ambrosino, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1888 NAVY nomination of Neal P. Ridge, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1891 NAVY nomination of Abdeslam Bousalham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1892 NAVY nomination of Scott M. Morey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1893 NAVY nomination of Christian R. Foschi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3516

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3516) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a best-practices peer review of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the efficacy of health care delivered at each such medical center.

Mr. TILLIS. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 2943 postcloture; finally, that all postcloture time on the conference report to accompany S. 2943 expire at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:24 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ANN BEGEMAN, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2020. (REAPPOINTMENT)

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 7, 2016:

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT N. POLUMBO

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JERRY D. HARRIS, JR.

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

To be general

LT. GEN. JAMES M. HOLMES

IN THE NAVY

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

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. WILLIAM K. LESCHER

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KELLY A. AESCHBACH

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

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. DIXON R. SMITH

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOEL E. DEGROOT
COL. CHRISTOPHER M. FAUX
COL. ROBERT J. GREGORY III
COL. HENRY U. HARDER, JR.
COL. ERIC W. LIND
COL. DAVID D. ZWART

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID P. BACZEWSKI
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. CATHCART
BRIG. GEN. BRIAN T. DRAVIS
BRIG. GEN. JAMES O. EIFERT
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD W. KELLY
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. KNAPP
BRIG. GEN. JON K. MOTT
BRIG. GEN. CLAYTON W. MOUSHON
BRIG. GEN. KERRY L. MUEHLENBECK

BRIG. GEN. HOWARD P. PURCELL
BRIG. GEN. DAVID P. SAN CLEMENTE
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL R. TAHERI
BRIG. GEN. ROGER E. WILLIAMS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JESSE T. SIMMONS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. MCMINN
BRIG. GEN. RONALD E. PAUL

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

To be brigadier general

COL. WILLIAM E. DICKENS, JR.

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

To be brigadier general

COL. BRIAN K. BORGEN
COL. JEFFREY S. HINRICHS
COL. JAY D. JENSEN
COL. BRET C. LARSON
COL. TODD J. MCCUBBIN
COL. PATRICE A. MELANCON
COL. ELLEN M. MOORE
COL. BOYD C. L. PARKER IV
COL. STEVEN B. PARKER
COL. BRYAN P. RADLIFF
COL. SCOTT A. SAUTER
COL. CONSTANCE M. VON HOFFMAN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RANDOLPH J. STAUDENRAUS

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. CRAIG L. LAFAVE
BRIG. GEN. PAMELA J. LINCOLN
BRIG. GEN. DONALD R. LINDBERG
BRIG. GEN. RANDALL A. OGDEN
BRIG. GEN. JAMES P. SCANLAN
BRIG. GEN. PATRICK M. WADE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHEN C. MELTON

IN THE ARMY

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL E. FUNK II

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. GARY J. VOLESKY

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES H. DICKINSON

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PATRICK M. HAMILTON

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BENJAMIN F. ADAMS III
BRIG. GEN. WAYNE L. BLACK
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER M. BURNS
BRIG. GEN. KURT S. CRYTZER
BRIG. GEN. IVAN E. DENTON
BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. ERNST

BRIG. GEN. KEVIN R. GRIESE
BRIG. GEN. MARK G. MALANKA
BRIG. GEN. ROY V. MCCARTY
BRIG. GEN. BLAKE C. ORTNER
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. PETTY
BRIG. GEN. JESSIE R. ROBINSON
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN T. SCOTT
BRIG. GEN. RAYMOND F. SHIELDS, JR.
BRIG. GEN. BRYAN E. SUNTHEIMER
BRIG. GEN. KIRK E. VANPELT
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. WOJTECKI
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL R. ZERBONIA

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

To be brigadier general

COL. MARK A. PITERSKI

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

To be brigadier general

COL. ELLIS F. HOPKINS III

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

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL A. ABELL
COL. JOSEPH L. BIEHLER
COL. JANEEN L. BIRCKHEAD
COL. MARTI J. BISSELL
COL. SCOTT J. BOESPFLUG
COL. RAYMOND D. BOSSERTA, JR.
COL. PATRICK R. BOSSETTA
COL. THOMAS R. BOUCHARD
COL. ROBERT A. BOYETTE
COL. KENNETH E. BRANDT
COL. STANLEY E. BUDRAITIS
COL. ANTHONY R. CAMACHO
COL. MIKE A. CANZONERI
COL. RITA B. CASEY
COL. GREGORY P. CHANEY
COL. PAUL B. CHAUNCEY III
COL. BOBBY L. CHRISTINE
COL. EDWARD J. CHRYSYAL, JR.
COL. WILLIAM E. CRANE
COL. DARRELL W. DANIELS
COL. GREGORY T. DAY
COL. HENRY S. DIXON
COL. SCOTT A. DOUST
COL. DWAIN E. DRUMMOND
COL. DIANE L. DUNN
COL. ROBERT A. DWAN
COL. LEONARD H. DYER, JR.
COL. STEVE D. ELLIOTT
COL. FRANCIS J. EVON, JR.
COL. KELLY A. FISHER
COL. ROBERT C. FRICK
COL. ROBERT B. GASTON
COL. ANDREW L. GIBSON
COL. KERRY W. GOODMAN
COL. WILLIAM D. GRISWOLD
COL. DENNIS J. HUMPHREY
COL. ROBERT W. INTRESS
COL. RICHARD F. JOHNSON
COL. JEFFREY A. JONES
COL. ERIC T. JUDKINS
COL. KIPLING V. KAHLER
COL. MOSES KAOIWI, JR.
COL. ERIC K. LITTLE
COL. ZACHARY E. MANER
COL. JAMES R. MATHEWS
COL. MARK A. MERLINO
COL. DOUGLAS R. MESSNER
COL. DAVID J. MIKOLAITIS
COL. CHARLES W. MOORE
COL. LEAH M. MOORE
COL. MICHEL A. NATALI
COL. REGINALD G.A. NEAL
COL. JOHN M. OBERKIRSCH
COL. STEPHEN E. OSBORN
COL. RODNEY B. PAINTING
COL. CHAD J. PARKER
COL. ROGER A. PRESLEY, JR.
COL. JOSE J. REYES
COL. FRANK M. RICE
COL. TIMOTHY L. RIEGER
COL. JAMES W. RING
COL. JOHN W. RUEGER
COL. ADAM R. SILVERS
COL. JEFFREY D. SMILEY
COL. MICHAEL E. SPRAGGINS
COL. STEVEN E. STIVERS
COL. MECHELLE M. TUTTLE
COL. JEFFREY P. VAN
COL. THOMAS M. VICKERS, JR.
COL. LOUIS W. WILHAM

IN THE NAVY

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

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MARY M. JACKSON

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL J. BESSMER AND ENDING WITH CHRISTIE BARTON WALTON,

WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KIP T. AVERETT AND ENDING WITH DANIEL S. WALKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SHAWN M. GARCIA AND ENDING WITH MORGAN H. LAIRD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL C. ABELL AND ENDING WITH PETER ZWART, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF GARY A. FAIRCHILD, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MEGAN M. LUKA, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRANDON D. CLINT AND ENDING WITH EDMUND J. RUTHERFORD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ISAMETTIN A. ARAL AND ENDING WITH LESLIE ANN ZYZDA-MARTIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIAN C. GARVER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CLIFFORD D. JOHNSTON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF REINALDO GONZALEZ II, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GRAHAM F. INMAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF EILEEN K. JENKINS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JEFFREY M. FARRIS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW T. BELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MELISSA B. REISTER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHARLES M. CAUSEY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN A. LABATE AND ENDING WITH RAYMOND J. ORR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROXANNE E. WALLACE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIC A. MITCHELL, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JONATHAN J. VANNATTA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DENNIS D. CALLOWAY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KENNETH L. ALFORD AND ENDING WITH BRUCE T. SIDEBOTHAM, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF HENRY SPRING, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CRAIG A. YUNKER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CORNELIUS J. POPE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANTHONY K. MCCONNELL, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JENNIFER L. CUMMINGS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DONALD J. ERPENBACH AND ENDING WITH TIMOTHY A. FANTER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CARL I. SHAIA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LISA M. BARDEN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROGER D. LYLES, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CLARA A. BIEGANEK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ISAIAH M. GARFIAS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LOUIS E. HERRERA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SCHNICKA L. SINGLETON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN R. BURCHFIELD, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH S. EATONFERENZI, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD D. MINA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TEMIDAYO L. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH D0127914, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD A. GAUTIER, JR., TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSEPH A. PAPPENFUS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STUART G. BAKER AND ENDING WITH WALTER D. VENNEMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID S. YUEN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DONTA A. WHITE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TONY A. HAMPTON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHARLES C. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH JAMES D. WILLSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID A. YASENCHOCK, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF AARON C. RAMIRO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD M. STRONG, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRENDON S. BAKER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LANNY J. ACOSTA, JR. AND ENDING WITH LANCE B. TURLINGTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANDREW J. WADE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER S. BESSER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHAD C. BLACK, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF THOMAS D. STARKEY, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOSHUA D. FITZGARRALD, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF ANTHONY C. LYONS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF SUZANNE L. HOPKINS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAFAR A. ALI AND ENDING WITH ANTHONY K. WOLVERTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MERYL A. SEVERSON III, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ASHLEY R. BJORKLUND, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ADELEKE O. MOWOBI, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARY K. ARBUTHNOT AND ENDING WITH JOHN K. WERNER, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATION OF STEPHEN W. HEDRICK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF VINCENT M. J. AMBROSINO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF NEAL P. RIDGE, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ABDESLAM BOUSALHAM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF SCOTT M. MOREY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHRISTIAN R. FOSCHI, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARVA MICHELLE BUTLER AND ENDING WITH ADONIS MARIANO MATOS DE MELLO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN DONALD MULL AND ENDING WITH VICTORIA JANE NULAND, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT L. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH LAURA ANN GRIESMER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT STEPHEN BEECROFT AND ENDING WITH MARIE L. YOYANOVITCH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRISTAN J. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM F. ZEMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTHONY ABBA AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL DAVID ZGODA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BEVERLY WINTERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Beverly Winters for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Beverly is the current Executive Director of Developmental Disabilities Resource Center (DDRC). She began pursuing her dream of building a community that provided responsive support to individuals and families after graduating from the University of Denver with a Master's degree in Social Work. At DDRC, Beverly assists people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and serves in a variety of roles such as Residential Counselor, Medicaid Waiver Coordinator, Case Manager, Director of Resource Coordination and Assistant Executive Director. During her tenure at DDRC she has developed case management services, established the first Family Support Council and the highly successful DDRC behavior health services program, and shaped the self-determination initiative.

Prior to her work at the DDRC, she was the administrator of a residential care facility and a clinical services coordinator for a mental health clinic in Des Moines, Iowa. Beverly has also been a champion for abuse prevention as a member of various county, state and legislative work groups and councils, including the HCPF Mental Health Advisory Committee, Conflict-Free Case-Management task force, Jefferson County Infant/Toddler Interagency Council, CORE Services Commission, Adult Protection Advisory Committee Jefferson County Child and Youth Leadership Commission, and Jeffco Thrives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Beverly Winters for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING THE 21ST CENTURY
WILBERFORCE INITIATIVE

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative for working towards a world of religious freedom.

On October 1, 2014, Dr. Randel Everett founded the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative. Dr. Everett has a long and distinguished record of service, which includes establishing the John Leland Center for Theological Stud-

ies, serving as the Executive Director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and over 40 years of pastoring all over the nation including as my own pastor at First Baptist Church in Midland, Texas.

Under Dr. Everett's leadership, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has experienced remarkable growth and has left a lasting impact through their work. The organization has now grown to two offices: one in the Washington, D.C. area that focuses on the United States' engagement in protecting religious liberties and a second office in Dallas, Texas, which serves as a headquarters that mobilizes and engages with churches to help raise public awareness of people who are facing religious oppression around the world.

Since its conception, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has helped thousands of people worldwide by working alongside policymakers. In 2015, members from the organization traveled to Iraq and met with Christians and Yazidis impacted by the Islamic State. Their report, "Edge of Extinction," helped elevate the awareness regarding the atrocities of religious and ethnic minorities in the Nineveh Plain. Through their efforts, the organization was successful in establishing a Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South/Central Asia within the State Department and in passing H. Con. Res. 75, which officially declared ISIL's persecution and mass murder of Christians, Yezidis, and other groups in Iraq and Syria as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. This bill passed the House on March 14, 2016, by a vote of 393-0—a success I was proud to support.

The 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has become a leading advocate for religious minorities in other areas, such as northern and central Nigeria. Throughout 2016, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has traveled throughout areas of Nigeria that the UN describes as the world's worst current humanitarian crisis. During these trips, Wilberforce spoke with thousands of pastors and victims throughout the country and listened to their heartbreaking stories. The group's published report "Fractured and Forgotten" has been featured at numerous conferences and has been used to brief Congressional leaders. The group worked extensively with the Nigerian National Assembly to help confirm a new U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria in September of 2016.

In addition to raising awareness, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has trained more than 2,700 religious and government leaders from across the world on the importance of religious freedom, worked to expand religious liberties in Nepal's Constitution, and met with leaders within the Taiwanese government to discuss creating a Religious Freedom Caucus in the Legislative Yuan. These are just some of the many accomplishments the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has been able to accomplish in their efforts to advance religious freedom around the world.

As a nation that was built by those who escaped religious persecution in their homelands, we must not forget that thousands of others across the globe are facing the same persecution as our forefathers. The 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has given these people a voice and hope that one day they can share the same liberties that we all cherish here in this great nation. I applaud the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative for their hard work and pray that God blesses them and continues to provide them with the strength and courage to continue their mission to help save their fellow man.

CONGRATULATING HASTINGS COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL AND MEN'S SOCCER ON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Volleyball and Men's Soccer teams from Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska, on their 2016 national championships.

This is the Bronco Volleyball team's first national title. Despite trailing by two sets in the final match, the Broncos confidently swept their final three sets for the championship. The team ends their season with a record of 33-3. Katie Placke of Grand Island and Logan Druempel of Schuyler were selected as first team All-Americans, with Katie also receiving a CoSIDA College Division Academic All-American and Logan being named the 2016 NAIA Volleyball National Championship MVP. They are joined by first team All-American Jill Bax of Lincoln, who is the 2016 NAIA Libero of the Year. Coach Matt Buttermore was named the 2016 NAIA Volleyball Coach of the Year.

The Bronco Men's Soccer team is celebrating their second national title, having first won a championship in 2010. The team finished with a record of 24-0-1 under head coach Aaron Champenoy in his first season at Hastings College. The team's roster includes players from seven states and nine countries. Daniel Whitehall was named the 2016 NAIA Player of the Year and the tournament's Most Valuable Offensive Player, Joe White was the tournament's Most Valuable Player and a second team All-American, and Marc Tautz is a third team All-American.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I commend these talented men and women on their athletic and academic achievements. They certainly have made our state proud, and it's a great day to be a Bronco.

• 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF EDGAR “DOOKY” CHASE

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman SCALISE to honor a true New Orleans legend, Mr. Edgar “Dooky” Chase Jr. Mr. Chase is known in New Orleans not only for the decadent cuisine served at Dooky Chase’s Restaurant, but also for his continued dedication to being a leader in the African-American community. He used food and music to bring people from all walks of life together under one roof. From the age of 16 to the age of 88, Mr. Chase worked tirelessly for the people of New Orleans.

During his teenage years, Mr. Chase was an active member of the Musicians Union and helped increase the pay for local entertainers. He also worked with the Musicians Union to promote the first racially integrated concert performed at the Municipal Auditorium in the historical Tremé neighborhood.

Mr. Chase and his wife Leah, graciously known as the “Queen of Creole Cuisine,” turned his family po-boy restaurant into an eloquent dining experience for the likes of Martin Luther King Sr., Ray Charles, President Barack Obama, and everyday citizens like Rep. SCALISE and I. This restaurant served as a safe place where African-Americans could dine when other establishments did not serve them.

Even in hard times, Mr. Chase’s faith did not waver. After Hurricane Katrina, he and his wife lived in a FEMA trailer across from their restaurant for more than a year until they could reopen their doors in 2007.

Because of Mr. Chase’s relentless dedication and service to the New Orleans community, his legacy will live on through his iconic restaurant, and through his beloved wife.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COM-
MANDER MICHAEL F. BRINCK ON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service, dedication, and accomplishments of Commander Michael F. Brinck (USN Ret.), Deputy Staff Director of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, upon the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native of West Point, Iowa, Commander Brinck received a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from St. Ambrose University in 1968. Following his graduation, Commander Brinck entered the Officer Candidate School for the United States Navy. In 1969, he received his Navy wings and reported to Helicopter Attack Light Squadron 3 in the Republic of Vietnam in support of Riverine operations in the Mekong Delta. Fleet assignments include carrier deployments to the Gulf of Tonkin and the Mediterranean, flight instructor, three deployments in support of Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica, the Naval War College,

Washington D.C. and assignments at the Navy Command Center at the Pentagon, the Bureau of Naval Personnel, and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. After two decades and a distinguished career, he retired from the United States Navy in 1988 with the rank of commander.

Commander Brinck began his career on Capitol Hill in 1995 as the Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Education, Training, Employment, and Housing and continued to serve as a Subcommittee Staff Director for the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs in the 104th, 105th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, and 113th Congresses.

Due to his steadfast commitment to his work and his expertise navigating the plethora of issues facing America’s veterans, Commander Brinck was named the Deputy Staff Director of the full Committee in 2013.

Throughout his tenure on the Committee staff, Commander Brinck faithfully served three different Committee Chairmen—Bob Stump, Steve Buyer, and myself—as well as countless other Members. I know I speak for us all when I say that his wise advice and sage counsel was instrumental in assisting us in honoring the service and sacrifice of America’s servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Commander Brinck was a key contributor in the drafting and passage of landmark pieces of veterans’ education and training legislation and personally contributed to the creation of policies that continue to improve the daily lives and ongoing well-being of veterans and their families.

During my tenure as Chairman, Commander Brinck was instrumental in creating the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program or VRAP which provided job training for in-demand occupations for nearly 100,000 unemployed veterans. He was also a tireless advocate in drafting and pushing legislation that would ensure that returning veterans received in-state tuition when attending public schools, which became a reality with the passage of the Choice Act in 2014.

Over a long and multifaceted career of distinguished service in the halls of Congress, Commander Brinck has been a dogged advocate for the interests of America’s veterans and taxpayers, embodying excellence and commitment in service to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, it gives me great pride to honor the selfless service of Commander Brinck.

My wife, Vicki, joins me in honoring him for his many years of exemplary service to our Nation, thanking him for his unyielding dedication to America’s veterans, and wishing him and his wife, Marla, all of the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ANN DRAWDY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Ann Drawdy on her tremendous service to the people of Florida. This month, Mrs. Drawdy will retire after serv-

ing more than a quarter century as a constituent service representative. It gives me great pleasure to recognize her service to Floridians and the Central Florida community.

The lives of hundreds of citizens have been changed for the better thanks to Ann’s knowledge and persistence in providing assistance with issues involving state and federal agencies. During her six years of service to the constituents in Florida Congressional Districts eight and ten, Ann assisted and closed over 200 constituent cases. Countless other constituent cases at the state level were the beneficiaries of her assistance during her time of service in the Florida Senate to Senators Dick Langley, Carey Baker and myself.

From asking for information or a status report on a pending case, or requesting clarification, to serving as a direct point of contact to liaisons in federal agencies, Ann was instrumental in our office successfully intervening on a person’s behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or simply attempt to cut through the red tape.

It was a personal honor to have Ann Drawdy on my team serving Central Floridians. Her attitude of service and dedication to quietly assisting Floridians navigate state and federal agencies are a testimony to her kindness and humility. Ann’s character, life, and efforts will surely inspire others to follow her example of serving.

I am truly grateful for Ann’s faithful service to our state and her dedication to finding solutions on behalf of Floridians. Our community, our state and our country are better due to her service.

ANDREA BURCH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Andrea Burch for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Andrea is currently a Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Lutheran Medical Center and has transcended expectations through her work both in the medical field and in leadership. During her nearly 25 years of nursing, Andrea has served in many roles, from certified nursing assistant to a critical care specialty nurse in neurosciences. She has also fulfilled several leadership positions, managing a variety of departments, initiatives, and committees.

