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No. 179

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 4, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAKE LATURNER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, 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 time equally allocated between the parties 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.

HARDWORKING PENNSYLVANIA ENTREPRENEURS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hardworking entrepreneurs of Pennsylvania in celebration of Small Business Saturday.

Small businesses across our Nation are the backbone of our economy and the heart of our communities. Now, more than ever, they need our support.

For small business owners, their shops are more than just a business, it is an extension of who they are.

When you think about the places that give our neighborhoods their unique character, we think about the coffee shop on the corner, the boutique where you find the perfect gift, or the family-owned diner that feels like home.

Small Business Saturday is about recognizing the value of our small businesses and showing them the support that they deeply deserve. Since its inception in 2010, the total reported U.S. spending on small businesses during Small Business Saturday is an estimated \$201 billion according to data from the Small Business Administration.

SBA's data for 2023 shows the reported projected spending in the United States from those who shopped at small businesses on Small Business Saturday fell to around \$17 billion. This support is crucial to small businesses across the Nation and in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Small businesses play a vital role in Pennsylvania's economy. Pennsylvania is home to 1.1 million small businesses that employ 2.5 million individuals, about half of the State's private workforce.

Behind every small business is a story. It is a story of risk and resilience, of people who took a leap of faith to turn their dreams into reality, and of neighbors who refuse to give up even when the times are tough.

Small Business Saturday isn't just about shopping. It is about appreciation. It is about recognizing that when we support small businesses, we invest in the people who invest in the United States and invest in us.

It is about thanking those who contribute so much to our communities. Our entrepreneurs are leaders. They support our schools, sponsor sports teams, and give us spaces to gather, connect, and grow.

As we progress in this season of gratitude and giving, let's pause and choose small. Whether it is picking up a holiday gift from a local shop, dining at a family-owned restaurant, or simply spreading the word about a business you love, every action counts.

Mr. Speaker, supporting the local businesses within our communities not only keeps those businesses alive, but it also keeps the communities they serve thriving for generations to come.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ROSA PARKS

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy of an American heroine, Mrs. Rosa Parks, as we observe the 69th anniversary of her historic arrest in Montgomery, Alabama.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks took a bold stand against segregation by refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus. Her quiet, dignified courage sparked the beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and galvanized a movement that changed the very fabric of this Nation.

Beginning on December 5, and continuing for the next 13 months, African Americans in Montgomery, Alabama, brought the city's bus system to a screeching halt. Their efforts were successful, resulting in the November 1956 Supreme Court decision outlawing racial segregation on public buses.

The changemakers who staged the Montgomery Bus Boycott are a testament to the will of a disenfranchised people to take control of their own destiny, and their success quickly became the global model for nonviolent human rights advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, 69 years later, as the benefactors of their sacrifices, we remain indebted to them for laying the foundation of the continued struggle

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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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for liberty and justice for all. That is why today, I am proud to be leading the effort in Congress to designate December 1 as Rosa Parks Day to commemorate her historic arrest.

H.R. 308, the Rosa Parks Day Act, was the very first bill that I introduced in the 118th Congress, along with my colleagues, Chairman of the CBC, STEVEN HORSFORD of Nevada, and Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY of Ohio.

It will help ensure that Rosa Parks' brave sacrifice is never forgotten, and it will remind us of the power of ordinary Americans to achieve extraordinary social change.

Moreover, it will become the first Federal holiday in our Nation's history to honor a Black woman. Rosa Parks is a true American hero. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999, and even became the first woman to ever lie in state at the U.S. Capitol rotunda.

Her lifelong work in the fight for equality and justice still resonates today. There is no more befitting figure in our Nation's history to honor with a new Federal holiday.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 308, the Rosa Parks Day Act.

HONORING COLLIERVILLE MAYOR STAN JOYNER

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong west Tennesseean, a dedicated public servant, and, frankly, just a good friend, Collierville Mayor Stan Joyner.