Today, Andrea provides strategic direction for nursing professional excellence, quality and safety at Lutheran and serves as an advocate for staff and patients. She believes in collaborative, authentic leadership that helps nurses reach their highest professional potential. Andrea is a registered nurse with a Master’s Degree in Leadership of Healthcare Systems from Regis University, and she is currently pursuing a Distinguished Leader Executive Certificate from the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Andrea Burch for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
THE HONORABLE JOE PITTS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as members of Congress, we all know that our time in this chamber is limited. Each election brings new faces, while history records the names of members as they leave the chamber for the last time. Some members, however, will be remembered long after they have left for the work they do on behalf of the American people. JOE PITTS is one of those members. During his time in Congress, he became known for his dedication to helping his constituents. He was always someone who could be counted on to help create real solutions and to uphold the best traditions of this chamber. He took the lead on helping craft legislative solutions to some of the most difficult problems of our time, including fixes to Medicare and research for deadly diseases. He was also a dedicated fighter on behalf of the pro-life cause, and used the pulpit of elected office to give a voice to the unborn. But perhaps most of all, JOE will be remembered as a man who cared deeply about helping others, and his legacy will be one of working to improve the lives of the American people. Oh behalf of myself and all Pennsylvanians, thank you JOE for your years of dedicated service. I am honored to call you a friend, and wish you all the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF WELDON
BURGOON AND WELDON'S SADDLE
SHOP & WESTERN WEAR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-time Denton business, Weldon's Saddle Shop & Western Wear. The community and I are saddened that the store will close its doors after nearly 60 years of business on January 14, 2017. Weldon's presence on the downtown Denton square will be long remembered.

Weldon Burgoon opened his shop in 1957, where he sold handmade leather saddles and accessories. In the '60s and '70s Weldon's was surrounded by many feed shops and farming centers, and when ranchers and cowboys came into town, many made sure to stop by Weldon's before they left. Over the years, Mr. Burgoon worked with his daughter, Kippie, and grandson, Clint, to make Weldon's a staple in downtown Denton.

During his time as store owner, Mr. Burgoon crafted over 150 custom saddles and provided thousands of customers with quality Western wear, but he also offered more than just merchandise. Weldon's attracted many high school and college students who were members of the Future Farmers of America organization. These students would work at Burgoon's shop and on his ranch to get school credit and to gain valuable work experience. Mr. Burgoon also served as the rodeo chairman for the North Texas Fair and Rodeo for

14 years. Noted for his reputation for excellence, demonstrated work ethic and dedication to cowboy culture, he was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2010. Last year, his store was named a Denton County Heritage Business for being in existence for over 50 years.

Mr. Burgoon, now 86, has decided to close the shop after the 2016 holiday season. He looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Joy, and seeing his grandson's new luxury leather store open in Weldon's original location. It is an honor to represent Mr. Burgoon, a local business icon, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
KAZAKHSTAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the United States of America. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Kazakhstan on the tremendous progress achieved by their country during the past quarter century.

The U.S. is the first country to have recognized Kazakhstan's independence and since then we have significantly increased our areas of cooperation. However, the cornerstone of the U.S.—Kazakhstan relations has always been cooperation in nuclear non-proliferation and security.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan inherited the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and the world's largest nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk. In the first years of Kazakhstan's independence, President Nazarbayev renounced nuclear weapons and closed the Semipalatinsk Test Site. The United States provided Kazakhstan with comprehensive assistance in the removal of nuclear warheads, weapons-grade materials, and their supporting infrastructure.

Five years after gaining its independence, Kazakhstan signed the Comprehensive-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and ratified it in May of 2002. The CTBT bans any nuclear weapon test explosion above or below ground or any other contained environment. Ratifying the CTBT was a milestone toward creating a safer world. This is why Kazakhstan and its neighbors—Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan—created the Central Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone.

We should acknowledge that Kazakhstan has continued to show its commitment expanding its cooperation with the United States on matters of nuclear non-proliferation. As an important example, our two countries are collaborating in building the Nuclear Security Training Center (NSTC). The NSTC will provide training of personnel on security and safeguards essential for safe operation of nuclear facilities in Kazakhstan.

Twenty-five years of close cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United States are

the foundation of an important strategic partnership focused on creating a world without nuclear weapons and ultimately a more stable peace around the globe. It is important that we recognize Kazakhstan's leadership in nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. Kazakhstan continues to serve as an example to the international community, and the United States must remain committed to supporting Kazakhstan's efforts to further prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials toward a goal of global security.

Mr. Speaker, it is a true pleasure to celebrate the quarter century of Kazakhstan's independence. I would like to extend my warm wishes to the people of Kazakhstan and President Nazarbayev.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of recorded votes on December 5, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on roll call vote No. 601, No. 602, and No. 603.

HONORING MR. DANIEL S.
CONDRON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel S. Condron upon his retirement after serving for 11 years as the Vice President of University Affairs at Sonoma State University. Mr. Condron has led an impressive career over 44 years and has been a leader in the areas of education, economic development and transportation.

A native of North Tonawonda, New York, Mr. Condron completed his B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University. Mr. Condron worked with Hewlett-Packard for 33 years in management positions across a number of business areas including research and development, production, and public affairs.

Mr. Condron has focused his career in education on increasing opportunities for all students from preschool through employment. In his role as Vice President, Mr. Condron's priorities have included community and governmental relations, marketing and communication, creative services and special events for Sonoma State. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Sonoma County Cradle to Career Operations Team. Mr. Condron has also served as President of the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education, Vice President for the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation, and Chairman of the Vice Presidents for Advancement for the California State University System. Mr. Condron has demonstrated a unique ability to bring people together to accomplish goals to improve the future for countless individuals in our community.

Mr. Condron is a proven community leader. He has served many community organizations

including serving as President of the Boy Scouts of America Redwood Empire Council, the Luther Burbank Center for the Performing Arts, and the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Condron is also the Chair-elect of United Way of the Wine Country.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Condron has made tremendous, long-lasting contributions to Sonoma State University and to improving opportunities for students in our community. He is a true friend of Sonoma State University and a good friend of mine. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 591 on final passage of H.R. 5047, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act of 2016, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the First Church of God in Merced County. Their practice in faith and education has provided love and charity to the people of Merced County and the San Joaquin Valley for the last century. The future is looking even brighter for this outstanding center of community faith in the years to come.

The roots of the First Church of God found humble beginnings in 1916, when the Bowen and Houser families moved from Lodi, California to Atwater to begin their fellowship. Their first church services were held in their own homes until they found the opportunity to rent the old Winton Community Hall for larger gatherings, with nothing more than dirt floors and handmade backless benches. By 1924, the church was able to raise their first building with a \$350 credit and payments of \$25 a month. That very building would now fit in the lobby of the First Church of God's current place of worship, which was built in 1961. The First Church of God's Christian Preschool was born in 1964 and has grown into one of the largest places of faith based childcare and in the Atwater-Merced area.

The services provided by the First Church of God and Christian Preschool are as commendable as they are diverse. Sunday school, bible studies, troubled youth outreach, marriage counseling, finance and debt management, and shared missionary services in 87 countries are only a few of the programs offered by the Church and Preschool.

The coming years will prove to be a fruitful time for this place of worship and education. Their undertaking of a \$1.2 million project to

furnish a new learning center, which will potentially double the enrollment of children in their facility over the next two years of operation. While it will certainly be challenging, their fellowship has said, "faith is tested and demonstrated in the midst of challenges God places in front of us. If we had everything we needed to start and/or finish, it wouldn't be faith—it would be fact."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the First Church of God for their remarkable service to the people of Merced County over the last 100 years. Their history illustrates the uncompromising will that individuals with big dreams can exercise when brought together with enough faith in God and community.

MARY BERG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Mary Berg for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

For more than 21 years, Mary Berg has served the Jefferson County community in many different capacities. She is currently the Deputy Director of Jefferson County Department of Human Services. She is passionate about ensuring the safety and well-being of children and their families. Her actions at the local, state and national levels have promoted the expansion of child welfare training programs and systems of care as well as legislation impacting children and families.

Mary received her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and is also a graduate of the Leadership Jefferson County class of 2008. She has co-authored publications on teamwork and has presented at multiple state and national conferences. Her tireless efforts to enable Jefferson County to serve more vulnerable children and families have improved the community greatly.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mary Berg for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL HANRAHAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa native Joel Hanrahan upon his retirement from Major League Baseball (MLB) after a successful seven-year career, playing for 3 different MLB franchises.

Ever since the second grade, when his teachers or classmates would ask what he wanted to be when he grew up, Joel knew he wanted to be a baseball player. He became known to Iowans as a star pitcher for the Norwalk High School Warriors, later pitching for the University of Nebraska before being drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2000. After

honing his skills in the minor leagues, he made his MLB debut with the Washington Nationals on July 28, 2007. He earned his first win as a pitcher a week later against the St. Louis Cardinals. Despite his love of the game, Joel ultimately had to make the difficult decision to retire in 2016. During his career, he compiled a 22–18 record with a 3.85 earned-run average and 100 saves. He also earned a coveted position in the 2011 and 2012 Major League Baseball All-Star games.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Joel for his years of dedication to a game he loves. I am certain that the drive that led him to become an MLB All-Star pitcher will lead to success no matter where his path takes him next. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COURAGE AND BRAVERY OF THE FALLEN OFFICER COLLIN ROSE IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Officer Collin Rose of the Wayne State University's Police Department, who was tragically lost in the line of duty. The Wayne State University Police serve a significant portion of the City of Detroit in addition to the university, and Officer Rose performed his duties with distinction. The community will miss his courage and bravery.

Officer Rose established a reputation as a kind and caring individual dedicated to solving issues in his community. Rose was born and raised in Pittsburgh, where he excelled as a standout football player in high school. After graduating from Ferris State University in 2010, he began his career in law enforcement as an intern for the Springfield Police Department in southwest Michigan. He then was hired as a cadet in the New Baltimore Police Department, after which he became a police officer at the Village of Richland Police Department. Rose then took a position with the Wayne State University Police, where he had an outstanding record of service and was known for his selflessness and dedication in protecting the city of Detroit and its citizens. Rose also served the community through his involvement with various charitable causes, including the Police Unity Tour, which raises awareness of officers who have died in the line of duty.

Officer Rose's death at a young age is a heartbreaking tragedy. Officer Rose embodied the principles of service and duty, and having such a promising young man's life cut short is a tremendous loss for the law enforcement community and the city of Detroit. His sacrifice shows the extraordinary risks that our nation's police face on a daily basis, and my heart goes out to his family during this difficult period. Officer Rose is a true hero, and it is my hope that his family and the community find strength and come together to honor such an amazing life in the aftermath of his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the extraordinary life and

courage of Officer Collin Rose. Rose was a fine young officer who was committed to improving the Detroit community, and we honor his life and work as the community mourns his passing.

TRUMP PROMOTES STRONG MILITARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a son of a World War II Flying Tiger who served in India and China, a 31-year veteran myself, and the grateful father of four sons who served overseas in the Global War on Terrorism, I truly appreciated the remarks of President-elect Donald J. Trump in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on December 6, 2016 promoting our military and our military families.

REMARKS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD J. TRUMP

I am here today for one main reason: to say thank you to the people of North Carolina.

You went out and pounded the pavement, organized your fellow citizens, and propelled to victory a grassroots movement the likes of which the world has never seen before.

I want to give a very special thank you to the incredible military families, service members and Veterans of North Carolina.

Your state's legacy of service is an inspiration to us all. North Carolina has produced many of the finest soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines the world has ever seen.

Our men and women in uniform represent the very best of us. We must follow their example: working in unison toward a shared goal across every social, racial and economic line. They understand that to accomplish the mission, we must all be pulling in the same direction. And they know that we must leave no man or woman behind.

These patriots have shed their blood to defend our country in distant fields of battle across the Earth. Our debt to them is eternal and everlasting.

We salute their sacrifice, and we salute the flag they fought to protect.

Tomorrow is the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. It is a milestone that marks the ultimate sacrifice of those who wear the uniform. It is a reminder, too, of the valiant efforts of America's fighting men and women who have liberated millions from tyranny and oppression.

Now, today, our brave men and women are the first line of defense against Radical Islamic Terrorism—an ideology of death that slaughters innocent men, women and children.

In every generation, a new threat to freedom arises. And just as we defeated the threats we faced in generations past, so too will we defeat the forces of terrorism. We will prevail.

We stand here today just miles from Fort Bragg, the home of heroes.

Our Special Forces at Fort Bragg have been the tip of the spear in fighting terrorism. The motto of our Army Special Forces is 'to free the oppressed' and that is exactly what they have been doing.

At this very moment, soldiers from Fort Bragg are deployed in 90 countries.

Based in Fort Bragg is the 82nd Airborne Division—also known as The All-American Division.

We stand in awe of their achievements.

Not far from here sits forty-five percent of the entire United States Marine Corps, at Camp Lejeune.

12,000 citizen-soldiers fill the ranks of the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard. The National Guard rushed to the scene to help the victims of Hurricane Matthew, and we continue to send our thoughts and prayers to those recovering in its wake.

The military families in North Carolina are a national treasure, and it will be the duty of my Administration to ensure that we protect those who protect us.

That brings me to the second reason I am here today: to discuss our Action Plan To Make America Great Again—beginning with the rebuilding of our military and taking care of our Vets.

Here are the priorities that will guide our Military and Veterans Policy:

—All men and women in uniform will have the supplies, support, equipment, training, services, medical care, and resources they need to get the job done.

—The best care in the world for our Veterans, both at public VA facilities, as well as the right to see a private doctor.

—And finally, a commitment to only engage the use of military forces when it is in the vital national security interests of the United States.

From now on, it's going to be: America First.

We will stop racing to topple foreign regimes. Instead, our focus must be on defeating terrorism and destroying ISIS.

Any nation that shares these goals will be our partner in this mission.

We want to strengthen old friendships and seek out new friendships. Rather than a rigid dogma, we are guided by the lessons of history and a desire to promote stability: this destructive cycle of intervention and chaos must come to an end.

We seek harmony and goodwill among the nations of the world—and we believe that respect for mutual sovereignty helps form the basis of trust and understanding.

We build up our military not as an act of aggression, but as an act of prevention. We pursue and build up arms not in order to seek conflict, but in order to avoid conflict.

In short, we seek Peace Through Strength.

That is why, in my first budget report to Congress, I am going to ask for the elimination of the defense sequester.

We will show the world that America is going to be strong again.

But in order to succeed with our defense policy, we must find the right person to lead our Defense Department.

That is why I am proud to formally announce today my intention to nominate General James "Mad Dog" Mattis as the next Secretary of Defense for the United States of America.

Jim is a Marine Corps four-star general, the former Commander of U.S. Central Command and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation. He led an assault battalion in Operation Desert Storm, led the Forces that went after the Taliban, and commanded the First Marine Division in Iraq.

He is one of the most effective generals and extraordinary leaders of our time, who has committed his life to his love for our country. General Mattis is the living embodiment of the Marine Corps motto, 'Semper Fidelis,' always faithful, and the American people are fortunate that a man of his character and integrity will now be the civilian leader atop the Department of Defense. Under his leadership, we will rebuild our military and alliances, destroy terrorists, face our enemies head on, and make America safe again . . .'

HONORING 2017 SOMALI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minnesota's vibrant Somali-American community and the many cultural, economic and social contributions members make to our state as they begin preparations to celebrate 2017 Somali Independence Day week next summer in Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Annual commemoration of Somali Independence Day is the culmination of Somali Week celebrations in Minnesota, which drew together more than 30,000 participants last July. Somali Week has grown into the Minnesota Somali communities' largest community event of the year and is one of the largest gatherings of the Somali Diaspora.

Hosted in locations throughout Saint Paul and Minneapolis, this week-long festival unites people from around the world and around the state to share in cultural, entertainment and athletic events. The most notable of these activities include a multicultural soccer tournament known as 'The Cup of Nations,' hosted by Concordia University in Saint Paul and a family-friendly street festival on Somali Independence Day.

'Promoting Diversity through Unity and Inclusion' is the 2017 Somali Week theme established by organizers. Kajoog, a local Somali non-profit organization is leading efforts with other community partners to plan exhibitions, performances, and wide ranging panel discussions, aimed at uplifting the strengths of inclusivity. Kajoog Executive Director Daud Muhammad has forged strong collaborations with the Minnesota Historical Society, the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, the Somali Museum of Minnesota, among many others to plan this vibrant festival.

In addition to organizing Somali Week, Kajoog has earned recognition by local, state and federal officials, as well as law enforcement for their effective job-training and positive youth programs, and efforts to combat extremism throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesota's Somali community has added greatly to the fabric of our state and our nation. Please join me in paying tribute to community members who come together each year to celebrate Somali Week, and every day work to foster, educate, and promote cultural understanding and traditions among all Minnesotans.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2016 WASHINGTON POST TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nominees for the Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award for Prince William County Schools.

The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award was designed to "recognize excellence

in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area.”

The annual recipients include one representative from each of the nineteen metropolitan public school systems, a representative from the Washington metropolitan area private schools and a representative from the District of Columbia Public Charter Schools.

The winner selected from the Prince William Public School Division will also be named the Prince William County Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Teachers who meet the criteria for the award are those who instill in students a desire to learn and achieve, understand the individual needs of students, and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and have the ability to share it effectively with students.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2016 Prince William County nominees for The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Edward Abram, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Rebecca Anderson, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Amy Aylor, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Michael Ciampaglione, Bristow Run Elementary School.

Phyllis Cooke, Sudley Elementary School.

Andrew Cossaboon, Leesylvania Elementary School.

Sherril Croghan, Pattie Elementary School.

Adam Dove, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Carmen Hankerson, Neabsco Elementary School.

Toni Anne Harris, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Lisa Jacobsmeyer, Henderson Elementary School.

Elizabeth Johnson, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Stacy Ross, King Elementary School.

Roberta Wallingford, Ashland Elementary School.

Timothy Wilson, Williams Elementary School.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Christina Barcalow, Graham Park Middle School.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Erin Anderson, Pennington Traditional School.

Stacie Bonat, Independent Hill School.

Kathleen Dail, New Directions Alternative Education Center.

Stephen Dittmer, Battlefield High School.

Nancy Dow, Independent Hill School.

Carrie Gahagan, Osbourn Park High School.

Megan Hostutler, Patriot High School.

Lorri Jones, Independent Hill School.

Kathleen Kieffer, Osbourn Park High School.

Ann Lightfoot, Potomac High School.

Stephanie Nash, Stonewall Jackson High School.

Juan Sampedro, Hylton High School.

Karen Shaver, Gar-Field High School.

Lauren Wilson, Hylton High School.

Alison Young, Forest Park High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the nominees for the 2016 Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award in Prince William County and in thanking them for their dedication to our children. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William

County students are provided with a world class education in a more vibrant learning community.

RETIREMENT OF BELL COUNTY COMMISSIONER RICHARD CORTESE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Bell County Commissioner Richard Cortese. His extraordinary commitment to community service over nearly a quarter century reflects the best values of Central Texas.

A native son of Little River-Academy, a growing community in the heart of Central Texas, Richard has led a life devoted to causes bigger than him. Upon completion of his U.S. Air Force career, he returned home to build a ranch while continuing to dedicate himself to his community. In 1992, he was elected to county commissioner and later was active in the Texas Farm Bureau.

Even outside of his professional career, Richard has dedicated himself to his community. He has been active in the Young Farmers of Texas Association and even served as president of the Little River-Academy Lions Club. He has been a member and has acted as president or chairman of various associations and committees that worked to make Texas a great place to live. He has even been involved with the development of the consolidated 911 dispatch center in Bell County as well as the planning and construction of additional courts and jail facilities for Bell County.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute Richard Cortese's work and contributions to his community. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JUAN R. LOPEZ AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juan R. Lopez for his tireless work as my District Director.

Starting in 2004, Juan R. Lopez began his career working as a Constituent Advocate in the United States Senate. In 2008, I was elected to serve Florida's Eighth Congressional District for the 111th Congress. I asked Juan to join my team as my Director of Constituent Services. During the 111th Congress, Juan was instrumental to managing staff, casework, and assisting thousands of constituents. His work on behalf of veterans was outstanding.