Stan Joyner, after 25 years of exemplary public service, has decided to retire from public service and pass the torch. Stan Joyner's roots run wide and deep in Shelby County. Born and raised in Collierville, Tennessee, Stan attended and played football at Collierville High School, and still to this day, you can find him in the stands cheering on his alma mater.

Stan Joyner was elected as a Collierville alderman in 1999. In 2008, Stan Joyner was elected as the town's mayor. One of Stan Joyner's significant achievements as mayor was establishing a municipal school system for Collierville. Stan led his community through the formation and the development of the Collierville Schools system, the election of the first Collierville school board, and the hiring of a Collierville Schools superintendent.

In my opinion, the creation of the Collierville Schools system is one of the primary reasons that Collierville is such a desirable place to live in Tennessee. Without a doubt, Stan has worked diligently to ensure that every child in Collierville has access to an education that prepares them for success.

Stan Joyner has also long understood that people choose where to live based

on the quality of life that they are going to experience. Now, obviously, this depends on the strength of the local schools, which I just talked about, the vibrancy of the community, and the opportunities for economic growth.

Under the mayor's leadership, Collierville has seen a boom in local business development, as well as economic expansion. Stan's deep knowledge of Collierville's past, his commitment to the future, and his ability to listen and advise his colleagues make him a trusted leader.

While I was working on these remarks, Mr. Speaker, I called my good friend, Wright Cox, who is also the Chairman of the Collierville school board, about how he would sum up Stan Joyner's tenure in Collierville. This is what Wright Cox told me: Stan led from the front. He always advocated for Collierville. Most importantly, he always fought for the needs of Collierville. In my opinion, Stan filled the job description flawlessly as mayor of Collierville.

I think Wright Cox summed it up perfectly.

Beyond his work in the public sphere, Mayor Joyner is a man of deep faith and personal integrity. His strong spirit has guided him as a Sunday school teacher in his community.

Stan's dedication to his family is equally strong. He and his wife, Linda, have been married for over 48 years. Together, they have three children and are the grandparents of eight grandchildren.

As he steps down after a distinguished public service career on December 18, in about 2 weeks, Collierville is certainly a better place to live because of Stan Joyner's service.

Roberta and I congratulate Stan and Linda on a job well done. We all wish them the very best in the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB" MYLES HERTZBERG

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong community leader, a relentless advocate, an effective elected official, a mentor, and a genuine good friend. I rise to honor and celebrate the contributions of Robert "Bob" Myles Hertzberg.

Bob Hertzberg has dedicated decades of service to the good people of the San Fernando Valley, the city of Los Angeles, and the great State of California.

For those who know him best, they would describe Bob as a force of nature, a fearless champion for good. One of Harrison Hertzberg's five sons, Bob was born in the city of Los Angeles and grew up in Benedict Canyon on the city's west side.

His family would later move eastward to California's desert town of

Palm Springs, where Bob graduated from Palm Springs High School. Bob Hertzberg got a taste of the political bug very early on in life. His first job in politics was at the age of 19 where he served as a driver for then State Senator Mervyn Dymally, who would later become California's Lieutenant Governor in 1974.

The young Bob Hertzberg forged relationships and supported many of the up-and-coming Latino leaders on the east side of Los Angeles, people like Gloria Molina, Xavier Becerra, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Antonio Villaraigosa, and many other Latino leaders.

In 1978, Bob graduated magna cum laude from the University of Redlands with a bachelor of arts degree in history and English. Choosing to follow his father's career path, Bob earned his juris doctorate from the University of California, Hastings College of Law in the 1979.

After graduating law school, he spent some formidable years working as an associate at a prestigious law firm and later would join his father, Harrison, to form the Hertzberg & Hertzberg law firm.

In 1996, Bob Hertzberg ran for the California State Assembly and won that election in the 40th District in the San Fernando Valley.

Bob and I were elected in 1996 and became colleagues. Bob and I represented neighboring districts and had worked together on common regional goals. Bob and I ran for California State Assembly speaker, and Bob won that election, handily by the way. On April 30, 2000, he was unanimously elected by a voice vote as the 64th speaker of the California State Assembly.

In the aftermath of the speaker election, instead of holding a grudge toward me, I witnessed firsthand the character of Bob Hertzberg. Much to my surprise at the time, Speaker Hertzberg insisted that I serve on the powerful and coveted position as chairman of the budget committee. Who does that? That is the character of Bob Hertzberg.

Bob was able to be an effective speaker. He modernized the institution. He made sure the budget of California reflected our values. He prioritized healthcare for children and seniors.

He allocated resources for the modernization of California's public education systems, and he delivered on transportation projects and increased parks and recreation spaces across the State, essentially transforming and improving lives of millions of Californians for generations to come.

Bob Hertzberg served the full limit of three terms in the California State Assembly. After his tenure as speaker, Hertzberg set out to be a clean energy entrepreneur. Bob helped create one of the first solar manufacturing companies in Los Angeles and co-launched a company that produced inexpensive, lightweight solar panels for use around the world.

In recognition of his clean energy efforts in Rwanda, he received the World

Bank Award for Lighting Africa and the United Kingdom-based Guardian Magazine named him one of the “50 People Who Could Save the Planet.”

□ 1015

In 2014, Bob returned to elected office when he was again elected to represent nearly a million people in the San Fernando Valley in the California State Senate.

Throughout Bob’s 14 years in the State legislature, Bob Hertzberg has always been a champion for the communities he represented in the San Fernando Valley, and he was named One of the Most Influential People in Southern California by our hometown paper, the Los Angeles Times. Bob was always committed to delivering results for the San Fernando Valley and beyond.

During his tenure in the California State Senate, Bob Hertzberg served as majority leader from January 2019 to January 2022.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Hertzberg is a one-of-a-kind, exceptional person, and on behalf of my constituents, the great people of California’s 29th Congressional District, I thank him for his many years of public service and for delivering time and time again for the people of Los Angeles and the people of California and by touching the world in the most positive way. Once again, I thank my friend.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL NUDO

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Michael Nudo, for his dedication and service to the constituents of Arizona’s Eighth Congressional District.

Michael Nudo is a U.S. Army veteran who served for 8 years and attained the rank of specialist. He joined my staff first as a caseworker in my district office before coming to Washington, D.C., to serve as a legislative assistant.

Throughout his time in my office, Michael has shown his dedication to the constituents of our district and to me, first by expertly navigating their issues with Federal agencies and now by finding legislative solutions to pressing problems in our community.

His commitment and strong work ethic were on display throughout his tenure, and I have no doubt he will bring the same to all of his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Michael for his leadership and service to me and the Eighth Congressional District. His dedication and determination were critical to the success of our office and improved the lives of those living in our district.

RECOGNIZING TIM O’NEILL

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Tim O’Neill, for his dedication and service to me and the constituents of Arizona’s Eighth Congressional District.

A native of Maine, Tim joined my staff as a legislative assistant and has been a key member of our team, handling important issues like immigration, COVID, and healthcare throughout the 118th Congress.

Tim is a steadfast conservative who is always ready to join the fight for the values that make our Nation great. His hard work and commitment to serving our district and Nation were assets as we navigated complicated challenges.

As I leave Congress, I have no doubt Tim will go on to do great things as he continues his public service. I wish Tim nothing but the best in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ASHTYN ROULAND

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Ashtyn Rouland, for her dedication and service to me and the constituents of Arizona’s Eighth Congressional District.

Ashtyn joined my staff as my press assistant. In this role, she ensured that our constituents were up to date with all that was happening in our offices, both in Arizona and Washington, D.C., through our weekly newsletter and frequent social media posts.

As Members of Congress, we know the importance of communicating our work to our constituents, and communication staffers are essential to this endeavor.