When I returned to Congress in the 113th Congress, this time representing Florida's Ninth Congressional District, I once again asked Juan to join my team as my Director of Constituent Services. During the 113th Con-

gress, Juan continued to excel at assisting my constituents and worked his way up to Deputy District Director, and in the 114th Congress, District Director.

As District Director, Juan was instrumental in assisting thousands of Floridians. In Juan's spare time, he ran for and won Chairman of the Orange County Florida, Democratic Executive Committee. Under his leadership, he helped guide the Orange County Democratic Party to wins in almost every local, state, and Congressional race in Orange County.

In recognition of all those in Florida that Juan has helped, I am honored to recognize Juan R. Lopez for his service to my office and the constituents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT 140TH RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department on the graduation of the 140th Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 47 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 30-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed eight weeks of EMT training and twenty weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force I, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Recently, members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal last year.

As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 140th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction.

It is my great honor to enter the names of the 140th Recruit Class into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Roberto C. Acha Melgar, Adam A. Boyd, Jr., Quincy D. Branch, Casey P. Braswell, Timothy G. Breslin, Jr., James M. Brittenham, Rachael A. Callison, Jesus E. Castro, Michael J. Coppersmith, James C.

Cox, Erica L. Cruikshank, Joshua A. Eimers, Preston R. Elder III, Caroline A. Evey, Daniel P. Fitzhenry, Joseph E. Gallo III, Rodne W. Getgen, Garrett A. Green, Taylor, A. Grigg, Bryan M. Haring, Brian C. Harris, Grant M. Higginbotham, Robert E. Hunt, Matthew G. Ifert, Michael C. Johnson, Brian A. Krause, Mark C. Langmead, Burke W. M. Latimer, Jacob T. Maund, Justen A. Moreland, Ali S. Najjar, Jacqueline C. Norris, Shonay L. Owens, Gracie J. Pak, Bo Lam P. Park, Harold I. Parra Romero, Roberto Rodriguez, Jr., Jordan P. Scheutzow, Ian M. Sebastian, Shaun M. Serich, Joseph M. Shipman, Marcus E. Tines, Thomas M. Tippett, Zachary J. Webb, Joel W. Whitney, Robert W. Wine III, Cristina-Michael M. Wittlinger.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

RECOGNIZING THE LIFESAVING
EFFORTS OF JON PUTNAM AND
LARHONDA BRYSON

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LaRhonda Bryson and Jon Putnam of Concord, North Carolina. Their quick decision making and immediate action saved the life of a man who collapsed while working out at the West Cabarrus YMCA located in Concord. Their selfless actions embody the principles of the YMCA and we are extremely fortunate to have these individuals in our community.

On June 22, 2016, a member of the West Cabarrus YMCA was running on a treadmill when he suddenly collapsed. Both LaRhonda and Jon instinctively reacted to assist the man. Upon initial examination they discovered the man was not breathing and his pulse had stopped. At this moment, Jon began CPR while LaRhonda applied an automated external defibrillator. Shortly after they delivered a jolt from the device the man's pulse returned and he began breathing again. LaRhonda and Jon remained by the man's side caring for him until paramedics arrived and he was taken to the hospital.

It brings me great pride whenever I can share stories like this that showcase the character of individuals in our community. The rapid response of both LaRhonda and Jon is an embodiment of the selfless attitude and commitment to serving others that we should all strive toward.

The West Cabarrus YMCA is part of the Cannon Memorial YMCA network. Since its founding in 1908, the Cannon Memorial YMCA has a rich history of serving the people of Cabarrus County and has become a staple of the community. Having served as a member of the West Cabarrus YMCA Board of Directors, I have seen firsthand the quality and commitment to excellence of its employees. Their commitment to the values driven and faith-based approach of the YMCA has made

their community a better place as it continues to serve the people in our community. Again, I am extremely proud of all of those at West Cabarrus YMCA and especially LaRhonda and Jon.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the actions of LaRhonda Bryson and Jon Putnam for their lifesaving efforts and wishing them well as they continue to serve our community.

TRIBUTE TO HANK BOHLING

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Hank Bohling of Greenfield, Iowa, for being selected to receive the 2016 Aaron Eilert's Community Service Award. Hank is the son of Lynn and Elaine Bohling.

The Aaron Eilert's Community Service Award is presented to an individual who is dedicated to community service and positively impacting their fellow citizens. The award is named in honor of Aaron Eilert, who was known throughout his community for giving back and graciously dedicating his time to others. Hank has been involved in the Holidays for Heroes program for the last seven years through the American Red Cross, collecting over 14,000 holiday cards, and distributing them across the globe. He is also active in a number of leadership projects throughout his community, including the local 4-H Club.

Mr. Speaker, Hank has made his state and his community very proud. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for receiving this award and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING ELIZABETH AND HOWARD GREEN, ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two extraordinary parents, Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green of Winchester, Virginia. Due to their unwavering dedication to children in need, I nominated the Greens as Congressional Angels in Adoption this year.

The loving generosity of Howard and Elizabeth has formed a family of 12 children, seven of them adopted, who are now between the ages of 15 and 22, and five biological children, between 16 and 24 years of age. Their adopted children all came from difficult circumstances, yet they worked tirelessly to provide them a warm and loving home. Their first adopted child came from China when she was 15 months old; shortly thereafter they adopted six children from Ethiopia, four siblings ages 11, 9, 6 and 3, followed by two brothers, 6

and 7 years old. They identified at-risk children and took it upon themselves to change their lives for the better.

After having been raised by the Greens in a loving home with strong spiritual guidance, all 12 children are extraordinary. For instance, the oldest three adopted children are thriving in college at Virginia Tech, James Madison University and Hillsdale College; while their biological children have either graduated or are currently in college. Meanwhile, their five youngest children are still in high school. While the years have surely been filled with joyous moments, it has not always been easy. With all their children, the Greens have provided the necessary accommodations for all of them to succeed.

The story of the inspirational generosity on the part of Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green has been celebrated for many years in the Shenandoah Valley and is recognized nationally, including by my colleague, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS of Washington, whose husband was a Naval Academy classmate of Howard Green. I am honored to count among my constituents, Elizabeth and Howard Green, whose faith in a loving God has inspired them to become such amazingly generous and loving adoptive parents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green. The Greens are stellar examples of the generosity of Americans, who have a long tradition of opening their hearts and their homes in adopting children from all over the world.

ANNE BURKHOLDER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Anne Burkholder for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Anne Burkholder has served the Jefferson County community for more than 50 years. Her passion for education began in Seattle as the daughter of two university educators. While in high school, she had the opportunity to visit 15 countries, spawning an international awareness and deepening her appreciation of the freedoms afforded by U.S. citizenship. After completing her degree at CU Boulder, Anne settled into Jefferson County with her husband, Steve.

Anne has improved the community as a teacher, tutor, sponsor and leader, and she currently serves on the boards of the Jeffco Schools Foundation and the American Association of University Women, Lakewood Branch. Five years ago, Anne co-founded the Parent-Child Home Program Jeffco, which just successfully completed its three-year pilot program.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anne Burkholder for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING J.P. JOHANSON, LENNOX KOHN AND JOHN THOMAS, V

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize J.P. Johanson, Lennox Kohn, and John Thomas, V for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the autumn of the 114th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young men has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these three and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All three of our interns have made plans to pursue careers in public service. I am certain they will continue in their great success and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize J.P. Johanson, Lennox Kohn, and John Thomas, V for their service this autumn.

HONORING THE JOHN MUIR LAND TRUST

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, rise today to honor the John Muir Land Trust, which earned Land Trust Accreditation status from the Land Trust Alliance in August 2016. The John Muir Land Trust is one of only 350 land trusts nationwide to receive this prestigious commendation.

The John Muir Land Trust began in 1989 as the Martinez Regional Land Trust in Contra Costa County, California. The Trust initially protected 150 acres of land in the Alhambra Valley, but its success soon attracted more supporters. Over the succeeding years, the renamed John Muir Land Trust grew to incorporate 13 properties throughout Contra Costa County and now protects 2,500 acres of multi-use land.

To demonstrate its ongoing commitment to future conservation, the John Muir Land Trust applied for formal accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance. For a decade, the Land Trust Alliance has provided accreditation to land trusts that demonstrate success in supporting the public interest and that meet high conservation standards. The John Muir Land Trust's recent accreditation is a testament to its tremendous accomplishments and importance within our Contra Costa community.

The Trust's work ensures that people throughout our community have access to trails for walking, hiking and cycling while also preserving agricultural lands. The John Muir Land Trust protects air and water quality and preserves habitats for endangered animal and plant species. Recently, the Trust expanded its community engagement by creating the

POINTing to Success program to support STEM education for middle and high school students, enhancing students' education through exposure to natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, the John Muir Land Trust conserves vital parts of our community's natural resources and provides residents with magnificent open spaces and an enhanced quality of life. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the John Muir Land Trust here today.

THE RETIREMENT OF PIETRO PARRAVANO FROM THE BOARD OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY HARBOR DISTRICT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to Pietro Parravano as he retires after 21 years of distinguished service on the board of the San Mateo County Harbor District. Pietro is as much an institution at the district as the docks, hoists and loading ramps that make the facility such a community treasure. His thoughtful guidance during his time on the board assured the public of good stewardship and a perspective based upon hands-on experience.

Pietro was first appointed to the harbor district board in 1995 and won re-election every four years thereafter. It is easy to see why he has earned the confidence of the public.

Pietro commercially fished the Anne B. out of Pillar Point Harbor for many years and remains a fixture at the Half Moon Bay farmers market. He knows the sea, the fishing industry, and the long-term needs of both. He is also sensitive to other public needs, such as the need for recreation and visitor-serving facilities at the two ports.

Pietro, originally from Princeton, New Jersey, moved to the West Coast in 1966 when his father spent a sabbatical at Stanford University. He began his career as a teacher but dedicated most of his life to commercial fishing and environmental advocacy. He served as President of the Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association from 1988 to 1995. In 1997, he was one of two U.S. delegates to the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers in New Delhi. From 1992 to 2004 he was a member of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen. In 2005, Pietro started the San Mateo County Food Alliance. He currently serves on the Joint Oceans Commission Initiative, the Institute for Fisheries Resources, and the Culinary Institute of America/Singapore which brings students from Singapore to the Bay Area to learn about sustainable food sources.

His community service is legendary in Half Moon Bay and beyond. In 1996, Pietro was recognized by the Chamber of Commerce for his Community Service, and in 1999, he was recognized as an Environment Leader when he was president of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen. In 2008, Pietro was the fisheries representative at the opening of Ocean Hall at the Smithsonian in Washington DC. In 2013, he was awarded the Margi Grant Heart of Hospitality by the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau. In sum, he is the "go-to" person in San Mateo County for sustainable food and good fishing policy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pietro Parravano for two decades of public service and a lifetime of dedication to our oceans and sustainable fisheries. While Pietro is retiring from the Harbor District Commission, his contributions will continue to shape life on the coast and I have no doubt that he will remain active and an important voice in our community.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. DEPUTY MARSHAL PATRICK CAROTHERS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a great loss that my home state of Georgia experienced on Friday, November 18th.

On that day, United States Deputy Marshal Patrick Carothers was killed in the line of duty while attempting to serve a warrant on a dangerous fugitive in Long County, Georgia.

At Marshal Carothers' memorial service, his son Paul remembered him, saying, "The day he went to heaven, he showed great heroism. But I believe he is a hero because of his character—because of who he chose to be every day."

I had the honor of meeting this man who, as a U.S. Marshal, protected our families and friends for 26 years. His legacy encourages us to reflect each day on who we choose to be.

I remain grateful for individuals like Deputy Marshal Patrick Carothers who selflessly serve, and, Mr. Speaker, I ask that we keep his wife and five children in our prayers in the coming days.

EDINA GIRLS' SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Edina High School Girls' Swimming and Diving team for winning the Minnesota state title.

The Hornets' victory was a complete team effort as competitors from every grade level contributed to the win. Edina took the lead over their rivals after the third event and never looked back. Senior Rachel Wittmer led the way in swimming by winning the 50 freestyle for the fourth year in a row, and setting a new state record in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays with her teammates. In the diving competition, freshman Megan Phillip defeated the defending state champion on her final dive to claim the title.

Excelling in swimming and diving takes incredible dedication, and their championship is a testament to that continued discipline. These athletes pushed themselves every day to shave hundredths of a second off their personal best or repeated dive after dive until it was perfect. When adding in schoolwork, family obligations, and other commitments, it is remarkable these student-athletes accomplish all that they do.

Mr. Speaker, once again, congratulations to the Edina High School Girls' Swimming and Diving Team on a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF REPRESENTATIVES CHARLES B. RANGEL AND CORRINE BROWN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the legacies of two of my esteemed colleagues, CHARLES B. RANGEL and CORRINE BROWN. At the close of this Congress, Representative RANGEL and Representative BROWN will be concluding a combined sixty-nine years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I am truly appreciative and honored to have worked with these two dedicated and respected individuals. Today, I want to especially recognize their work for the Veterans Braintrust Forum, founded by Congressman RANGEL in 1988. The Veterans Braintrust Forum serves as a virtual advisory group for the Congressional Black Caucus on veteran's issues. This year's forum focused on the VA's Commission on Care report. I am so thankful for the unwavering commitment that these two Members of Congress have for our nation's military, veterans, and African Americans, and I am proud to call them my friends.

Representative RANGEL began his work in Congress forty-six years ago, and I am proud to have been able to work beside him. A Korean War veteran, he entered public service fighting for civil rights and military veterans. In 1965, he participated in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery and in 1971 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives for the first time.

During his tenure in Congress, Representative RANGEL provided decades of leadership on veteran's issues by increasing educational and health benefits for the Vietnam Era and Desert Storm veterans, securing the creation of the Harlem Veterans Outreach Center, and implementing tax protection for members of our Armed Forces and veterans. He also was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, an organization dedicated to advancing the global African American community.

Representative RANGEL is not the only one transitioning from the House at the end of this term. Over two decades ago Representative CORRINE BROWN and I began serving together in Congress. She has been an effective advocate for our nations' veterans. Her leadership on the House Veterans Affairs Committee has helped to ensure that veterans have the resources they need to live healthy and productive lives. She also spent her time supporting the concerns of women veterans and fighting to end homelessness among veterans. Through her efforts, the first African American Marines, the Montford Point Marines, also were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Representatives CHARLES RANGEL and CORRINE BROWN, as they enter this next chapter in both of their lives. The U.S.

House of Representatives will surely not be the same without their leadership.

IN MEMORY OF JUDITH MONASTRA DAVIS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly, on November 24, 2016, the Midlands of South Carolina lost a beloved business leader and civic volunteer with the death of Judy Davis. As Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, she achieved extraordinary professional success. The following obituary was published in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina on November 30, 2016:

COLUMBIA.—Judith Monastra Davis, 57, of Columbia, South Carolina passed away unexpectedly on November 24, 2016 at Palmetto Health Richland following an extended illness. She was born on January 13, 1959 in Mansfield, Ohio to Basil Herman Monastra and Carmella Greer Monastra of Lexington, Ohio, who survive. She also is survived by her husband of thirty years, Gerald L. (Jerry) Davis, Jr. of Columbia, South Carolina. In addition, she is survived by a brother, James Monastra and aunt, Carol Greer, both of Lexington, Ohio.

Judy earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Ohio Northern University, graduating summa cum laude in 1981. She earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from The Ohio State University in 1984, where she also was recognized as the Moot Court Distinguished Oralist.

She began her corporate law career and met her husband at Lincoln National Corporation in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1984. They were married on March 15, 1986 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne where they have maintained their parish membership.

At Lincoln National, Judy worked in various legal, strategic planning, and domestic and international mergers and acquisitions positions over 10 years. She helped that company to develop and receive one of the first U.S. patents in the insurance industry for the use of artificial intelligence in the underwriting of life reinsurance and she led the spinoff of a subsidiary health insurance company in a billion-dollar public offering. Recruited to BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina in 1995 as Vice President and General Counsel, her intellect, expertise, broad and deep experience, and emotional intelligence made her a valuable member of the corporation's senior leadership team. In 2007, she was promoted to Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer where she served as the senior officer responsible for five of the corporation's subsidiaries including Companion Life Insurance Company, Companion Captive Insurance, Companion Property & Casualty Insurance Company, and UCI Medical Affiliates, as well as having three corporate divisions reporting to her—Law, Government Affairs and Corporate Marketing Communications. She also served as the corporation's Secretary.

Judy lived a full and engaging life as a champion for her community, leaving an indelible imprint. She served on the boards of directors and in leadership positions for many nonprofit, civic and educational entities, lending her gracious and genuine leadership style and skills to each organization.

In 2006, she was pressed into replacement service as chairman for the United Way of the Midlands campaign and helped to raise \$9.5 million. She worked tirelessly and shared her passion for connecting people and ideas with the United Way of the Midlands, the Central Carolina Community Foundation, the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Trinity Housing Corporation, EngenuitySC, SC Launch, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Columbia College and the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, as well as many other organizations.

Judy was especially known and appreciated throughout the state as a mentor, cheerleader and champion to countless people from all walks of life for whom she served as an inspiration and role model. She always valued kindness and often would wake up early in the morning and ask her husband, "Who can I help today?" She believed that if you put yourself out there and convince others to join in, meaningful differences can be made with only modest efforts to improve people's lives. For colleagues and friends alike, Judy took it as a personal responsibility and challenge to find ways to lift people up and to help them to realize their untapped potential. She did this because it was an important part of who she was. It was never a job requirement.

A recipient of numerous awards and accolades for her professional and philanthropic efforts, in 2010, the Girl Scouts of South Carolina Mountains to Midlands recognized her as a Woman of Distinction. In 2011, Insurance Networking News (INN) named her one of six nationally recognized Women in Insurance Leadership winners. In 2014, Judy received the prestigious Humanitarian of the Year award from the United Way of the Midlands.

Her family wishes to express its deep and heartfelt thanks to the caring and loving staff at South Carolina Oncology Associates in Columbia, as well as to the other health professionals who contributed to her care over the past year.

At Judy's request, the family will hold a brief reception for her friends and colleagues on Thursday, December 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the new United Way of the Midlands Center at 1818 Blanding Street in downtown Columbia, South Carolina. A private, family interment service will be held later in Mansfield, Ohio. Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel, is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the United Way of the Midlands Legacy Fund, the Central Carolina Community Foundation, Columbia College South Carolina, and The Northern Fund at Ohio Northern University.

JESS WIEDERHOLT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Jess Wiederholt for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Jess Wiederholt has used her medical knowledge and selfless heart to not only to make a difference in Jefferson County, but on a global scale as she strives to improve the

well-being of HIV-positive women and children in Africa. Mother of seven—four of which were adopted from East Africa—Jess entered the pediatric health care world as a therapist, helping patients in Illinois and Kentucky for 10 years.

Today, Jess pursues her passion for collaborating with other mothers to help them dream, grow and unleash their full potential through her personal health and wellness business, Isagenix, which assists parents and families in Jefferson County in finding solutions for weight loss, healthy aging, energy, performance and additional income opportunities. In addition to her passion for empowering families and promoting healthy lifestyles, Jess takes her family to Ethiopia and Uganda each year to give business grants to single mothers who are HIV-positive. Through this act of servitude, Jess demonstrates her belief that every woman deserves to be empowered to live out her life with hope, dignity and confidence—regardless of surroundings or circumstance.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jess Wiederholt for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO EVAN BURNHAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Evan Burnham, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Evan is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. Evan is known for being a naturally good test taker, and went into the ACT examination well-prepared. He has not yet decided what will be his field of study but his interests are chemistry and environmental science. With the work ethic he has displayed on his ACT examination, I am confident he will excel no matter what route he decides to take.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Evan for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Evan and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 599 on final passage of H.R. 6392, the Systemic Risk Designation Improvement Act of 2016, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax Education Association (FEA) and two of its remarkable leaders.

For over 50 years FEA has served as the voice of Fairfax County educators. Throughout its history FEA has upheld its mission of service to educators while demanding the highest standards of education for the children of Fairfax County.

FEA leadership is largely responsible for setting the goals of the organization and focusing resources necessary to achieve those goals. Kimberly Adams, who has served as President of the FEA since 2013, has embraced the mission of the FEA and worked to expand community outreach programs to garner support for and understanding of the contributions of public education to the prosperity and quality of life for Fairfax County residents. Throughout her tenure, Kimberly has been a fierce advocate for funding our school system as well as providing support to our educators.