I thank Ashtyn for her work and dedication to our team.

As I leave Congress, I have no doubt Ashtyn will go on to do great things. I wish her nothing but the best in all of her future endeavors. I appreciate my staff greatly.

RECOGNIZING TANIA BARRICKLO

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

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the photographer Tania Barricklo on her retirement from our local hometown newspaper, the newspaper I read growing up as a child, the Daily Freeman, where her truly breathtaking work brought the pages to life for 25 years.

Tania has a wondrous ability to distill the essence of the Hudson Valley into every frame. In a single image, she captures entire motions and emotions that transport viewers back to the original scene itself.

Through her work, she has immortalized moments big and small, from documenting high-profile events that will go down in our community’s history books to preserving the game-winning shot for the local high school athletes to hold dear for the rest of their lives.

Tania is a staple in our community, an unwavering and reliable presence.

She and her photographs will be forever intertwined with Kingston and Ulster County’s history, and I thank her personally and on behalf of our entire community for her invaluable con-

tributions to the lives of Kingstonians’ past, present, and future.

I wish her the absolute best in her retirement and hope to see her very soon on the streets of our great community.

THANKING JOHN LIPSCOMB

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank a true pillar of the Hudson Valley community, John Lipscomb, for his decades of fierce advocacy for our environment and cherished Hudson River, as he retires from his role as Riverkeeper’s vice president of advocacy and chief patrol boat captain.

John has been sailing the Hudson River since his childhood, and his dedication to its care and rehabilitation runs deeper than the depths of the river itself.

Throughout his career, John has sailed infinite miles on that river, taken thousands of water samples to inform and advance cleanup efforts, and, through his work on documentaries, has introduced thousands of others near and far to what we know in the Hudson Valley about our river. It is of vital importance, and we have an obligation to its keeping and preservation for future generations.

I wish John the absolute best. He is more than deserving of a restful retirement, but I don’t expect to see him sitting back anytime soon. I am heartened knowing that his passion will not fade, and the Hudson River will continue to see him going up and down its shores.

HONORING MARTHA STREVER

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor New York State’s longest serving teacher, the inspiring Martha Strever, now in her 64th year teaching math to middle school students in the Hudson Valley.

Martha is the teacher every parent wants for their child. She is rooted solely in uplifting the lives of students and empowering them through limitless learning.

Born and raised in Hyde Park, she brought her zeal for teaching to the Red Hook Central School District in 1961 and hasn’t slowed down for a minute since.

Her impact knows no bounds. She has molded thousands of students—in some cases, three generations of students from the same family—into high-achieving academics and exemplary Hudson Valley citizens, who have in turn passed the lessons from their beloved Ms. Strever on to countless others.

In fact, 30 years ago, she taught a young woman in her math class who is now the principal of that school and actually her boss.

Martha Strever is a true treasure of the Hudson Valley, and I thank her for her profound service to our community for 63 years past and for more to come. She says she has no plans to leave the classroom anytime soon.

CONGRATULATING KIWANIS CLUB OF WAYNESBORO ON ITS CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro as they celebrate their centennial.

For 100 years, the Waynesboro Kiwanians have shown a deep commitment to children in our community. In the 1930s, they sponsored a clinic for children in need. During the 1950s, they acquired a campsite that hosted many summer activities for local youth, including scouting and 4-H clubs.

Today, with 53 members, the Kiwanis Club actively promotes childhood literacy by providing books to public schools, hosting eight Little Free Libraries, and building a library at the Boys & Girls Clubs. They also host an annual Halloween event that brings together over 3,000 families for a safe celebration.

In addition, the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro invests approximately \$45,000 each year into our community through grants, scholarships, and donations to nonprofits.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro on this remarkable 100-year milestone. Their dedication truly makes our community a better place.