As a former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I understand firsthand that the success of our local communities is tied directly to the quality of our school system. I have been proud to partner with the FEA on many occasions to ensure that Fairfax County public schools remain among the best in the country.

I have often said that public service is a noble profession and this is especially true when it comes to the issue of education. I commend Kimberly for her advocacy and thank her for lending her voice for these last three years as FEA President. Although she may be returning to her "former life" as a librarian, I have no doubt that she will continue to stay engaged in the important issues facing our community, our educators, and our children.

Succeeding Kimberly in the role of President of the FEA is Kevin Hickerson. I congratulate him on his election and wish him great success going forward. Kimberly's shoes will certainly be difficult to fill, but I have no doubt that Kevin will continue the progress that has been made by the FEA during the last 50 years.

It is possible to tell a great deal about the health of a community by the level of civic engagement that is exhibited by its residents. If the spirited conversations held throughout our community on education are any indication, then Fairfax County remains a picture of civic health. The efforts of Kimberly Adams, Kevin Hickerson, and the FEA are a large part of that, and I trust that they and the FEA as a whole will continue to play a vital role in ensuring that our teachers and our students succeed for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Kimberly Adams and Kevin Hickerson as well as all of the members of the FEA for their immeasurable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
WORK OF ROBERT I. THOMAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the significant leadership of a selfless motivator and inspirational man, Robert Thomas. Robert Thomas touched countless lives in his storied career within the Dallas Independent School District as a teacher, coach and administrator. Though he is now passed, his attention to people will survive him.

Mr. Thomas is a real Dallasite and a native of one of the finest neighborhoods in south Dallas—Oak Cliff, or more specifically, "The Bottom." He attended Lincoln High School where he played football and ran track. After high school, Mr. Thomas went on to Wiley College for one year, before leaving to serve his country in the United States Army for two years. After his service, he returned to Wiley College, where he won two national championships in 1956 and 1957, and was named an All-American.

After his storied athletic career, he was determined to dedicate his passion for sports to the generation younger than he. In 1958, he became a physical education instructor at George Carver Elementary School, yet he would truly start his coaching career at Lincoln High School as a football and track coach in 1962. Robert would go on to enjoy a storied career in coaching and athletic administration work that included a staggering win record, city championships, two district championships and one co-championship.

In reward for his hard work, Robert was appointed to the position of Assistant Athletic Director for the Dallas Independent School District in 1982. He served in this position until 1993, when he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Athletics in 1993. He held this position until he retired in 2000.

Robert Thomas brought success in athletics to Dallas throughout his entire career. But more important than any of that, he touched the lives of so many young people, showing them that hard work can give them what they deserve, in a world with more resources than he ever enjoyed. He was never bitter, and always loving. He will be sorely missed.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife, Eula Faye Thomas, parents, Hester and Lindon Thomas, sister Dorothy Thomas Mayes. He is survived by his three sons, Kenneth, Gregory and Ricky Thomas; brothers, L.T. Thomas, Wilson Thomas and Bernard Thomas; three grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, as well as by several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and the children and adults that loved him so in Dallas.

CLERMONT COUNTY SHERIFF A.J.
"TIM" RODENBERG

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clermont County Sheriff A.J.

"Tim" Rodenberg on a distinguished career serving the residents of Clermont County and southern Ohio.

With over 25 years of law enforcement experience, including leadership as the sheriff and assistant prosecuting attorney, Tim's involvement and acumen has been invaluable in helping make Clermont County a safe place to live and work.

A great American committed to service, Tim served on active duty as an officer with the U.S. Marines, during which he was appointed to the Commanding General's Honor List for outstanding academic and leadership performance.

Originally elected sheriff in 1997, Tim has effectively guided the Clermont County Sheriff's office into the 21st Century. He has been involved in everything from the Senior Visitation Program, a program that pairs deputies with senior citizens in the community, to the Summer Junior Police Academy, an introduction into police and emergency service work for middle and high school students. Tim has worked tirelessly to improve Clermont County over the years, devoted to the big picture and listening to the people he serves without expectation.

Tim also serves as a state certified police and corrections academy instructor and has taught criminal justice and legal courses at four Greater Cincinnati colleges and universities.

As he prepares to retire, I commend him for his hard work and leadership to make southern Ohio a better place. Our community is lucky to have someone so committed to service.

Thank you Tim, and God bless you.

RECOGNIZING THE VFW POST 7327
AMERICANISM AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327 in Springfield, Virginia and the winners of its annual Americanism Awards. As combat veterans, members of this post understand the importance of patriotism and public service, and they have continued their legacy of service right here in our community.

Through programs like Adopt-a-Unit, clothing drives, America's Promise—Alliance for Youth, the March of Dimes, volunteering with local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts troops, and many others, nearly two million VFW members worldwide continue to contribute to their fellow veterans as well others in our community.

Each year VFW Post 7327 recognizes the winners of the Patriot's Pen, in which students from grades 6–8 are encouraged to examine our nation's history as well as their own experiences in modern American society. The VFW also recognizes the winners of the Voice of Democracy contest. Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy provides students from grades 9–12 the opportunity to voice their opinions on democratic ideas and principles through spoken essays.

VFW Post 7327 also recognizes Teachers of the Year, members of the local police and fire departments, and local businesses who have supported the military and veterans.

On behalf of the 11th District of Virginia, I commend the members and auxiliary of VFW Post 7327 for their ongoing service to our country and community, and I congratulate the following honorees on their awards:

PATRIOT'S PEN

1st Place—Melanie M. Jimenez.

2nd Place—Ella S. Harrison.

3rd Place—Grace F. Lemley.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

1st Place—Abigail E. Mills.

2nd Place—Cynthia L. Johns.

3rd Place—Diana L. Haemer.

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Elementary—Donna Ruggles.

Middle School—Beauregard Patrick Fay.

PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

Master Police Officer James "JT" Frey.

Emergency Medical Technician Susan Yu.

Advanced Life Support Medical Technician Victor Popovich.

COMMUNITY AMERICANISM AWARDS

Kenneth Morrissette, Jr., Interstate International.

Matt Rose, The Forge Brew Works.

Bruce Donato, K&A First Aid and Safety.

John Blake, K&A First Aid and Safety.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking VFW Post 7327 for its continued efforts on behalf of our community and in congratulating the honorees of the 2016 Americanism Awards.

TRIBUTE TO CAYDEN CODEL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cayden Codel, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Cayden is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. Cayden was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: Knowledge Bowl, Mock Trial, Moody's Mega Math Challenge Team, swim team, National Honor Society's student tutoring committee, Valley High School show choir, Iowa Opus Honor Choir, Iowa All-State Orchestra, summer junior counselor at the Science Center of Iowa and the Plymouth Congregational Church Youth Choir.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Cayden for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN SUPPORT OF STRONGER TIES
WITH TAIWAN

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend President-Elect Trump on his phone call with the President of Taiwan last week.

Taiwan has long been a friend of America, a beacon of democracy in a complicated region. A phone call is not complicated.

I was fortunate enough to travel to Taiwan earlier this year and meet President Tsai. She is a balanced and judicious leader who is well aware of her nation's realities and promotes peace and prosperity with her neighbors. I would be honored if I could return the courtesy and extend some Texas hospitality to the President during her trip to South America in January and pledge to work with the new Administration to re-establish official diplomatic relations in Taiwan.

Our nation's reality is that Taiwan is our friend and we should nurture and value that relationship. Over \$67 billion dollars in trade flows between our countries and 148 sister cities connect us at a local level. A phone call doesn't change that.

RECOGNIZING LIZY PRICE AS AN
OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lizy Price for her tireless work as Director of Constituent Services.

During her time as a staffer in my office, Lizy managed our staff, casework, and the processing of over 3,000 constituent requests for assistance. Her commitment to improving the lives of constituents in my district resulted in the release of over a million dollars in benefit payments.

Lizy's dedication led to many families in our district securing much-needed answers and resolutions as they waited to be reunited with their loved ones. Whether they were parents adopting children from a foreign country or constituents with spouses, parents, or siblings hoping to immigrate to the United States, they were all aided through Lizy's tireless efforts.

Her work on behalf of veterans was also invaluable to many who felt they were being ignored in their hour of need. Veterans seeking immediate appointments at VA Medical Centers, veterans whose claims were among the many in the VA backlog, and veterans seeking aid and attendance benefits, were all grateful to not only have received help in obtaining answers, but grateful for her showing them the respect and attention they rightfully deserve for their service to our country.

Lizy's parents, Jorge and Martha, immigrated to New York City from Honduras. Together they raised four daughters, Lizy, Peggy, Esther and Patricia in The Bronx. Lizy attended the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, the oldest continuously operating Catholic college preparatory high school in New York State. She has been a resident of Central

Florida since 2004 and is the proud mother of Alexander. Her grandson Elijah is the apple of her eye.

I am honored to recognize Lizy Price for her service to my office and the constituents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

MICHELLE POOLET

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Michelle Poole for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Michelle is the Co-Founder and President of Mount Vernon Data Systems LLC which focuses on database administration, OLTP engine performance tuning, database architecture and data modeling. She has created and delivered courseware on all facets of database systems for academic environments and corporate training facilities. Michelle has been part of IT and database management systems since 1965, on computers ranging from mainframes to PCs and beyond. She pioneered the computer programming world in the Master of Computer Information Systems program at the University of Denver and as a Zachman-Certified Enterprise Architect.

Michelle has been teaching and training since 1989 as adjunct faculty at the University of Denver and as a technical trainer with ProTech and UCI/AmeriTeach. She is the author of 13 books, almost 200 database articles, and innumerable white papers and blog posts on database design and programming. Michelle's technological endeavors make it easier and quicker for businesses to progress in the modern age of communication.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Michelle Poole for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

IN MEMORY OF CATHY
BLACKBURN NOVINGER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are mourning the recent passing of Cathy Blackburn Novinger who achieved the highest levels of business, civic, and philanthropic success. Her affection for the citizens of South Carolina is evident from the following obituary published in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina on November 29, 2016:

CHERAW.—Cathy Blackburn Novinger passed away November 27, 2016 at her home in Cheraw, SC after a heroic battle with ovarian cancer. She was the CEO of Palmetto AgriBusiness Council and President and CEO of Novinger QTR, Inc.

Born April 7th, 1949 in Portsmouth, Ohio, she was the daughter of Leona Collingsworth Blackburn and the late Donald Everett Blackburn. She is survived by her mother;

her husband of 48 years, Robert L. Novinger; her son, Dr. Travis Novinger and daughter in law, Laurie Novinger; grandchildren, Taylor Novinger and Abbey Novinger; sister, Donna Blackburn Jumper and brother in law, Henry Jumper; niece, Cristie Russell; nephew, Tyler Russell (Sarah); great niece, Emma Grace Russell; and brother in law Dean Novinger (Lisa).

Cathy received her Business Administration Degree from Southeastern Business College and was a graduate of the Edison Electric Institute's Electric Utility Executive Management Program. She moved to her adopted city of Columbia, SC in 1968 where she went to work for SCANA Corporation as a file clerk and rose to Vice President at the early age of 32, retiring as Senior Vice President in 1999. Her career as a Senior Officer and Senior Public Policy Maker for SCANA included roles in economic development, communications, labor relations, governmental affairs, strategic planning, human resources and public relations. After retiring from SCANA, she was chosen to lead the state's new agribusiness association, Palmetto AgriBusiness Council and under her leadership for 16 years, the Council became a unified voice for South Carolina's largest industry of agriculture and forestry. It was also at this time she formed her consulting company, Novinger QTR, Inc.

After her diagnosis of ovarian cancer and seeing the need to educate women about this deadly disease, Cathy founded an ovarian cancer organization, today known as the Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Central SC, which brings awareness to the symptoms and the importance of early detection. She served as the organization's Board chair since 2006. She began the Coalition's signature event, the Ovarian Cancer Butterfly Release which is held every September at the State House to honor and remember those affected by ovarian cancer. She became a symbol of inspiration and hope to women who were battling this disease.

An advocate for improving the quality of life in her community, Cathy earned a lifetime of achievements and honors including: the University of South Carolina Honorary Doctorate Degree of Public Service, 2011 Humanitarian of the Year, 2010 Ag Advocate of the Year, 2010 West Metro Chamber Lifetime Achievement Award, 2006 Ambassador of the Year, 1999 Order of the Palmetto, SC Historical Foundation Society Businesswoman of the Year, SC Schools Public Relations Association Outstanding Leader in Education, Ohio Council of Colleges Outstanding Private Career Graduate, SC Business & Professional Women's Career Woman of the Year, Columbia Metropolitan Magazine's Five Women of the Decade and Midlands Top 25 Influential Leaders. During her professional career, Cathy served on numerous Boards and Commissions including: Midlands Business Leadership Group, Advocates for Agriculture, SC Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, SC Office of Rural Health Board, SC State University Board of Trustees, USC School of Medicine Partnership Board, SC State Board for Technical & Comprehensive Education (past chair), Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors (past chair), Lexington Medical Center Foundation Board, SC Civil Justice Coalition (past chair), SC Department of Commerce Executive Committee, Midlands Housing Alliance (past chair), The River Alliance Executive Committee, USC Dean's Council-College of Hospitality, SC Research Authority Board of Trustees (past chair) and Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties (past chair). On the national level, she served on the White House Council on Rural America as chair, Southern States Energy Board Utility Advisory Council, the U.S. Business

& Industry Council Board of Trustees and the Junior Achievement National Liaison.

Cathy lived her life devoted to her God, her family and her community. As much as she loved her work, she loved her family even more. Her legacy will live on in the paths she has blazed, the many lives she has impacted and her profound sense of service to others. We will miss her goodness and grace. The family would like to thank Dr. Greg Konduras, Lexington Family Practice; the staff at SC Oncology Associates, especially Dr. Terry Smith and Dr. William Merritt and nurses, Kathy Chavis and Mary Leitch; Ultra Med Plus, Cheryl Evans; Gentiva and the staff at Embrace Hospice, especially Jamie Perkins, Cathy's Administrative Assistant, NRS Sandy Boozer and the Eleventh floor, Palmetto Health Richland.

Funeral service will be held Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 2003 Charleston Highway, Cayce. Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery, Columbia. A visitation will be held Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial may be made to the Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Central SC, 602 Meeting Street, Suite B, West Columbia, SC 29169.

RECOGNIZING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM ANNUAL DINNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centreville Immigration Forum on the occasion of its 2nd Annual Dinner. The theme of this year's gala is "Our Global Community" and will celebrate the rich diversity of cultures in Northern Virginia.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity. In Fairfax County, nearly 1 in 4 residents were born in another country, more than 100 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the nation. Our different cultures and heritages do not divide us; they make us stronger.

Three exceptional individuals will be honored during this gala who have gone above and beyond in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their country of origin, has full access to the benefits and opportunities this community and our nation provide. I am pleased to include the names of the following 2016 Annual Dinner honorees.

Walter Tejada, Former Chairman of the Arlington County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Tejada is well known for his extensive knowledge and experience on the issues of cultural outreach and public service. He has served in numerous leadership roles including as Chairman of the Arlington County Board of Supervisors and with the National Council of La Raza. Prior to his election to the Board, Mr. Tejada served in various positions with the League of United Latin American Citizens, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations, the American Salvadoran Association of Virginia and the Virginia Latino Leaders Council, where he currently serves as President. He has received several awards for his work, including the Phyllis Campbell Newsome Award from the Center for Non-Profit Advancement

and the Legacy Award from the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Grace Community Clinic. Grace Community Clinic was opened in October 2013 by Dr. Tong S. Park and other leaders from the Korean Central Presbyterian Church, which I am proud to represent. The clinic provides free medical services to 40–50 people each month. More than 40 volunteers support the Clinic, including five doctors as well as nurses, receptionists, and translators. In addition to primary care consultations, the Clinic offers limited referrals for free dental care to a nearby dentist, and free radiology and lab work through donations from INOVA and Fairfax Radiology. The clinic also makes referrals to specialists who provide low-cost care on an as needed basis.

Ibrahim Choudhary, Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth of Northern Virginia. The motto of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, “love for all, hatred for none”, is a vision that it seeks to fulfill through peaceful dialogue and public service. Mr. Choudhary and the members of his youth group have focused their efforts on correcting misunderstandings and misconceptions about Muslim youth by serving their local communities through various projects, from food drives for the poor to handing out flyers with messages of peace. Local Ahmadiyya Muslim youths have also volunteered regularly with the Capital Area Food Bank to help hand out food to those in need in the DC Metro area.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these individuals are noteworthy not only because they are rooted in an appreciation for our region’s cultural and ethnic diversity, but also because they help to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

HONORING MS. CAROL
GIOVANATTO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonoma, California City Manager Carol Giovanatto upon retirement from an impressive career in local government that has spanned 41 years.

A native of Cloverdale, California Ms. Giovanatto graduated from Cloverdale High School and attended classes at Santa Rosa Junior College. In addition to her work with the City of Sonoma, Ms. Giovanatto has brought her strong leadership skills to many committees and boards on which she serves.

During her tenure as City Manager, Carol was instrumental in addressing important city issues and preventing conflicts. Ms. Giovanatto negotiated a contract to preserve the historic Sebastiani Theater, formed a joint powers agreement for the Valley of the Moon Fire Protection District and proposed a sales tax measure to protect continued city services. A dedicated public servant, Ms. Giovanatto strengthened the economic development partnership with the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, created a grant funding program for non-profits, completed a new mobile home ordinance and raised the funds needed for the proposed community pool.

Ms. Giovanatto will be recognized long after her retirement for her foresight in identifying 22 measures for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and establishing the City of Sonoma as the first Evergreen City in Sonoma County. Ms. Giovanatto was a founding board member and past President of the Cloverdale Youth and Family Services Partnership, a member of the Leadership of Sonoma Valley Class of 2008, and a board member of the Sonoma Tourism Improvement District.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Giovanatto has dedicated her career to improving the lives of the people of the City of Sonoma. She is known for her unflinching kindness, loyalty and commitment to high ethical standards. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

CELEBRATING DAVID FLORES

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of David Flores of Georgetown, Texas. After nearly four decades of impeccable work as County Auditor, David is beginning his richly-deserved retirement.

County Auditors play a vital role in maintaining the fiscal integrity in county government and few have taken on this important responsibility with greater professionalism than David. He knows that second-rate work isn’t acceptable. The people of Texas deserve that level of excellence when it comes to managing their precious tax dollars. David doesn’t let them down.

David’s positive impacts on the counties he’s served cannot be overstated. Under his leadership, Williamson County’s bond rating went from “low investment grade” to AAA, the highest rating available. He’s established thoughtful standards for county purchases and has provided superb oversight for \$1 billion in capital projects. Central Texas is better because of his leadership and hard work.

David’s commitment to excellence doesn’t stop when the work day ends. He has been a trustee for the Texas County and District Retirement System and is a past president for the Texas Association of County Auditors. David shouldered the demanding responsibilities as the Chairman of the Investment Committee for the Texas Association of Counties from 2008 to 2012. Over the years, he’s deservedly received numerous awards and commendations as well as the admiration of his peers and colleagues.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute David Flores’ work and contributions to his community. I’m sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

280TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNION FIRE COMPANY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 280th anniversary of the Union Fire Company. Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1736, the Union Fire Company was Philadelphia’s first volunteer fire company.

Dr. Franklin established the Union Fire Company as the very first fire suppression unit which universally responded when summoned. This overcame the issues surrounding prior firefighting clubs that existed in Boston, which also paid for fire wards or watchmen as early as 1711. The difference between Franklin’s Union Fire Company and the other clubs in Boston and New York was that Franklin saw the advantage of protecting all the homes and businesses of the community, not just those who had joined the club. Franklin formed the Union Fire company from roughly 30 volunteers from what is today the Old City section of Philadelphia. Their equipment included leather buckets, with strong bags and baskets (for packing and transporting goods), which were to be brought to every fire. All homeowners were required to have these leather fire-fighting buckets in their houses. Recognizing the efficacy of Dr. Franklin’s model, similar volunteer fire companies began to spring up throughout Philadelphia.