CONGRATULATING SIGNAL KNOB MIDDLE SCHOOL
FFA

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Signal Knob Middle School Future Farmers of America chapter for winning the national Middle School Model of Excellence award at the 97th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis. The national Middle School Model of Excellence award is given to a chapter that displays the ability to grow leaders, build communities, and strengthen agriculture.

The chapter is led by a Signal Knob teacher and FFA adviser Dakota Stroud, who said he is “ecstatic to have our chapter recognized for [the members’] hard work through the school year in creating and executing events and activities that benefit our students, school, and community.”

Students Piper Dellinger and Emily Hamrick, who are now freshmen at Strasburg High School, represented Signal Knob’s FFA chapter and led the presentation. They spoke on the many activities and events that the Signal Knob FFA chapter participated in during the 2023–2024 school year.

I again congratulate the Signal Knob Middle School FFA chapter for excelling in the areas of agriculture and leadership and making the Shenandoah Valley proud. I wish the entire chapter the best of luck in future endeavors.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY CLUB OF WAYNESBORO

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the Rotary Club of Waynesboro

as they approach their centennial. Chartered in December 1924, the Waynesboro Rotary Club has dedicated nearly 100 years to service.

They have consistently met over lunch on Tuesdays and have fostered a commitment to the community through the Four-Way Test, ensuring their initiatives are fair, beneficial, and rooted in truth.

The club has evolved since the first project of beautifying the grounds of the local library. They have helped individuals without homes, supported environmental efforts, and provided school supplies, often partnering with local organizations to maximize their impact.

To mark its 100th anniversary, the Rotary Club has teamed up with the Central Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth and Waynesboro Parks and Recreation to create a traffic playground for children to practice bike riding and learn about traffic safety. Many of these children may also have the opportunity to receive scholarships from the club, which have totaled over \$350,000.

I have no doubt the Rotary Club of Waynesboro will continue their vital service. Mr. Speaker, I commend them for their past century and wish them continued success in their efforts to prioritize service to others.

□ 1030

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 119TH CONGRESS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a critical moment in our Nation’s history.

The Biden-Harris administration’s policies have severely weakened our country, putting the American people at risk. From the disastrous withdrawal in Afghanistan, resulting in the loss of 13 servicemembers and arming the Taliban with our equipment, to compromising our allies’ energy security by waiving sanctions on Nord Stream 2, this administration has consistently failed the American people.

Allowing \$6 billion to flow to Iran, a state sponsor of terrorism, is both reckless and dangerous.

Simultaneously, we see China continuing its human rights abuses while our Nation grows increasingly dependent on its supply chains.

At home, we have seen a Chinese spy balloon surveil sensitive military sites, a border crisis that continues to spiral out of control, and a fentanyl epidemic devastating our communities.

Working with the incoming Trump administration, House Republicans are ready to lead. We will secure our borders, restore energy independence, and prioritize America in foreign policy. We will protect American jobs and combat the inflation that is squeezing hardworking families.

As we enter the 119th Congress, I look forward to working with my colleagues to reverse the damage done by the Biden-Harris administration and get our country back on track for the American people and our future.

HONORING THE LATE COLE WILLIAM SCHMIDTKNECHT

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Cole William Schmidtknecht. Born in 2001 in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Cole was a 22-year-old who, according to his parents, Bil and Shanon, did life on his own terms. Cole was known to them as Mr. Independent. As a toddler, he walked himself into kindergarten.

Bil and Shanon said that Cole always stood up for the little guy. Growing up, Cole had a love for gaming and enjoyed playing in video game tournaments. He had gained a following online on Twitch that he shared with many of his gaming friends. His mother, Shanon, said he had a lifelong curiosity for knowledge. Cole had an affinity for elephants due to their wisdom and kindness and had wanted a tattoo of one on his arm.

Cole had recently moved back to Appleton, Wisconsin, to live with his best friend.

In January of 2024, Cole went to the pharmacy to refill his steroid medication for his asthma, a medication he had taken for years.