In the late 1860’s, Philadelphia city officials spoke of transforming Franklin’s volunteer service into a professional fire department to meet the demands of the ever-growing city. Finally, on December 29, 1870, Philadelphia city council enacted an ordinance to professionalize the fire service into a singular department. The Philadelphia Fire Department, administered by seven Commissioners chosen by the City Council, officially entered into service on March 15, 1871.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this Congress to pause and reflect on the unquestionable courage of all firefighters throughout America, be they volunteer or professional. As we are indebted to the many thousands of America’s firefighters who died in the line of duty, I ask that the list of the 289 Philadelphia firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty be recorded with the year, rank, and company to which they served:

1994, Acey, Vincent, Firefighter, Rescue 01; 1960, Adgie, William, Lieutenant, Engine 54; 1962, Ahlers, Thomas, Firefighter, Engine 71; 2003, Allen, James, Firefighter, Ladder 16; 1964, Anderson, Albert, J, Fireman, Ladder 9; 1918, Anderson, John, Hoseman, Engine 54; 1975, Andrews, John, Firefighter, Engine 49; 1933, Arnold, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 44; 1921, Atkinson, George, Captain, Engine 36; 1965, Balkie, Alfred, Firefighter, Engine 61; 1954, Bando, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1892, Barnes, William, Hoseman, Engine 12; 1884, Barr, Phillip, Hoseman, Engine 11; 1961, Berg, Rolla, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1908, Berry, William Dick, Foreman, Truck 04; 1910, Bertolet, Harry, Hoseman, Chemical 2; 1910, Bihlmire, William, Ladderman, Truck 01.

1961, Bordier, Raymond, Firefighter, Engine 06; 1905, Boyle, Aloysius, Ladderman, Truck 05; 1975, Brenek, Carroll, Firefighter, Engine 57; 1978, Brightcliffe, John, Firefighter, Ladder 03; 1982, Brown, Stanley,

Firefighter, Engine 09; 1879, Burke, Francis, Ladderman, Truck B; 1960, Bushfield, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 59; 1969, Caldwell, Charles, Firefighter, Engine 35; 1975, Campa, Ralph, Firefighter, Ladder 19; 1875, Carlin, Francis, Ladderman, Truck A; 1910, Carroll, John, F., Ladderman, Truck 07; 1999, Casano, Eric, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1933, Cavanaugh, George, Ladderman, Truck 24; 2004, Champion, Tracy, Firefighter, Engine 54; 1899, Chance, William, Hoseman, Engine 32; 1991, Chappell, James A., Firefighter, Engine 11; 1884, Clayton, James, Foreman, Engine 18; 1900, Cocker, Frank B., Hoseman, Engine 14; 1910, Collins, John, Ladderman, Truck 04; 1925, Connison, Walter R., Ladderman, Truck 12.

1900, Cook, John, Hoseman, Engine 21; 2009, Cospelich, Stephen, Lieutenant, Ladder 08; 1913, Costello, Walter, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1907, Cox, John J., Asst. Foreman, Truck 04; 2014, Craig, Joyce, Firefighter, Engine 64; 1898, Craven, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 02; 1955, Crawford, Robert, Firefighter, Engine 26; 1985, Cronin, David, Firefighter, Ladder 16; 1950, Crupp, John J., Lieutenant, Truck 10; 1901, Davis, Frank, Ladderman, Truck 09; 1910, DeHaven, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 47; 1896, Dever, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 20; 1999, Devine, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 28; 1874, Devitt, George, Hoseman, Engine 03; 1894, Dickel, George, Ladderman, Truck C; 1942, Doman, Francis J., Hoseman, Engine 59; 1954, Donahue, Thomas, Firefighter, Engine 01; 1888, Donnelly, Felix, Hoseman, Engine 08; 1980, Donovan, William, Batt. Aide, Battalion 07; 1920, Dorff, Millford St., Hoseman, Pipe Line 2.

1933, Douglas, Charles, Batt. Chief, Battalion 4; 1918, Doyle, James, Ladderman, Truck 09; 1954, Doyle, James, Firefighter, Engine 29; 1895, Doyle, Michael, Ladderman, Truck 01; 1927, Duane, Thomas A., Lieutenant, Engine 05; 1899, Duffy, Hugh, Hoseman, Engine 32; 1943, Dugan, Joseph, Fireman, Fireboat 2; 1880, Dungan, George, Ladderman, Truck B; 1908, Dunlap, Samuel, Engineer, BC; 1967, Dusenberry, Wlm., Batt. Chief, Battalion 2; 1910, Edelman, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 06; 1909, Ellinger, Alfred, Foreman, Engine 11; 1944, Ennis, James, Ladderman, Truck 14; 1910, Entwistle, Thomas, Asst. Foreman, Engine 21; 1881, Exley, Oliver, Ladderman, Truck E; 1975, Fagan, John R., Batt. Aide, Battalion 03; 1913, Fahey, Joseph A., Hoseman, Engine 32; 1901, Fells, James A., Foreman, Engine 49; 1922, Fisher, Albert, Hoseman, Engine 21; 1975, Fisher, Robert J., Firefighter, Engine 33.

1916, Fitzgerald, Thomas, Hoseman, Engine 03; 1949, Ford, James, Captain, Engine 26; 1891, Forsythe, James, Driver, Engine 11; 1933, France, George, Hoseman, Engine 62; 1916, Fredericks, Frank, Ladderman, Truck 12; 1938, Friedenberger, W., Hoseman, Rescue 01; 1886, Friel, Edward D., Firefighter, Engine 27; 1982, Gallagher, Kenneth, Firefighter, Ladder 21; 1929, Gallop, William, Hoseman, Engine 41; 1955, Garrett, Leonard, Firefighter, Engine 44; 1894, Geissel, George, Hoseman, Engine 21; 1886, Gibson, John, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1922, Gilloway, Thomas J., Ladderman, Truck 02; 2013, Goodwin, Michael, Firefighter, Engine 53; 1934, Gordon, Frederick, Ladderman, Truck 11; 1937, Gormley, John B., Ladderman, Truck 05; 1906, Gray, James B., Ladderman, Truck 09; 1919, Green, John J., Hoseman, Engine 21; 1952, Guenther, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 45; 1952, Hacker, Allen, Firefighter, Ladder 08.

1875, Hanley, James C., Ladderman, Truck D; 1887, Harbauer, George, Ladderman, Truck D; 1894, Hart, Joseph W., Hoseman, Fireboat; 2004, Harvy, Derrick, Lieutenant, Engine 72; 1940, Hassell, Thomas, Firefighter, Boat 2; 1897, Heller, William, Engineer, Engine 01; 1986, Henz, Harry, Firefighter, Engine 33; 1902, Hetzell, Charles, Ladderman, Truck 02;

1900, Hicks, John, Hoseman, Engine 41; 1877, Hill, John, Ladderman, Truck C; 1964, Hiller, Carl, Firefighter, Engine 08; 1915, Hillman, John R. Jr., Ladderman, Truck 07; 1991, Holcombe, David P., Captain, Engine 11; 1954, Holtzman, Charles, Firefighter, Ladder 03; 1872, Humphreys, David, Engineer, BC; 1997, Hynes, James, Firefighter, Engine 63; 1976, Iannacone, Richard, Firefighter, Ladder 34; 1975, Iaquina, Michael, Firefighter, Engine 55; 1919, Innes, Thomas, Hoseman, Engine 13; 1958, Jackson, Joseph, Firefighter, Ladder 22.

1915, James William F., Batt. Chief, Battalion 6; 1886, Johnson, John, Ladderman, Truck B; 1926, Jones, Charles G., Hoseman, Engine 34; 1926, Jones, John C., Captain, Engine 50; 1954, Junod, Bernard, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1910, Kalberer, John, Foreman, Engine 23; 1933, Kasper, Joseph, Hoseman, Engine 55; 1905, Kelly, James, Ladderman, Truck 05; 1919, Kelly, Thomas, Lieutenant, Engine 21; 1961, Kennedy, Robert, Lieutenant, Photo Lab.; 1909, Keyser, Robert C., Foreman, Engine 20; 1888, Killen, Robert, Hoseman, Chemical 2; 1913, King, Frank L., Hoseman, Engine 23; 1877, King, Patrick E., Driver, Engine 22; 1966, Klemmer, Albert, Firefighter, Engine 59; 1895, Klinberger, C., Hoseman, Engine 02.

1954, Kline, Thomas, Deputy Chief, Division 2; 1900, Knouff, Edward, Ladderman, Truck 02; 1984, Konrad, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 25; 1962, Krewson, Lynford, Batt. Aide, Battalion 11; 1949, Krol, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 06; 1919, LaGrand, Harry, Ladderman, Truck 02; 1939, Lawson, James J., Hoseman, Engine 19; 1933, LeHart, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 43; 1901, Lehman, George, Hoseman, Engine 22; 1938, Limaka, John, Hoseman, Rescue 01; 1974, Long, Walter, Batt. Chief, Battalion 06; 1892, Lowery, Francis M., Ladderman, Truck D; 1973, MacDonald, Warren, Firefighter, Lad. 20 [Eng. 65]; 1898, Magee, James, Hoseman, Engine; 1954, Magrann, John, Batt. Chief, Battalion 3; 1973, Malley, Robert F., Firefighter, Engine 24; 1904, Malloy, William, Hoseman, Engine 45; 1928, Mangarano, Silvio, Hoseman, Engine 49; 1942, Martin, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 12.

1904, Mason, Edwin, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1910, Matchinsky, George, Ladderman, Truck 07; 1969, McAlister, John, Firefighter, Engine 13; 1991, McAllister, Phyllis, Firefighter, Engine 11; 1876, McClintock, Hugh, Engineer, BC; 1911, McClister, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 52; 1928, McConaghy, George, Batt. Chief, Battalion 1; 1910, McConnell, William, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1889, McCuen, James, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1901, McCullen, John, Hoseman, Engine 49; 1997, McElveen, Terry, Lieutenant, Engine 63; 1894, McFarland, James, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1930, McGee, Daniel C., Hoseman, Engine 49; 1915, McGowan, John, Hoseman, Engine 49; 1896, McGranaghan, Hugh, Ladderman, Truck 01; 1975, McIntyre, Hugh, Firefighter, Engine 56; 1965, McIntyre, Joseph, Firefighter, Boat 3; 1963, McKernan, John, Firefighter, Ladder 14; 1976, McSloy, Bernard, Firefighter, Ladder 28; 1918, Merges, Charles C., Lieutenant, Engine 45.

1953, Meskill, James, Captain, Battalion 4; 1925, Metzger, Charles H., Hoseman, Engine 25; 1925, Minnick, John R., Ladderman, Truck 05; 1940, Monaghan, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 03; 1873, Mooney, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1912, Moore, James, Ladderman, Truck 01; 1919, Moorehead, Robert, Lieutenant, Engine; 1913, Moritz, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1954, Mortimer, Louis, Captain, Battalion 9; 1955, Mumbauer, Arthur, Firefighter, Engine 17; 1926, Murdock, Robert, Hoseman, Engine 34; 1960, Murphy, David J., Firefighter, Ladder 24; 1998, Murphy, Stephen, Lieutenant, Ladder 01; 1937, Murray, George J., Hoseman, Engine 20; 1891, Murray, John, Asst. Foreman, Truck F; 1922, Murray, Patrick A., Hoseman, Engine 21; 1933, Mur-

ray, Peter, Hoseman, Engine 54; 1940, Murtha, James, A. Hoseman, Engine 30; 2012, Neary, Robert, Lieutenant, Ladder 10; 1954, News, John, Batt. Chief, Battalion 6.

1942, O'Brien, William, Hoseman, Engine 47; 1874, O'Neill, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1910, Park, Samuel A., Ladderman, Truck 01; 1975, Parker, Roger, Firefighter, Ladder 27; 1946, Parsons, George R., Ladderman, Truck 08; 1910, Pass, Thomas M., Hoseman, Chemical 2; 1922, Paxson, Edward T., Ladderman, Truck 02; 1894, Peck, John, Foreman, Engine 39; 1903, Pflueger, Albert, Hoseman, Fireboat Stuart; 1971, Pietrak, Constantine, Captain, Engine 35; 1928, Piper, Henry, Batt. Chief, Battalion 9; 1918, Pollick, James, Hoseman, Chemical 1; 1975, Pouliot, James, Lieutenant, Engine 20; 1907, Presco, Stephen, Hoseman, Engine 11; 1879, Raymond, Francis, Hoseman, Engine 07; 1994, Redmond, John J., Firefighter, Ladder 11; 1930, Rein, Paul, Hoseman, Engine 10; 1920, Rishall, Ward A., Driver, Fire Hdqtrs.; 1905, Robinson, William J., Hoseman, Engine 28; 1918, Roller, Samuel G., Hoseman, Chemical 1.

1947, Rothfuss, Jacob, Hoseman, Engine 38; 1970, Rotondo, Vincent, Batt. Chief, Battalion 13; 2004, Rubio, Rey, Firefighter, Engine 28; 1895, Ryder, Joseph F., Hoseman, Engine 18; 1946, Saraullo, Vincent, Hoseman, Engine 46; 1898, Schimmel, Walter, Hoseman, Engine 22; 1939, Schultz, Frank B., Hoseman, Engine 09; 1924, Schulze, George, Hoseman, Engine 55; 1951, Schwartz, Charles, Lieutenant, Ladder 23; 1920, Schwartzkopf, Edw., Batt. Chief, Engine 26; 1955, Senderling, George, Firefighter, Rescue 04; 1963, Senior, Charles, Firefighter, Engine 20; 1895, Sergeant, William, Foreman, Engine 32; 1902, Seveall, William, Hoseman, Engine 10; 1945, Shane, William, Ladderman, Truck 12; 1899, Shea, James, Hoseman, Engine 01; 1932, Sheppard, Curtis C., Hoseman, Boat 3; 1920, Sherman, Ambrose, Hoseman, Engine 53; 1889, Showers, George, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1941, Silbert, Joseph W., Captain, Engine 03.

1937, Slinkard, Oscar, Hoseman, Engine 13; 1977, Smedley, Edward T., Firefighter, Lad. 28 [Eng. 58]; 1909, Smith, Eugene, Hoseman, Engine 41; 1890, Snyder, Charles, Foreman, Engine 16; 1900, Sowney, James, Foreman, Engine 48; 1953, Spencer, William, Captain, Engine 19; 1878, Spisky, Wm., Foreman, Engine 2; 1914, St. Ledger, George, Lieutenant, Engine 25; 1896, Stagart, William, Engineer, District 03; 1961, Steger, William, Lieutenant, Engine 31; 1899, Steinkle, George, Hoseman, Engine 32; 1919, Stevenson, Albert, Batt. Chief, Battalion; 1976, Steward, David, Firefighter, Ladder 20; 1951, Stewart, Charles, Lieutenant, Engine 50; 1948, Stewart, Howard A., Batt. Chief, Battalion 11; 1918, Stewart, James D., Captain, Truck 06; 1910, Stewart, Robert, Hoseman, Engine 02; 1965, Stewart, Thomas F., Firefighter, Rescue 12; 1943, Struble, David, Lieutenant, Truck 10; 1907, Sullivan, John J., Hoseman, Engine 11.

2012, Sweeney, Daniel, Firefighter, Ladder 10; 1926, Sykes, John J., Hoseman, Engine 50; 2004, Taylor, John, Captain, Engine 28; 1893, Taylor, Joseph, Hoseman, Engine 14; 1941, Thumm, William, Hoseman, Engine 58; 1912, Titus, Walter, Hoseman, Engine 19; 1913, Tobin, Michael J., Captain, Engine 24; 1909, Toner, Joseph, Hoseman, Engine 18; 1954, Tygh, James F., Firefighter, Engine 29; 1904, Vaughan, Thomas, Hoseman, Engine 28; 1949, Vegenberg, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 45; 1942, Vernon, John, Hoseman, Engine 62; 1954, Vivian, Joseph, Firefighter, Ladder 03; 1961, Walsh, Walter T., Firefighter, Engine 02; 1969, Wannop, Thomas, Firefighter, Eng. 73 [Lad. 13]; 1976, Welsh, Aloysius, Firefighter, Ladder 20; 1973, Welsh, John, Firefighter, Ladder 05; 1955, Wendt, Charles, Captain, Engine 55; 1912, Wentz, George, Hoseman, Engine 06; 1965, Weres, John F., Firefighter, Ladder 07.

1919, Wiest, George S., Jr., Ladderman, Truck 02; 1975, Wiley, Joseph R., Firefighter, Ladder 27; 1920, Wilfrin, Harry, Hoseman, Engine 43; 1949, Wilkinson, Ray, Batt. Chief, Battalion 4; 1884, Williams, Henry, Hoseman, Engine 27; 1907, Wilson, Charles E., Foreman, Engine 11; 1945, Wilson, Howard, Hoseman, Engine 01; 1954, Wilson, Thomas, Firefighter, Engine 29; 1918, Wirth, Harry, Lieutenant, Engine 41; 1910, Wittig, Gustave, Foreman, Engine 15; 1942, Wolf, Frank W., Hoseman, Engine 33; 1872, Wolf, George W., Ladderman, Truck A; 1944, Woodruff, Francis, Hoseman, Engine 30; 1880, Woolston, William, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1991, Yale, Stephen D., Firefighter, Ladder 29; 1951, Young, Frank J., Batt. Chief, Battalion 2; 1919, Zorr, Charles, Hoseman, Pipe Line 2.

HONORING RONDO PLAZA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize residents of the historic Rondo neighborhood of Saint Paul, Minnesota as the community comes together to seek hope and healing. Earlier this fall, it was an honor to join community leaders to break ground on a Rondo Commemorative Plaza as a first step toward reconciliation for this neighborhood that was torn apart during the construction of the National Interstate Highway System in the 1960s. Like so many predominately black urban neighborhoods around the nation, cultural, social, and political trauma stemming from this civic wound still scars our community today.

Old Rondo was Saint Paul's largest and most prominent African American community centered around a once thriving street called Rondo Avenue. From the 1900 to the early 1960's African Americans migrated from the south to seek good jobs and Saint Paul's rich and vibrant quality of life. Generations created and invested in businesses, schools, civic organizations and families.

When plans were made for a National Interstate Highway System, people of color, those of limited means or political representation were not at the table. Designs for Interstate 94 landed squarely on Rondo. Over the cries and protest of its residents, bulldozers were brought in, and Rondo Avenue and the homes and businesses nearby were razed. This tight-knit community was devastated. During the decades since the freeway was built, longtime residents have worked hard to rebuild a community lost. Thanks to them today the spirit of Rondo's neighbors still burns bright.

Immutable leaders like Marvin "Roger" Anderson, Floyd Smaller, Nathaniel Khaliq, Debbie Montgomery and countless others have brought tireless dedication and commitment to restoring the Rondo spirit and community. They've begun successful local festivals like Rondo Days and the Selby Avenue Jazz Festival which bring community together in new ways to celebrate and chart a new future.

While, nothing can be done to undo the injustice that was done to the Rondo community more than four decades ago, that doesn't mean nothing should be done to help our residents remember our history so that we don't repeat it again. Anderson and other Rondo leaders are planning the Rondo Commemora-

tive Plaza as a tangible place to acknowledge and confront the dark chapter in Saint Paul's relationship with its African American community. It will be a place to remember the vibrant Rondo neighborhood, and continue moving forward into the 21st century—with all voices at the table.

This plaza will be a beautiful community gathering spot to learn about Rondo through written and oral presentations, music and art. It will serve as a social gathering place for all generations, for visitors to appreciate and remember the history of Rondo and the strength of residents that lives on.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the strong will and unassailable pride of the Rondo community as they build the Rondo Commemorative Plaza. We look forward to the grand opening of this special place and the big step in healing and reconciliation of the past.

TRIBUTE TO ARJUN GANGA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Arjun Ganga, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Arjun is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. He was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: co-founding and co-directing the Des Moines Student-to-Student STEM Speaker Series, Science Bowl, tennis team, the Principal's Advisory Council, National Honor Society, student government, National Council on Youth Leadership, and the Silver Cord Volunteer Program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Arjun for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 21st Century Cures Act. The bill is not perfect, but it makes important progress on key health and addiction treatments that will help people in Maryland and across the country.