A big 3 pharmacy benefit manager had increased the price of Cole’s daily asthma medication from around \$35 to over \$500. He was told that no generic drug would be covered by his insurance, and Cole was forced to choose between his medication and his rent. He chose to pay his rent.

Five days later, Cole suffered a severe asthma attack that led to cardiac arrest. On January 21, 2024, Cole passed away.

These pharmacy benefit managers are the middlemen of drug pricing. They are owned by Fortune 20 health insurance companies and are working for profit, not patients.

PBMs claim to negotiate on behalf of employers and patients to lower drug costs, but the Federal Trade Commission’s July investigation into PBM price gouging abuses showed the facts.

PBMs mark up the cost of drugs by thousands of percent above their acquisition cost and have captured \$300 billion from the U.S. healthcare system. They have invested none of that into research and development for new drugs.

PBMs influence what prescription drugs are available and what they cost by mandating patients receive expensive, brand-name drugs when cheaper, generic drugs are prescribed and are readily available.

Now their greed is on full display. At the July House Oversight and Accountability Committee hearing, I questioned big 3 PBM executives about these markups. I asked CVS Caremark President David Joyner, now CEO of CVS Health, why he was charging \$6,229 for a \$16 multiple sclerosis drug. This is a 38,000 percent markup for lifesaving

medication. He had no real answer to my questions.

It doesn't stop there. These exorbitant markups extend to drugs for leukemia, prostate cancer, kidney disease, and more.

At this hearing, I unveiled H.R. 9096, the bipartisan Pharmacists Fight Back Act with DIANA HARSHBARGER, a pharmacist. Pharmacists Fight Back will stop the most nefarious of PBM price gouging abuses.

PFB is the most muscular reform ever introduced at the Federal level. It will implement a transparent pharmacy reimbursement model using market-based pricing benchmarked to the national average drug acquisition cost. It will end patient exploitation in Federal healthcare plans and impose criminal violations for such behavior. No family should suffer the loss of a child from PBM greed.

Ahead of Thanksgiving, we reached our goal of 50 cosponsors to Pharmacists Fight Back, 25 Republicans and 25 Democrats. This is not a partisan issue.

Cole had his whole life ahead of him. Because Cole was forced to choose between paying his rent or shelling out hundreds of dollars to cover his medication out of pocket for a drug that did not need to be that expensive, his family is without their loved one. There is no justification for a family facing Thanksgiving without their child. Cole's death was preventable.

Since Cole's passing, Bil and Shanon, who are here today, have fought tirelessly for PBM reform. I am grateful for their presence today and that they have chosen to tell their story so no other parents experience this pain.

Cole's parents said that Cole walked his own path in life. He was known by his loved ones to have deep care and compassion for those whom he encountered.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my fellow Members to protect patients like Cole and his family and to sponsor H.R. 9096, the Pharmacists Fight Back Act. In honor of Cole Schmidtknecht, we will carry forward the fight to end the price gouging abuses of pharmacy benefit managers.

RECOGNIZING JANELLE JONES FOR MAKING OUR ROADS SAFER FOR CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible strength and resilience of Janelle Jones, a grieving mother who has turned her profound loss into a mission to protect others.

After the tragic loss of her beloved son, Makaili "Mak" James Evans, to a distracted driver, Janelle has shown extraordinary determination in advocating for pedestrian safety. Her courage is a testament to her strength and

a meaningful way of honoring Mak's memory.

Janelle's advocacy has brought much-needed attention to the importance of protecting our children by making our roads safer. Her efforts have led to enhanced pedestrian safety measures, including improvements at the same intersection where young Mak tragically lost his life. Her work serves as both a tribute to her son and a call to action for all of us.

As we remember Mak and others who have lost their lives on our roads, let us commit to honoring their memory by taking meaningful steps to prevent tragedies like this as we draw inspiration from mothers like Janelle.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in the world of sport, my favorite discipline has always been women's Olympic figure skating. I have to share I still remember way back in the 1990s when I was crestfallen and felt betrayed to see the sport reduced in stature after U.S. figure skating champion Nancy Kerrigan had physical harm perpetrated against her by an opponent on the U.S. team.

As a young woman, I was perplexed and shocked and, frankly, have never fully accommodated that horrific incident that tarnished the reputation and standing of the Olympics itself.

As a lifelong citizen of Ohio, the dean of Ohio's congressional delegation, and a grateful graduate of the University of Michigan, today, as well, I feel a deep sense of responsibility to speak out on a recent degradation of worth in Big Ten football.

I shuddered this past Saturday at the Michigan-Ohio State football game when after the game itself a fracas developed on the field with the largest viewing audience of the year. It should have been a moment of sterling sportsmanship and national pride. Instead, it devolved into adolescent chaos.

Ohio's and Michigan's traditional rivalry, and it is strong, should have elevated our Nation to its best. In past decades and generations it has.

The best among us in sport often rose to higher purpose in life. Gerald Ford, from Grands Rapids, Michigan, served as captain of the University of Michigan football team. He later became President of the United States.

Even earlier, during the difficult decades of World War II, Jesse Owens of Cleveland, Ohio, who had been the finest runner ever on the Ohio State track team, led America's Olympic team to Berlin, Germany. When he entered that stadium carrying our flag, fascist dictator Adolf Hitler, who was sitting in the stands, turned his back on Jesse Owens, the greatest male runner in American history.

It appears last weekend's lack of sportsmanship was not just an occur-

rence in the Ohio State-Michigan game. There also have been brawls between Florida and Florida State, North Carolina State and University of North Carolina, and Arizona State and the University of Arizona.

Is this sport?

America is watching. Our children are watching.

The Big Ten Conference quickly and justly fined both teams \$100,000. That is not much in that world.

That was a useful but small gesture. The universities and athletic organizations must investigate and disclose those who initiated these violations of sportsmanship and set standards of play.

They must stop these abuses and must issue full, formal apologies to the people of our Nation for disgracing America's finest traditions. This moment must become a turning point and recommitment to the values that good sportsmanship should teach us: respect, cooperation and team spirit, physical and mental discipline, and, yes, good times too.

This is about more than football games or storied rivalries. Sport is about setting an American standard on the field and in the classroom. Winning isn't everything, but, as we know, living a life with honor, integrity, and respect for others is.

MANY THANKS TO THE VILLAGE WHO HAS SUPPORTED ME THESE LAST 2 YEARS

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, as we get close to the end of the 118th Congress, my first term representing the greatly diverse Illinois Third Congressional District, I rise in full gratitude for all of those who have supported me and held me during these not-so-easy 2 years in what we call the people's House.

We have heard that it takes a village to represent, to fight, and to deliver for our communities. However, recently, 219 Members of this body opted to persecute the village, passing a bill that puts all of civil society at risk. They took that action at the precise moment we should be uplifting and celebrating civil society as the first and most resilient line of defense for many vulnerable communities.

Without a robust civil society, countries can descend into instability, their governments becoming more prone to authoritarianism, human rights abuses, and the erosion of democratic freedoms.

While some of my colleagues came to the floor to do harm to civil society, I have come to the floor to commend the countless nonprofit organizations, faith communities, schools and universities, advocacy groups, and cultural institutions that compose the powerful civil society of Illinois' Third Congressional District.

Since my time as the executive director of a nonprofit in Chicago, I have seen community organizations nurture and sustain a healthy democracy by providing lifesaving services, including housing and warm meals while holding those in power accountable.

It is clear that strengthening, repairing, and defending our democracy is not solely the work of government. It requires the fabric of our communities, it requires civil organizations who are weaving their work together on the front lines to protect, to defend, and to enrich our communities and our neighborhoods.