Maryland's drug poisoning death rate is higher than the national average, with both urban and rural areas facing the scourge of opioid addiction and death. This bill will provide \$1 billion in funding to states for new pro-

grams to combat the opioid and heroin epidemic. It also takes critical steps to improve our nation's mental health system by reauthorizing several grant programs aimed at crisis response, behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care, and diversion from the criminal justice system to community-based services.

Additionally, the 21st Century Cures Act aims to improve the discovery, development, and delivery of medical treatments. It creates incentives for new scientists to begin their career in research, requires more input from patients, and modernizes clinical trials—all of which will help advance treatments for rare diseases such as childhood cancer.

The bill allocates over \$6 billion in new investments to implement vital health priorities such as the President's Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative that will help us to better understand the human brain and could lead to cures to diseases such as Alzheimer's. Additionally, the funding will go towards the President's Precision Medicine and the Vice President's Cancer Moonshot Initiatives by dedicating \$4.8 billion to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The inclusion of \$500 million for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will help make its approval process more efficient and accelerate treatments to patients. Maryland is proud to be home to so many federal agencies that are leading the fight to improve the health of all Americans, and I will keep fighting to provide the resources they need in this effort.

Furthermore, the package includes legislation I authored—Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act. It will create a neurological disease surveillance program at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which would provide a foundation for evaluating and understanding factors of neurological diseases like Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's.

While the bill includes important bipartisan provisions, I am concerned that this bill includes far less funding than what was included in the Cures package considered by the House last year. Additionally, Congressional Republicans refused to allow for the funding in this bill to be mandatory. Instead, Congress will have to vote annually to make the funding available as part of the appropriations process—the American people must hold us accountable to deliver on this promise. Finally, I still have concerns with some provisions that might impact patient safety, but I understand that FDA worked with Congress on the provisions that relate to their agency to provide feedback—much of which was incorporated. I look forward to continuing to work with the FDA through implementation to safeguard patients.

As a country, we must work together to combat drug addiction and prioritize medical research. The Cures Act moves this effort forward, but we are far from finished.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 600 on final passage of S. 294, the National

Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2016 WASHINGTON POST PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2016 Washington Post Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools.

The Principal of the Year for Prince William County will receive the Washington Post Principal of the Year Award. Nominees must demonstrate the ability to:

1. Manage effectively.
2. Demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation.
3. Foster cooperation between the school and the community.
4. Maintain a continuing dialogue with students, parents, faculty, and staff.
5. Keep abreast of developments in the field of education.
6. Encourage team spirit.
7. Demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment.
8. Continue to play an active role in the classroom.
9. Maintain their position as principal throughout the 2016–2017 school year.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2016 nominees for Prince William County Schools, Principal of the Year Award.

Neil Beech—Osborn Park High School.
Andrew Jacks—Ashland Elementary School.
Michael Lint—New Dominion Alternative Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools, and in thanking them for their dedication to leadership in our school system. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William County students are provided with a world-class education in a more vibrant learning community.

HONORING COLLEEN AND RICHARD DAVIS, ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to introduce you and my colleagues to Colleen and Richard Davis, constituents of mine from the Shenandoah Valley in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia who have provided extraordinary support for mothers in crisis and their children.

I nominated Colleen and Richard Davis for the Angels in Adoption program of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute this year because, even with three children of their

own, including one special needs adopted child, Colleen and Richard Davis opened their home to two infants in need.

Colleen had been dedicating her time and energy to residents of the New Eve Maternity Home in Winchester, Virginia, a home for pregnant women in need. At the New Eve home, Colleen met a young woman with twin newborn boys who was having difficulty caring for her babies. Colleen and Richard generously offered to take the twins into their home and care for them until the mother was able to provide a stable home.

For more than two years now, Colleen and Richard Davis have welcomed these two children into their family and have raised them as their own. These acts of extraordinary generosity are inspired by a sense of loving compassion for their neighbors in need.

Mr. Speaker, stories of unsung heroes like Colleen and Richard Davis are taking place throughout our nation and I ask that we remember with gratitude these “Angels in Adoption” who are making a significant difference in our communities. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Colleen and Richard Davis, and wishing them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOSE R. RODRIGUEZ AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jose R. Rodriguez for his tireless work as Director of Operations and Grants Coordinator.

I first met Jose when he began an internship in my office in 2013 and from the beginning he stood out as an exceptional worker. After only a few weeks, he was hired as Constituent Services Representative where he helped many of my constituents and their families with housing, immigration, and veterans issues. He was part of the team of case-workers that helped recover and save over \$500,000 for residents of Florida’s Ninth Congressional District.

After a few months on the job, he proved to be a valuable asset, capable of handling multiple roles with great knowledge and skill. For this reason he was promoted to Director of Operations, where he was responsible, among other things, for overseeing the administrative operations of my district offices. He also served in a dual role as Grants Coordinator and helped many local municipalities and non-profit organizations seek federal funding. Jose was able to help bring over \$7 million dollars in federal funds for various local organizations, including money for education and first responders.

As further proof of his tenacity, Jose was able to complete his law degree while working fulltime and raising two beautiful children, Josue and Deborah.

As Jose’s tenure in my office comes to an end, I want to recognize his service to my office and the community, and I wish all the best to him and his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ALLEN PARK HISTORICAL MUSEUM ON THE DATE OF ITS PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Allen Park Historical Museum on the date of its Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 75th Anniversary Fundraiser. The Allen Park Historical Museum has served as an important venue for the metro Detroit community to educate individuals about the background of historically significant events that have shaped our country.

Located in a farmhouse built in 1888, the Allen Park Historical Museum has provided Allen Park and the surrounding communities with a free and accessible forum to learn about the history of the city and pivotal events in American history. The Museum displays police and firefighter memorabilia as well as military artifacts and cultural objects like furniture and toys that showcase life from different eras. In addition to regular exhibits, the Allen Park Historical Museum also periodically sponsors fundraisers to engage with the community while providing resources for the museum. These additional events allow historians and other experts to further explore our nation’s heritage in different contexts.

The Allen Park Historical Museum not only serves as a venue for residents of Allen Park and surrounding areas, but also provides important resources that help educate southeast Michigan about historically significant events. The underwriting of experiences like Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day underscore the community’s commitment to ensuring that critical milestones in American history are placed in the proper context. It is heartening to see the Allen Park community play a leading role in promoting American history, and I am confident that the museum will continue to host engaging and relevant exhibits that educate and entertain individuals of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the success of the Allen Park Historical Museum on the date of its Pearl Harbor Day fundraiser. The museum provides cultural enrichment through its documentation of historical events through its exhibits.

TRIBUTE TO JIM DERMODY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jim Dermody, Principal of Lewis Central Middle School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being named the Administrator of the Year by the Iowa Talented and Gifted (ITAG) Association.

Jim has been an outspoken advocate for ITAG programs at Lewis Central Middle School, recognizing that success requires participation from the whole school, not just special ITAG instructors. He utilizes partnerships

with each teacher in the middle school to ensure they have the resources and training to promote and encourage ITAG students. It is an honor to represent educators like Jim, who take the extra steps to ensure student success. ITAG's 44th Annual Conference officials noted that Jim Dermody believes "learning isn't about books, worksheets, and presentations. It's about using learning to improve the world."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jim for being named the ITAG Administrator of the Year and for shaping our future generations into bright, young leaders. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jim for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

NORMA ANDERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Norma Anderson for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Norma Anderson, former Colorado State Senator and Jefferson County resident since 1950, served as a legislator for nearly 19 years helping to improve the education system, transportation planning, criminal justice reform and healthcare policy. Norma has served her community in many capacities including on numerous boards and committees.

Norma was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1986 where she prioritized the needs of her community through her support of the School Finance Act of 1994 and the Third Grade Literacy Act of 1996. She sponsored other education legislation including the College Opportunity Fund and accountability for K-12 schools. Norma also helped establish the Colorado Department of Transportation's 20-year transportation plan, sponsored Lifetime Parole and Probation for Sex Offenders, and assisted in the restructuring of the Departments of Social Services and Institutions saving Colorado ten million dollars. From 1997 to 1998, she served as the House Majority Leader, and in 2003 she served as the Senate Majority Leader, making her the first woman in Colorado history to serve in this role in both houses. Norma always kept her commitment to Jefferson County and was instrumental in promoting progress in Colorado.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Norma Anderson for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO NORANNE DOWNS,
P.E.

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize and honor Ms.

Noranne Downs, P.E. as she marks 25 years of service with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

After eleven years of public works experience with the City of Daytona Beach and in the private sector, Ms. Downs was hired by FDOT in September of 1991 as a project manager. Her talent and ability were recognized, and in October of 2006, Ms. Downs was named District Five Secretary.

Soon after her joining FDOT 25 years ago, I was honored to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent Florida's Seventh Congressional District and assigned, at my request, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. While we worked together prior to this, our shared focus of maintaining Central Florida's infrastructure and preparing our region for the future cemented our bond and our friendship.

For over two decades, Noranne and I worked on the many transportation projects important to our community. Together we helped bring our region into the 21st Century and laid a solid foundation for Central Florida's infrastructure to thrive in the future. In addition to working to meet the Transportation requirements of one of America's fastest growing regions, I am extremely proud of our work together on projects such as SunRail which brought fixed commuter rail service to the region, the I-4 Ultimate and Beyond the Ultimate projects which will increase capacity and reimagine the main interstate roadway serving our area and updating our roadways and traffic management systems with the latest technologies to most effectively and efficiently manage traffic flows. Noranne played an integral role in these projects and so many more.

It is with much appreciation and admiration that I recognize my friend and a great public servant, Noranne Downs at this milestone in her career. It is also with regret that Noranne will be retiring from her position at FDOT in January 2017. Her pivotal work has truly left an indelible mark on Central Florida and our State.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Noranne Downs for her 25 years of service to our community and at FDOT, and in wishing her the best as she turns the page of her remarkable career.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PEGGY
KIRK BELL

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Margaret Anne "Peggy" Kirk Bell who passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home on Wednesday, November 23, 2016. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Bell family as they mourn the loss of this extraordinary woman.

A native of Findlay, Ohio, Mrs. Bell dedicated her life to sharing the joys of golf with those around her. At the age of seventeen, she picked up the sport that would transform her life and define her legacy. Mrs. Bell would go on to establish what has been described as "one of the best amateur records ever compiled" before becoming a charter member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association

(LPGA) and competing for several years professionally.

Best known as a teacher of the game, Mrs. Bell's reach expanded around the world as she shared her passion with golfers of all ages and abilities. Her achievements include being named LPGA Teacher of the Year, Golf Digest's "One of the Six Best Women Teachers in the World," and winning the first ever LPGA Senior Championship. Her lifetime of dedication and love for golf was recognized several times including when she received the Bob Jones Award in 1990, which is the United States Golf Association's highest award for distinguished sportsmanship in golf.

In 1953, the opportunity of a lifetime presented itself to Mrs. Bell and her husband, Warren "Bullet" Bell, when they purchased Pine Needles Golf Course in Southern Pines, North Carolina. From there the couple transformed the golf course to what is today one of the premier golfing destinations in the world. Mrs. Bell quickly became a staple at the resort, taking a hands-on approach to its management and personally investing her time and effort in the lives of its staff and visitors. On any given day at the course you could expect a challenging round of golf and the warmest of welcomes from a smiling Mrs. Bell. Her focus was always to serve others and make certain that everyone was having fun.

Compassionate, kind, and loving, Mrs. Bell's impact resonated through the entire sport of golf. She served as both a pioneer of the game and teacher for future generations. To say that she will be missed would be a gross understatement. While we mourn the loss of this extraordinary woman, there is no doubt that her legacy will continue to be celebrated for generations to come. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Bell family, especially her children, Bonnie, Peggy Ann, and my dear friend, Kirk.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Mrs. Peggy Kirk Bell.

REMEMBERING TERRY BELCOE

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Terry Belcoe, who passed away on Friday, September 23, 2016, after fighting a courageous battle with cancer.

Mr. Belcoe was born in Mount Vernon, Washington on April 19, 1956, and spent most of his life in Bellingham, Washington. After completing his Associates degree at Whatcom Community College, he earned his Bachelor's degree in Administration and Accounting, and later his Master's in Business Administration at Western Washington University.

Throughout his career, Mr. Belcoe was known for forging partnerships to improve the community. He served as the Board Chair of the United Way of Whatcom, Skagit County Community Action Agency, United Way of Skagit County and the Oversight Committee for Leadership Skagit program. His advocacy extended to acting as a guest speaker and mentor to students at WWU and volunteering with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program of Whatcom County.

In line with his passion for fighting for children in need of nutrition and housing, Mr. Belcoe actively engaged with legislators and communities to support low-income families. Recently, he celebrated 15 years as the President and CEO of North Coast Credit Union in Whatcom and Skagit counties and in October of 2016, he was selected as the Washington Credit Union Advocate of the Year, but unfortunately he passed away less than three weeks before the honor could be presented.

Mr. Speaker, Terry Belcoe was a dedicated public servant and I would like to honor him for his many contributions to our community and our state. My thoughts are with his partner Karen, his daughters and his sister. Terry will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent December 1st and 2nd due to a medical appointment. Had I been present I would have voted:

On Roll Call Vote 594, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 595, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 596, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 597, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 598, I would have voted Aye. On Roll Call Vote 599, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 600, I would have voted No.

HONORING ERICA STRIEBEL

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my Chief of Staff, Erica Striebel, for her service and commitment to the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, and to our country.

For the last 15 years, Erica has been one of my closest advisers. She was a sounding board for me on legislative issues as Congress fought through many difficult challenges facing our country. Erica has been my chief strategist during my time on the House Appropriations Committee and my right hand for my work on the Defense Subcommittee.

The late management consultant Peter Drucker said, "Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things." Fortunately for me, my staff, and the people I have had the privilege to represent, Erica is both an excellent manager and an inspiring leader. She has a special talent for seeing around corners to identify the next challenges and leading others to solutions.

Erica's devotion to the servicemen and women who protect our nation at home and around the globe sets an example for all to follow. Erica Striebel is a patriot. She values those who serve today and respects the veterans of yesteryear. Her knowledge was acquired through her Bachelor's degree in International Affairs and Security Policy from The George Washington University and her Mas-

ter's degree in National Security from the Naval War College. She shares my strong belief that national security is our country's number one priority. Erica fights on the policy front to ensure our military can effectively defend the United States of America. An integral portion of her work—traveling to military bases to meet with commanders—is a vital part of how Erica makes sure that she is prepared to fight for what is needed to keep our military the best trained and best equipped in the world. Military leaders in Northeast Florida at Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Naval Station Mayport remind me often that their confidence in Erica is unique. Her command of the missions and the intricacies of military assets is well respected. She is the staffer who makes things happen. Also, in a spirit of teamwork, Erica unselfishly shares her expertise with other Capitol Hill staffers. She fully appreciates that all Members of Congress need to work together to support our military.

Erica is diligent in ensuring that the contributions of our veterans are recognized, and they receive the benefits they have earned and deserve. With her support, more than 2,400 veterans in the 4th Congressional District have attended ceremonies and received my Veterans' Special Recognition Certificate. She also played a key role in ensuring all the necessary steps were accomplished to locate the Jacksonville National Cemetery on Florida's First Coast.

I have no doubt that Erica will bring the same drive and determination she has shown in my office to the next chapter in her professional career. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in thanking Erica Striebel for her leadership and for her commitment to public service and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

God bless and Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL MINTZER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gabriel Mintzer, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Gabriel is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. He was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: co-founding and co-directing the Des Moines Student-to-Student STEM Speaker Series, Science Bowl and Knowledge Bowl teams, Central Academy mathematics team, and treasurer of Valley High School's National Honors Society chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Gabriel for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Gabriel and in wishing him nothing but continued success in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department on the occasion of its 68th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and to thank its volunteers for filling an essential role in keeping our community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than 6 decades it has provided life-saving fire suppression/prevention and emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Burke and the surrounding communities. It also provides, houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment; provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership; and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the county's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in cooperation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. Last year alone, the Burke VFD provided more than 3,000 hours of volunteer time as well as an additional 2,159 hours of supplemental staffing.

I am honored to recognize the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as officers or as members of the board of directors.

Board of Directors—President Patrick Owens, Vice President John Powers, Secretary Tonya McCreary, Treasurer Ian Dickinson, Larry Bockneck, Rich Guarrasi, Becky Dobbs.

Officers—Chief Thomas Warnock, Deputy Chief Tina Godfrey, Deputy Chief John Hudak, Captain Melissa Ashby, Captain Keith O'Connor, Lieutenant Emily Fincher, Lieutenant Kevin Grottle, Sergeant Jennifer Babic, Sergeant Peter Hamilton, Sergeant Shaun Kurry, Sergeant James Reyes, Team Leader Paul Stracke, Team Leader/Chaplain Harry Chelpon.

In addition to the men and women who have generously assumed the responsibilities of serving as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department is also presenting awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exemplary service during the last year:

Rookie of the Year—Lindsay Fox and Blaine Reis

Firefighter of the Year—Ian Dickinson
EMS Provider of the Year—Caitlin Curran
Officer of the Year—Shaun Kurry, James Reyes

Administrative Member of the Year—Charlene Murphy
Career Member of the Year—FireMedic Anthony Tran

Team Award—BVFDR Bingo Team (Tina Godfrey, Matt Bryant, Charlene Murphy)

Chief's Award—E414 Procurement Team (John Hudak, Larry Bockneck, Peter Hamilton, Mike Istvan, George Hahn, Sam Sandeen, Robin Clement)

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 68 years of service and in thanking all of the brave volunteers who do not hesitate to drop everything when the community calls in need of help. To all of these men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents I say: "Stay safe."

H.R. 34, THE 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 34, the 21st Century Cures Act, a bill which aims to authorize and promote biomedical research, mental health, opioid abuse assistance, and advance medical future research, but falls woefully short.

Unfortunately, this bill is a missed opportunity for Congress to take meaningful action to address skyrocketing drug prices. It also falls far short of the funding that is needed to support the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and to address the growing opioid abuse epidemic. I also believe that this bill puts the goals of pharmaceutical and medical device companies ahead of the needs of individuals.

As a Member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee and as an ardent supporter of biomedical research and public health funding, I was disappointed in the inadequate funding levels in this bill. Last year, this bill included \$10 billion in mandatory funding for the NIH. Unfortunately, the revised version that passed the House Floor last week included only \$3.8 billion for the NIH, and it is not mandatory spending.

And to make matters worse, this bill strips \$3.5 billion from the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which provides critical investments to improve health outcomes through prevention activities like screenings and public health workforce training. We should be increasing support for public health programs, not robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Additionally, I am concerned that this legislation loosens Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards for approving pharmaceuticals and medical devices. While we do need to ensure that new, lifesaving treatments are available to consumers, we cannot do so at the expense of safety and efficacy. We need to make the FDA's standards stronger—not weaker.

Lastly, despite outcry from constituents and despite months of hearings and press conferences on the issue of rising prescription drug prices, H.R. 34 did not include any provisions to make drugs more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we have a shared obligation to ensure that ALL Americans have access to equitable, high-quality and affordable healthcare. While this bill does include a few good provisions, like positive steps to address mental health reform, it ultimately puts industry and profits over patients, and I therefore cannot support it.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVID SIMAS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service, dedication, and brilliance of our good friend and distinguished Portuguese American, White House Political Director David Simas. After eight years guiding the policy of the Obama Administration it is both fitting and appropriate to honor his service to the United States of America where he helped craft policy that improves the lives of countless Americans.

A self-proclaimed "Kid from Taunton, Massachusetts," Mr. Simas is the son of Portuguese immigrants, Antonio and Deolinda Simas. Although his parents did not attain more than an elementary school education, Mr. Simas ever excelled under their parentage. His father taught him the impact political policy has on everyday lives and his mother instilled in him the importance of family and the support they lend in times of need.

From his upbringing in Taunton, Mr. Simas went on to attend Stonehill College and later Boston College Law School. Returning home after graduation, he started a law practice and launched a political career of his own running for and winning a seat on the school board. Lending his talents to the local Portuguese community, Mr. Simas defended those in need and led successful political movements on behalf his friends and neighbors.

Later, as an advisor to the mayor of Taunton Mr. Simas helped devise a strategy to bring down the city's health care costs, working with the public sector unions to reach an agreement that saved the city money while ensuring access to good health care. Mr. Simas became well known in Massachusetts policy circles, and in 2006, he joined the office of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick where he served as Deputy Chief of Staff.

It was not long after the 2008 election of President Barack Obama that Governor Patrick connected the two, officially introducing Mr. Simas to the President and starting a run of eight years of service to the President and our country.

Calm, unflappable, clinical, and humble are just a few of the words used to describe Mr. Simas. He has taken his knowledge and political acumen and applied them to the service of the American people. He dedicated himself to pass health care reform, bringing coverage to millions who previously were left out of the American health care system.

Mr. Simas has always thought about how the decisions he makes and the issues he fights for impact everyday people. From his childhood in Taunton's Portuguese Village to the West Wing of the White House he has always been an advocate for the disadvantaged and underrepresented. I wish him, his wife Shauna, and daughters Rowan and Payton the best of luck in the years to come. In whatever endeavor he finds himself next, I know he will continue to ask himself the same question President Obama asked of him: "Are you doing something every day to help people?"

I am confident he will.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of

Representatives to recognize the service of Mr. David Simas and his many contributions to the wellbeing of the American people.

HONORING MS. LINDA SEIFERT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Seifert upon her retirement from the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Ms. Seifert has represented the Second District on the board since 2008 and served as the Chair of the Board from 2012 through 2014.

Ms. Seifert has been a longtime leader in our state's legal community. She earned her bachelor's degree from the California State University, Fullerton and then went on to complete her law degree at the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. Ms. Seifert led a tremendously successful law career and became the first female partner at the McNamara Law Firm in Walnut Creek, before she went on to serve as General Counsel for the California Dental Association.

Since her election as Supervisor in 2008, Ms. Seifert has been a champion for Solano County's citizens and our community's future. She has worked to preserve the agricultural heritage and resources of our community and to create more park space and recreational services. For instance, Ms. Seifert successfully pushed to dedicate open space in Rockville Hills and secured \$13 million to permanently protect the land for future generations.

Education and responsive social services have also been Ms. Seifert's priorities as supervisor. To protect victims of domestic violence, she secured the site for the Family Justice Center in Fairfield. She believes that investing in members of our community improves both their well-being and our economy.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Linda Seifert has been a champion of our community for the past eight years. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 592 on final passage of H.R. 34, the 21st Century Cures Act, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO GUOWEI QI

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Guowei Qi, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score

on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Guowei is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. Guowei was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: Science Bowl, Valley High School honors program, concertmaster of the Valley High School Chamber Orchestra, volunteering at Iowa Lutheran Hospital, and organizing "Blank Tales," a non-profit publication by Valley High School students to raise awareness of homelessness in the Des Moines area.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Guowei for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE 1965 INTEGRATION
OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA'S
WOODLAWN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor six individuals—Myrtle Chamblin, Cynthia Holder, Leon Humphries, Lillie Humphries, Cedric King, and Rita Eileen King—for courageously integrating Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, Alabama during September of 1965. We applaud these six individuals for their noble act to recognize the historic precedence they established and to acknowledge the exceptional bravery they displayed.

The mid-20th century was an extraordinarily turbulent time for Alabama, especially Birmingham. The city and surrounding area had become a crucible for civil rights activity and peaceful protests that were often met with inconceivable hostility. Segregation and discrimination both had a strong grip on Birmingham society, which affected all aspects of life for African Americans. Despite the enactments of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments nearly a century beforehand, Birmingham's black citizens had yet to fully experience the promises that these constitutional changes intended to engender. Thankfully, the Supreme Court's unanimous decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 overturned the long-standing decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which had emboldened and reinforced the ferociousness of "separate but equal."

While these successive legislative modifications and landmark cases created a platform for diversity in theory, racial inclusiveness was still confronted with horrific opposition in actuality. It would take solemn individuals animated with daring spirits to truly produce the social changes needed to foster an integrated and equal United States of America. Today, we honor these six outstanding individuals who are exemplary of the heroism herein described.

The integration of Woodlawn High School by these stellar young people was not an oc-

currence of happenstance. It was not the decision of adults or older citizens who had completed school many years earlier. Instead, it was a strategic act by six underclassmen eager to learn. By boldly encountering aggression and animosity, they knew it was a sacrifice necessary to create a better city, state, and nation.

Disciplined with the tools of non-violence and aided with the support of their caregivers and community, these six champions of equality and freedom that we praise today stood against injustice to impact future generations. Armed with nothing more than a consciousness of integrity and dignity, these six young people chose to walk in the line of danger and take a stand for human equality.

In the spirit of grace and appreciation, we salute Myrtle Chamblin, Cynthia Holder, Leon Humphries, Lillie Humphries, Cedric King, and Rita Eileen King for their act of valor. Let their testimony and story of triumph continue to be a lesson to us all as we stand on their shoulders to combat oppression. Most importantly, let us not be remiss in our effort to shine light on exemplars that have moved mountains for us to walk through and paved paths for us to walk on. The routes we travel are easier because of you.

TRIBUTE TO GARY MERSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I, together with Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security Ranking Member ZOE LOFGREN of California, would like to pay tribute to Mr. Gary Merson for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives and the House Judiciary Committee in particular. For the past 15 months, Gary has served as the chief counsel to the Judiciary Committee's Immigration Subcommittee.

A native of Lewiston, Maine, Gary's passionate dedication to the advancement of immigration law and policy is reflected in his distinguished 18-year legal career spanning private practice, non-profit advocacy, and government service. Gary will return as the Acting Director of the Office of the Ombudsman at United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, where he has served since 2005.

Gary previously served as counsel to the Immigration Subcommittee from February 2012 through December 2012 during which he played an important role in advancing the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. Prior to joining the Ombudsman's Office, Gary was Government Affairs Counsel with Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy from 1999 to 2005, and prior to that an Advocacy Associate with the American Immigration Lawyers Association from 1998 to 1999. Gary is a graduate of Tulane Law School and Vanderbilt University.

Gary's wide-ranging expertise on immigration law and policy and his longstanding leadership in the area of employment-based immigration have greatly benefitted both sides of the aisle during the 114th Congress and this Committee in particular. Gary was exceptionally instrumental in the efforts of 225 Congressional Democrats (186 in the House and 39 in

the Senate) to file an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Texas*, a case considering whether certain aspects of President Obama's executive actions on immigration will be allowed to move forward. Gary also led committee efforts on a variety of immigration issues in the areas of refugees, immigration enforcement, high-skilled immigration, the EB-5 program, the H2-A/H2-B programs and executive authority.

Although Gary entered the chief counsel role during a time of transition, he was able to handle committee matters with ease and grace. His rhetorical skills and natural political inclinations made the transition seamless. Gary's professionalism, dedication to committee business and pleasant demeanor earned him the universal respect of members and his colleagues. Gary is easily approachable and able to provide a witty remark even during difficult moments. While his guidance and leadership on immigration law and policy will be sorely missed, we are pleased that he will continue to serve immigrants and the American people through his work at the Ombudsman's Office.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud Gary's tireless, principled and loyal public service to the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN TAYLOR AS
AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERV-
ANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of my Deputy Director of Constituent Services, Mr. Justin Taylor, for his tireless dedication to the residents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

Throughout his tenure with my district office, Justin has proven himself to be a vital part of our team. As a caseworker, he has collaborated with management to improve our case-work system so that my constituents could better receive meaningful, timely responses to their requests for assistance.

Although Justin is not a native of Central Florida, his commitment to serving our diverse community is apparent. Since joining my office in 2014, he has made a positive difference in the lives of countless individuals. Some highlights of his work include assisting veterans in obtaining critical financial benefits, as well as helping to secure medical care for the sick and elderly. Furthermore, as an advocate for LGBT rights in Florida and across the country, Justin played an important role in assisting family members of the deceased following the tragedy at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

As the 114th Congress comes to an end, so too will Justin's tenure in my office. I wish him all the best in the next stage of his career in public service.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PEARL HARBOR

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1941, our nation was attacked. Today marks the 75th anniversary of the day that will live in infamy of the surprise attack.

Today is a time to honor the courage and sacrifice of those two thousand service members that lost their lives in this devastating attack. President Franklin Roosevelt stated that "no matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory."

As the son of a World War II Flying Tiger of the U.S. Army Air Corps, 14th Air Force, who served in India and China, I am inspired by the service from this time. They are stories of how the American people met this unspeakable tragedy head on with remarkable determination. I believe that it is this same strength that has carried our great nation through trials since World War II and will be a firm foundation for our future, learning the importance of peace through strength.

As a grateful 31-year veteran and the father of four sons who have all served overseas in the Global War on Terrorism, I believe in the power of our armed forces and the righteous might they demonstrate in the face of conflicts around the world promoting peace through strength while liberating dozens of countries.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War of Terrorism. September 11th was the Pearl Harbor of our era with a surprise attack to destroy our civilization.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF GEORGE'S SHOE-
SHINE IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize George Manias of Peoria, Illinois on the 70th anniversary of his Peoria business, George's Shoeshine and Hatters World Headquarters, a fixture in the Peoria community since George began his shoeshine business 70 years ago.

As a small child, George moved from America to Crete, a Greek isle, before World War II. George, his family, and their community worked tirelessly to fight off Nazi invasions, often having to shoot Nazi paratroopers before they could land on the island. Despite their gallant efforts, however, the Nazis did eventually invade the island. George's father, a U.S. citizen, was imprisoned numerous times throughout Nazi occupation during World War II. During this difficult time, young George went four years without a pair of shoes.

In 1946, as a teenager, George returned to Peoria, Illinois, where he would become an integral member of our community. He started

his shoeshine business with one seat, charging 25 cents a shine. A model of the American entrepreneur, George steadily grew his business, making it the national landmark it is today.

During his 70 years of business in Peoria, countless public figures have walked through George's doors in hopes of meeting this industrious man and having the opportunity to place a signed photo in his place of business. Over the past 70 years, George has met various public figures, including four U.S. Presidents, numerous U.S. Vice Presidents, Governors, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, White House Chiefs of Staff; Mayors, world champion athletes, CEOs, and local leaders.

George's Shoeshine business is known throughout Central Illinois for the personal service, craftsmanship, and incredible attention to detail he puts into every shoe he shines. I am honored to share the same hometown as George, where a humble man can achieve the American dream through dedication, commitment, and hard work. I extend my sincere congratulations to George Manias on a successful 70 years and I look forward to seeing his legacy carry on in downtown Peoria.

PAMELA NISLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Pamela Nissler for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Pamela has been working to support and advance education in Colorado for more than 45 years. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL). Prior to that role, she has served as the Library Manager, Substitute Librarian, Director of Community Services, and Director of Library Programs. Pam's seven years at the JCPL have elevated the institution to new levels in terms of historical importance and educational value in the community.

Pam is a member of both the American and Public Library Associations, as well as a past president of the Colorado Library Association. Pam's involvement in Jefferson County expands outside of the library as a member of the West Chamber Board of Directors and the Child and Youth Leadership Commission of Jefferson County. She has also served on community leadership associations throughout Douglas County and Highlands Ranch. Pam has a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Library Science.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pamela Nissler for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DAWN DICKERSON FOR RECEIVING THE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY'S SIGMA MU MU CHAPTER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Dawn Dickerson of Broadlands, Virginia, for being named the Educator of the Year by the Sigma Mu Mu chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Ms. Dickerson is the Assistant Principal at Rock Ridge High School located in Ashburn. This award was granted to Ms. Dickerson for her work to improve inclusion and acceptance within the student body at Rock Ridge High School.

Ms. Dickerson has been instrumental in organizing special events to help her students become introduced to new topics as our country's next generation of leaders. One such instance of her devotion was when she put together a visit from Freedom Rider Joan Trumpauer Mulholland to speak with students during Black History Month last year. Ms. Dickerson was also a key component in the Loudoun International Youth Leadership Summit. This Summit enables students to engage in discussion with, and learn from, a number of international delegations who attended the event.

Ms. Dickerson's role as Assistant Principal at Rock Ridge High places her in a position where she can have a positive impact on the lives of countless young minds. This recognition from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity comes as a result of her dedication to the students of Loudoun County, and it is a reflection of the wonderful and civic-minded citizens we have throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Dawn Dickerson from Rock Ridge High School for receiving this Educator of the Year Award from the Sigma Mu Mu chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax County Alcohol Service Action Program (ASAP) on the occasion of the 25th Annual Excellence in Community Service and Public Safety Awards. This year's awards are being jointly sponsored with Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

ASAP is a criminal justice program which uses community and state services to reduce the problem of driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. It identifies and provides appropriate services to offenders convicted of driving under the influence or other substance abuse-related charges as referred

by the local courts. The goal of ASAP is to improve transportation safety by decreasing the incidence of driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs and thereby reducing the number of alcohol or other drug-related crash-es.

According to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, in 2014 nearly 36 percent of all traffic fatalities in the Commonwealth were alcohol-related. Tragically, more than 40 percent of those killed in alcohol related deaths were ages 21–35. While alcohol-related traffic deaths in Virginia have been on the decline, we are still averaging a crash nearly every hour as a result of drunk driving. Sadly, national statistics reflect an 8 percent increase in alcohol related traffic deaths in the first 6 months of 2015 when compared to 2014. We can only hope that, thanks to the work of organizations like ASAP and MADD, that trend begins to reverse.

Every year, ASAP honors those in the law-enforcement community who have been instrumental in fighting impaired driving. I am pleased to include the names of this year's recipients.

City of Alexandria: Officer Anthony LaRusso.

Arlington County: Officer Brett Kooharian.

Fairfax County: APO Donald Brodie, PFC James Burleson, PFC Hyun Chang, Ms. Annette Dodson, Officer Harrison R. Gamble, OFC Sameer A. Kahn, APO William Ridge-way, APO Richard Zhu.

City of Fairfax: Officer Bryan P. Nelson.

City of Falls Church: Officer Kevin Hedden, PFC Dimitri Issaev.

George Mason University: Sergeant Michael F. Lighthiser, MPO Edward T. Gannon.

Town of Herndon: PFC Eliezer A. Cabo, PFC Charles W. Findley.

City of Leesburg: Officer Bradley Schultz.

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Ruben Cardenas, Deputy Glenn P. Keough.

City of Manassas Park: Officer Christopher Koglin.

Prince William County: Officer Simon Chu, Officer Christopher LaFarree, Officer Jeremy Schenck, Officer Brett Tillett.

Town of Purcellville: Officer Kristopher Fraley, Corporal Clark McDaniel.

United States Park Police: Sergeant Jonathan Daniels, Officer Pentti Gillespie, Officer Christopher Gogarty, Officer Greg Harper, Officer David Lamond, Officer Lisa Marie Weisbaum, Officer Charles Whiteman, Sergeant Adam Zielinski.

Town of Vienna: Officer Ara Post, Officer Brad Reedy.

Virginia State Police, Division Seven: Trooper Nicholas Casey, Trooper Diego A. Espinosa, Trooper Lorenzo Goode, Trooper Kevin Fleenor, Trooper Adam Hassan, Trooper Andre D. Jones, Trooper Tomasz Karbowski, Trooper Zachary Koon, Trooper Wesley Paul, Trooper Michael Walton, Trooper John Yacek.

Town of Warrenton: Sergeant Arthur Leeper, Officer Matthew McGuirk.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2016 award recipients, and thank each of the men and women listed above for their service to our community. Their efforts are selfless acts of heroism that save innocent lives and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending this extraordinary group of law enforcement professionals.

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR—75 YEARS LATER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the sun was lazily rising on the horizon over the islands of Hawaii. It was around breakfast time on a stunning Sunday morning. It was quiet, peaceful, calm. People felt secure. There was a small tropical breeze as the American flag was being raised on a nearby flagpole. On December 7, 1941, America was at peace and unprepared for war.

Suddenly, large formations of aircraft swarmed the blue Hawaii sky. The rising sun was darkened by hundreds of Japanese planes as they strafed and bombed Pearl Harbor. The Japanese unleashed a fury of deadly, devastating bombs and torpedoes on the small island. The first attack of the Second World War on American soil was underway. It was 75 years ago today when Luke Trahin, a 22-year-old sailor from Beaumont, in southeast Texas and his fellow sailors, soldiers, and marines saw war unleashed upon America.

Until that moment World War two was a far-off conflict. America watched silently, abstaining from the violence. But the days of innocence were over. America was under attack.

The Japanese had caught America by surprise and took advantage of an unprepared nation. And after the smoke cleared on that morning of madness, 98 Navy planes and 64 Army aircraft were destroyed. Luke's unit, Patrol Wing One, lost all but three of its 36 aircraft. 2,471 Americans, servicemen, and civilians were killed by this unwarranted invasion of terror from the skies.

The pride of the United States Navy, the battleships—*West Virginia, California, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Maryland, Nevada,* and *Arizona*—were trapped in the harbor. They made easy targets for the Japanese pilots. The sailors onboard these battle wagons fought with the courage of entire legions of warriors when they were attacked by a skillful, fanatical, and tyrannical enemy. All of these fierce U.S. Navy battleships were sunk or damaged. Their guns, Mr. Speaker, are now silent.

The hull of the USS *Arizona* became the sacred graveyard in the peaceful Pacific for more than 1,177 American sailors and marines. Luke Trahin and his Navy buddies in Patrol Wing One quickly got organized, prepared, and waited for two days for the expected land invasion of the Japanese. It never came. But America was at war.

World War II had long been raging before America officially entered into the conflict. Spreading from the Pacific to Europe all the way to Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

The Japanese, then the Nazis; seemed undefeatable. But even the Japanese were concerned about the spirit of America. The Japanese commander of the Pearl Harbor invasion remarked that what Japan had done was wake a sleeping giant. Millions served in uniform overseas; millions served on the home front; all sacrificed for the cause of America. The nation woke from a somber sleep of neutrality and, with our allies, defeated the tyrants that would rule over the world. That was a time when Americans put aside all differences

and united to defend freedom in our Nation. When the war was won, over 400,000 Americans had given their lives for this nation.

Until September 11th, this was the deadliest attack on U.S. soil. "December 7, 1941, a date that will live in infamy," were words spoken by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that became forever embedded in the minds of patriots across our land, igniting and launching a nation into the fiery trenches of battle throughout the world.

Those of that Greatest Generation proved that when the peace of this nation is threatened, our people will stand up and fight back, bringing the thunder of God upon our enemies. Defending freedom and liberty was the battle cry of the sailors and soldiers that died 75 years ago at Pearl Harbor. We must continue to remember December 7th, 1941 and the Americans who stood tall and kept the flame of America glowing brightly.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRUCE RICKER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Bruce Ricker, of Mount Ayr, Iowa, for being inducted into the Mount Ayr Community Schools Hall of Fame.

Dr. Ricker graduated from Mount Ayr Community Schools in 1975, where he played on two state tournament basketball teams in 1973 and 1975. He earned his degrees from the University of Iowa and the Iowa College of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences. After interning and practicing medicine in Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Ricker returned to Mount Ayr in 1997. He practices medicine at the Mount Ayr Medical Clinic and serves as the Medical Examiner for Ringgold County, Medical Director for HCI Hospice Care Services, as well as for Clearview Home and Mount Ayr Health Care Center. In 2003, Dr. Ricker was named Physician of the Year by the Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association and was presented the Spirit of Hospice Award by the Iowa Hospice Association.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ricker's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dr. Ricker for his achievements and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING GARY ELLIS

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Gary Ellis. Mr. Ellis is retiring from medical technology leader Medtronic this month after 27 years of service, including 11 years as the company's chief financial officer.

Mr. Ellis's leadership and vision dramatically contributed to Medtronic's financial well-being

and the well-being of thousands of Medtronic employees. During his tenure with the company, Medtronic's revenue increased from \$837 million in 1989 to \$28.8 billion in 2016, a 34 times increase. Importantly, he helped oversee the growth of the company from approximately 7,000 employees in 1989 to more than 88,000 employees today. Mr. Ellis is known for his sound advice, mentorship and positive outlook, and has provided honest and insightful counsel to the Medtronic Board of Directors, the chief executive officer, his peers and his team.

Importantly, as part of Medtronic's Mission to alleviate pain, restore health and extend life for people around the world, the company's impact on people's lives grew exponentially during Mr. Ellis's leadership. In 2005, when Mr. Ellis became chief financial officer, the company proudly improved the life of someone every 6 seconds. Today, as a result of strong leadership, growth and innovation, Medtronic technology improves the lives of two people every single second, or more than 65 million people per year.

In addition, Mr. Ellis has demonstrated his commitment and passion for community through philanthropic activities and Board service, including service as Chairman of the American Heart Association Board in 2007 through 2008, as well as dedicated service on the boards of the Greater Twin Cities United Way and the Science Museum of Minnesota. He has also played an active leadership role and contributed many years of Board service to his local church.

Prior to joining Medtronic in 1989, Mr. Ellis was a senior audit manager for Price Waterhouse, where, in addition to several other responsibilities, he managed the Medtronic audit for nearly 10 years. He worked with several large corporate organizations, as well as providing audit services to numerous non-profit organizations.

Mr. Ellis grew up on a farm in Sac City, Iowa, and originally aspired to be a math teacher. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in 1978 from the University of South Dakota. Above all, Mr. Ellis is a family man, who cherishes spending time at the lake with his wife, Sue, their two children, and five grandchildren. Though his leadership will be sincerely missed, I wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for everything he has done within the business community and within the Twin Cities community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 593 on final passage of H.R. 6393, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

ROUGH RIDGE AND ROCK MOUNTAIN FOREST FIRES

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires that have recently impacted Northeast Georgia.

Over the past few months, my district has experienced a severe drought that at one point led to a rainfall deficit of more than a foot and especially affected thousands of farmers in Northeast Georgia.

This October, I had the opportunity to learn more about the drought's repercussions from the Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, Gary Black, and about 40 local farmers who have struggled with the historic drought.

Unfortunately, the effects of the drought went beyond affecting our farmers, and, as wildfires continued to burn in Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain, I was deeply concerned.

In fact, the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have each affected over 20,000 acres of land in Northeast Georgia.

Today, I am grateful to report that the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have been 95 percent contained. I would like to thank the firefighters, police, emergency management and medical teams, and many others who have worked long hours at demanding jobs to ensure the security and safety of the public during this uncertain time.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward, in the near future, to sharing the good news that the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have been completely contained.

IN RECOGNITION OF PACTV

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of PACTV's 20th anniversary. PACTV is a non-profit public access television station that operates six channels whose content is available to over 35,000 households in Duxbury, Kingston, Pembroke and Plymouth, Massachusetts.

This community-based television station, first established in 1996 by the cable committee and selectmen in Plymouth, was founded with the idea that community television programming could be vastly improved. Over the past 20 years, PACTV has flourished and benefitted the communities it serves. PACTV has provided a state-of-the-art community multimedia facility and encourages citizens to participate in the democratic process by providing access to local government coverage and programming. Further, PACTV provides video production classes, has meeting spaces and an art gallery open to the public and helps local non-profits and community service providers to organize and promote events.

Over the years, PACTV has accumulated a highly qualified staff that is constantly working with the community and a dedicated board of directors from both industry and non-profit organizations to bring greater quality program-

ming to the Commonwealth. To this day, PACTV continues in the fine tradition of community access television providing a first amendment forum undiluted by commercial considerations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor PACTV on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing PACTV continued success in providing high quality television programming.

HONORING DEBORAH HUNT

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Deborah Hunt. With her retirement approaching, she will soon close out over twenty years of incredible service to her community and begin the next chapter of her life.

Deborah has fulfilled her duties with dedication and innovation. Her commitment to public service started in 1994 when she served as Justice of the Peace in Williamson County. Through the years, she continued to serve her community through various public positions, including her appointment to the Board of Tax Professional Examiners by Former Governor George Bush and later appointed Chair of the Board by Former Governor Rick Perry.

Deborah is well known throughout the state for paving the way to modernize her department. She led the implementation of on-line payments and simplification of tax collections. Her office has served as a test site for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to pilot upgrades and new systems. Deborah's leadership in this arena has made a real difference in the lives of Texans.

Deborah's commitment to service and the highest standard of excellence has not gone unnoticed. Recognized by her colleagues for her devotion and hard work, she has achieved a long list of accolades, including Person of the Year as well as the Earl Luna Award, and the Marilyn Albert Achievement, the highest honor recognized by the Texas Association of Assessing Officers.

Deborah Hunt's extraordinary commitment to service reflects the best values of Central Texas. There's no doubt that Williamson County is a better place because of her. I heartily salute her work and wish her the best of luck in all her new endeavors.

12TH ANNUAL OHIO STATEWIDE TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Rosa Parks, "the Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement."

On December 1st, we marked the 61st anniversary of Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery City Bus.

Her defiance sparked the peaceful 381-day Montgomery bus boycott, leading to the desegregation of our Nation's public transportation system.

Rosa Parks, though small in stature, embodies the enormous impact one person can make.

In recognition, 50 years later in 2005, as a member of the Ohio General Assembly, I spearheaded a bill to designate December 1st Rosa Parks Day, making Ohio the first State in the Nation to do so.

This year marks the 12th annual tribute to Rosa Parks and I look forward to joining all Ohioans in celebration tomorrow on December 8th.

In that spirit, today and every day, let us be inspired by Rosa Parks and never forget that one person can ignite change.

RECOGNIZING MS. DEEDEE
CHOWDHURY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. DeeDee Chowdhury on her selection as a recipient of the KinderCare Education Legacy Award.

KinderCare Education is the largest private early childhood education provider in the US, and plays a critical role in preparing young children for school. KinderCare Education serves 150,000 children in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Approximately 23 percent of their children are infants and toddlers. For over 40 years, KinderCare Learning Centers have been a place where every child can learn, explore, and discover in a safe and nurturing environment in more than 1,400 community-based centers. KinderCare leads the nation in accredited centers and is passionate about providing children a sense of discovery while preparing them for success in school and beyond.

Every year, KinderCare recognizes a select few teachers by naming them recipients of its Legacy Awards. This year, one of the honorees is my constituent: Ms. DeeDee Chowdhury. Ms. Chowdhury is an educator at the Silverbrook KinderCare Learning Center located in Lorton, Virginia. As a result of winning this prestigious award, Ms. Chowdhury will receive a \$10,000.00 prize and will also travel to the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Annual Conference.

Ms. Chowdhury is dedicated to educating the youngest members of our society. Early education has been proven to directly impact future academic performance as well as economic opportunities for children who have enrolled in Pre-K programs. Through her commitment and efforts, she is helping to ensure the future success of not only her students but of our community. As a parent and former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I understand that how the success of our communities is largely dependent upon the quality of our local schools, and that the quality of our schools is inextricably linked to the professionalism and expertise of their teachers.

I have always considered public service to be one of the most noble of professions and the services provided by our educators are no exception. I commend Ms. Chowdhury for her

service to our children and the Northern Virginia community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on receiving a 2016 Legacy Award and wishing her great success in all future endeavors.

PAMELA GOFF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Pamela Goff for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Pamela Goff has been President and CEO of PG Construction Services, Inc. for more than 21 years. She is known for her strong community engagement, willingness to jump right in, and her ability to plan and execute major projects. Pam obtained her Bachelor's degree in Accounting from CU Denver and completed her graduate course work in Management Accounting. She has maintained a CPA license for more than 30 years and also holds a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) certification.

Pam currently serves on the Board of Directors and on the Finance Committee for LocalWorks in Wheat Ridge, and has been involved in numerous other committees to support small businesses and the larger community. Pam was one of the founding members of the Wheat Ridge Business Association (formerly Enterprise Wheat Ridge) and served as the past president for four years. Pam has been recognized as a recipient of the 'CPAs Who Make a Difference' Award and has served as the Grande Parade Marshall for the Annual Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pamela Goff for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE
CHIEF STEPHAN M. HUDSON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of Prince William County Police Chief Stephan M. Hudson and to congratulate him on his retirement following 34-years of dedicated service to county residents.

Founded on July 1, 1970, the Prince William County Police Department serves as the primary form of law enforcement for the county and the towns of Dumfries, Occoquan, Haymarket, and Quantico. At the time of its founding, the Department had a staff of 52, which included police officers, commanders, dispatchers, and secretaries, and an operating budget of \$750,000. Today, the Department has grown to more than 845 individuals with

an FY16 annual operating budget of \$96.6 million. Over his three-year tenure as the head of the department, Chief Hudson has increased the number of sworn officers and increased the budget by over \$20 million to better serve the growing community.

In 2013, Stephan M. Hudson was sworn in as the third police chief of the Prince William County Police Department. Since his installation, Chief Hudson has stressed the importance of creating a diverse police force reflective of Prince William County's minority-majority makeup. Police Chief Hudson has also made increased police contact and transparency with Prince William County residents one of his top priorities. In his short tenure, Chief Hudson has done just that. The Police Department has achieved a 93 percent satisfaction rate in the community and has made significant strides to increase diversity in the police force, including in leadership positions. In the past three years, the department has promoted its first ethnic minority and first female assistant chiefs. As a strong advocate for police accountability, Chief Hudson successfully lobbied the Board of County Supervisors to equip 500 of the department's officers with body cameras. Later this year, the Prince William County Police Department will become the largest municipality with officers to don the device and utilize the technology in the Commonwealth. To preserve the quality of police services, the Department continues to work on three capital improvement programs: the Central District Station, the Animal Control Facility, and the Public Safety Training Center Rifle Range.

Chief Hudson is not only admired by the police department's rank and file but by county residents for his strong personal ties to the community. While his childhood was spent in Boston, Massachusetts, Hudson graduated from Gar-Field High School and has resided in the county ever since. As a proud resident of Prince William County for the past 40 years, Chief Hudson and his family are actively engaged in the community. His wife Roxana is the current principal at Belmont Elementary School. Together, Chief Hudson and his wife have two children and three grandchildren who were all born and raised in Prince William County. Devoted to his faith, Chief Hudson and his family worship at McLean Bible Church where they travel twice a year to participate in mission trips to rural Kenyan villages.

Over the span of his career with the Prince William County Police Department, Chief Hudson has displayed the true meaning of civil service through his commitment to the rule of law while maintaining professionalism and diligence in serving the community. His values have endured the test of time and shaped the present culture of our Police Department. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the 34-year career of Chief Stephan M. Hudson with the Prince William County Police Department and in thanking him for his tireless service to our community. As a fearless leader, Chief Hudson rose quickly through the ranks with the Department. I have full confidence he will do the same in all future endeavors. I wish Chief Stephan M. Hudson and his family continued happiness and success in all future ventures.

TRIBUTE TO MICHELL RICKER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Michell Ricker of Mount Ayr, Iowa, for being inducted into the Mount Ayr Community Schools Hall of Fame.

Michell, a 1975 graduate of Mount Ayr Community Schools, is a licensed social worker. Upon her return to Mount Ayr after college, she was employed by Ringgold County Public Health and served as a well-known community leader and advocate. She is an avid volunteer, holding a number of positions on community and state boards, including South Central Iowa Community Fund, Ringgold County Teen

Center, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Iowa chapter of International Cooperating Ministries. In 2014 she was also awarded a Governors Volunteer Award for her outstanding commitment to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, Michell's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her for this recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

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 commit-

tees, 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 Thursday, December 8, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 34, Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act (the legislative vehicle for 21st Century Cures Act).

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6765–S6847

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3511–3519, S. Res. 632, and S. Con. Res. 58. **Pages S6840–41**

Measures Reported:

S. 425, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–395)

H.R. 1150, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

H.R. 2845, to promote access to benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, with an amendment.

H.R. 4481, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

H.R. 4939, to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

H. Con. Res. 40, encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families.

S. Res. 535, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 537, expressing profound concern about the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, urging the release of political prisoners, and calling for respect of constitutional and democratic processes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. 8, to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

S. 1182, to exempt application of JSA attribution rule in case of existing agreements.

S. 2658, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2016 through 2017, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. Con. Res. 30, expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon.

S. Con. Res. 57, honoring in praise and remembrance the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. **Page S6839**

Conference Reports:

National Defense Authorization Act—Conference Report: Senate resumed consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 2943, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military

construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Pages S6795–S6826**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 92 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 158), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the conference report to accompany the bill. **Page S6795**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 8, 2016; and that all post-cloture time on the conference report to accompany the bill expire at 12:30 p.m. **Page S6845**

House Messages:

Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act: By 94 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No. 157), Senate concurred in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 34, to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, after taking action on the following motion and amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S6769–95**

Rejected:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 5117, to change the enactment date. (Senate tabled the motion to concur.) **Pages S6769, S6794**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

McConnell Amendment No. 5118 (to Amendment No. 5117), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 5117 fell. **Page S6769**

Executive Reports of Committees: Senate received the following executive report of a committee:

Report to accompany Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro (Treaty Doc. 114–12) (Ex. Rept. 114–16). **Page S6840**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

46 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

94 Army nominations in the rank of general.

4 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, and Navy.

Pages S6843–45, S6846–47

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Ann Begeman, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2020. **Page S6846**

Messages from the House: **Page S6838**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S6839**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S6839**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S6839–40**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6841–42**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S6842**

Additional Statements: **Page S6838**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S6842–43**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—158) **Page S6795**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 8:24 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2016. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6845.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Ann Begeman, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security concluded a hearing to examine assessing the security of our critical surface transportation infrastructure, after receiving testimony from John Roth, Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; Neil Trugman, Interim Chief, Amtrak Police Department; Thomas Belfiore, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New York; Chris Spear, American Trucking Associations, Inc., Washington, D.C.; and Anthony Straquadine, Jr., Alliance Pipeline Inc., Eden Prairie, Minnesota, on behalf of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: On Tuesday, December 6, 2016, Committee ordered favorably reported H. Con. Res. 40, encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families.

LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM FOR TRIBAL NATIONS

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, four years later, after receiving testimony from Michael L. Connor, Deputy Secretary of the Interior; Floyd Azure, Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, Poplar, Montana; Terry Tatsey, Blackfeet Nation, Browning, Montana; Turk Cobell, Cobell Board of Trustees, Lubbock, Texas; and Melvin E. Monette-Barajas, Indigenous Education, Inc., Albuquerque, New Mexico.

AT&T-TIME WARNER TRANSACTION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine the competitive impact of the AT&T-Time Warner transaction, after receiving testimony from Randall Stephenson, AT&T Inc., and Mark Cuban, both of Dallas, Texas; Jeff Bewkes, Time Warner Inc., New York, New York; Gene Kimmelman, Public Knowledge, Washington, D.C.; and Daphna E. Ziman, Cinemoi, Los Angeles, California.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 29 public bills, H.R. 6447–6475; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 180–182; and H. Res. 948, 950, were introduced. **Pages H7396–97**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7398–99**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3764, to provide that an Indian group may receive Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe only by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–847);

Final Report of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi (H. Rept. 114–848); and

H. Res. 949, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 612) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse” (H. Rept. 114–849). **Page H7396**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Neugebauer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7273**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:38 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H7285**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act: H.R. 329, amended, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources; **Pages H7292–97**

Revising the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey: H.R. 6400, to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey; **Pages H7297–98**

Chicano Park Preservation Act: H.R. 3711, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California;

Authorizing the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs: H.R.

6435, to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Pages H7202–03

Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016: H.R. 5099, amended, to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Pages H7303–06

To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act: H.R. 6076, amended, to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of astronauts, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 413 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 614;

Pages H7306–10, H7324–25

National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2016: S. 2971, amended, to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 405 yeas to 7 nays, Roll No. 615;

Pages H7310–12, H7325–26

Federal Bureau of Investigation Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2016: H.R. 5790, amended, to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 404 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 616;

Pages H7312–13, H7326

Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act: H.R. 4298, to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era;

Pages H7328–30

Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016: H.R. 6130, to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis;

Pages H7330–33

Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016: H.R. 6431, to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives; and

Pages H7340–43

Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016: S. 2854, amended, to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

Pages H7343–46

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Tuesday, December 6th:

Arbuckle Project Maintenance Complex and District Office Conveyance Act of 2016: H.R. 1219, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Arbuckle Project, Oklahoma, to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 412 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 611; and

Page H7301

Daniel J. Evans Olympic National Park Wilderness Act: S. 3028, to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 401 yeas to 8 nays with 2 answering “present”, Roll No. 612.

Pages H7301–02

Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016: The House passed H.R. 5143, to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, by a yea-and-nay vote of 239 yeas to 170 nays, Roll No. 613.

Pages H7313–24

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–68 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill.

Pages H7313–14

Agreed to:

DeSantis amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 114–846) that adds an additional requirement that the international agreement must be written in plain writing, as defined by the Plain Writing Act of 2010.

Page H7324

H. Res. 944, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5143) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 232 yeas to 180 noes, Roll No. 610, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 231 yeas to 178 nays, Roll No. 609.

Pages H7288–92, H7299–H7301

Better Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass S. 3183, to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event.

Pages H7326–27

Directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a certain correction in the enrollment of S. 1635: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 181, directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a certain correction in the enrollment of S. 1635.

Pages H7327–28

Requiring a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass S. 1632, to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram. **Page H7328**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, December 8. **Page H7328**

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Communication: Read a letter from Chairman Shuster wherein he transmitted copies of resolutions to authorize four lease prospectuses and two construction projects, included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs. The resolutions were adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on December 7, 2016. **Pages H7346–85**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016: H.R. 4919, amended, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism. **Pages H7333–40**

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate today and message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H7292, H7312.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Seven yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7299–H7300, H7300–01, H7301, H7301–02, H7324, H7324–25, H7325–26, and H7326. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Committee Meetings

1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS: RECRUITMENT CHALLENGES AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "1890 Land-Grant Institutions: Recruitment Challenges and Scholarship Opportunities". Testimony was heard from Representatives David Scott of Georgia; Cleaver; and Cramer; and public witnesses.

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD BONUS REPAYMENT ISSUE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled "California National Guard Bonus Repayment Issue". Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Timothy J. Kadavy, U.S. Army, Director, Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau; Major General David S. Baldwin, U.S. Army, Adjutant General, California National Guard; Peter Levine, performing the duties of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense; Alissa M. Starzak, General Counsel, Department of the Army; and Teresa (Terri) A. McKay, Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

WASTE AND DUPLICATION IN THE USDA CATFISH INSPECTION PROGRAM

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Waste and Duplication in the USDA Catfish Inspection Program". Testimony was heard from William Jones, Deputy Director, Office of Food Safety, Food and Drug Administration; Steve Morris, Acting Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

UNCONVENTIONAL MONETARY POLICY

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing entitled "Unconventional Monetary Policy". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CORRUPTION: A DANGER TO DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE AND EURASIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a hearing entitled "Corruption: A Danger to Democracy in Europe and Eurasia". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE COSTS OF OVERCLASSIFICATION ON TRANSPARENCY AND SECURITY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Examining the Costs of Overclassification on Transparency and Security". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TIME AND ATTENDANCE ABUSE AT THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled "Time and Attendance Abuse at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office". Testimony was heard from Russell Slifer, Deputy Under Secretary of

Commerce for Intellectual Property, Deputy Director, Patent and Trademark Office; David Smith, Acting Deputy Inspector General, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

SENATE BILL TO DESIGNATE THE FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 1300 VICTORIA STREET IN LAREDO, TEXAS, AS THE “GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE”; SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; and Senate amendment to H.R. 2028, the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016”. The committee granted, by record vote of 6–2, a rule that provides for the consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2028. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2028 with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–70 modified by the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. Additionally, the rule grants a closed rule for S. 612. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–69 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Shuster, Chairman Bishop of Utah, Chairman Upton, Chairman Rogers of Kentucky,

and Representatives Doyle of Pennsylvania, and Lowey.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions. The General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions passed, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

BALTIC SECURITY

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on Baltic security after the Warsaw NATO summit from Michael Johnson, RAND Corporation, Arlington, Virginia; Magnus Nordenman, Atlantic Council of the United States Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, Washington, D.C.; and Karl Altau, Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc., Rockville, Maryland.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 8, 2016**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development, to hold hearings to examine State Department and United States Agency for International Development management challenges and opportunities for the next administration, 10:15 a.m., SD–419.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Oversight Review of the U.S. Navy’s Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Program”, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled “Mixed Martial Arts: Issues and Perspectives”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled “The Impact of Regulations on Short-Term Financing”, 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “DATA Act Implementation Check-In”, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 8

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, December 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 2943, National Defense Authorization Act, post-cloture, and vote on the conference report to accompany the bill at 12:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2028—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of S. 612—To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse” (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of measures under suspension of the rules.

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