Today, I am grateful for faith communities like the member institutions of the Logan Square Ecumenical Alliance and DuPage United; for community organizations like Onward Neighborhood House, La Casa Norte, and Habitat for Humanity DuPage; for schools and universities like Northeastern University's El Centro and North Park University; for early childhood centers like Educare DuPage and Chicago Commons; for human rights advocates like Palenque LSNA and AFIRE; for cultural organizations like the National Veterans Art Museum and the Mexican Cultural Center of DuPage.

There are too many strong civil society organizations to name. To the many, many civil service organizations across Illinois Third, I want to say, "thank you," "gracias." I appreciate the opportunities and possibilities they create for our neighbors independent of their ZIP Code, independent of their citizenship status or past actions, and the way they keep me rooted in a community ready to fight like hell for our neighbors.

As I celebrate the work of civil society, I also want to uplift the team that puts in the long hours, that makes so many sacrifices for the people of Illinois Third, and who are seldom mentioned and seldom seen in public. That team is my staff.

My staff, who despite the challenges of this Congress and despite a Congress that oftentimes negates the humanity of their own family, has used their professional and lived experiences to introduce and champion transformative and progressive legislation, has pushed the government to work for our constituents and deliver resources back to Illinois Third, and has ensured our neighbors receive the lifesaving services that they deserve.

To my entire team: Ellen, Luis, Claudia, Karsen, Deepa, Noemi, Jowen, Marina, Daniela, Valeria, Kat, Jennifer, Nataly, Vianey, Micaela, Magda, Levi, and Rogelio, as well as the countless interns, fellows, and past staffers who have supported our work, I say thank you. They are seen, they are appreciated, and I am so proud to have worked with them in this first term and as we prepare ourselves for the next.

Through gratitude I find hope. Both the community at home and the team

I have here in Congress have reminded me that in uncertain times one thing is certain: Our communities are prepared to organize, to protect each other, and to unite no matter what the next 4 years brings us. I am forever grateful and I am ready.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BLACK MEDIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. LEE CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of outstanding Black media in the 18th Congressional District in the great city of Houston.

□ 1045

Houston is one of America's most diverse cities, and it has a large, vibrant African-American community.

Black media has always been a critical component in keeping us informed, speaking truth to power, honoring unsung heroes, and shedding light on racial injustice.

Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter once said: "Without a free press there can be no free society."

I recognize the important contributions of those who have blazed a path for us.

May 2, 1919, Clifton Frederick Richardson, Sr., founded and became publisher and editor of the African-American newspaper the Houston Informer, which published its first issue a few weeks later. It ran for 20 years and covered so many critical moments in Houston's history, and it continues today through a foundation.

In 1930, the Houston Defender was founded by Clifton F. Richardson, Sr., and he was born after the vestiges of slavery in 1897 in Marshall, Texas. He learned the basics of journalism and printing during his studies at Bishop College. Today, the proud tradition carries on through CEO Sonny Messiah-Jiles, who publishes it weekly and manages a vibrant online community.

The Houston Forward Times was founded in 1960 under the leadership of the late founder and publisher Julius P. Carter. Mr. Carter, no relation, founded the Forward Times as a means of uniting Black Houston to overcome the obstacles that were holding Blacks in the shackles of second-class citizenry. Now, his daughter, Karen Carter Richards, carries the torch as CEO and publisher.

The Houston Sun, founded in 1983, was published by Doris Ellis, who is still at the helm today. This community newspaper focuses on education and historical events in the African-American community.

Our legacy also continues with the more recently established journals, Houston Style magazine and Dee Morris magazine.

As Houston's Black community continues to grow, our media has grown with it, and Black radio became an undeniable influence.

I celebrate notable institutions, including KTSU, which is now 52 years old, having been established June 23, 1972, following approval from the FCC. KTSU 90.9 emerged as an educational FM radio station at Texas Southern University's campus. It is known for its "Gospel Sundays" that uplifts us all.

Former general manager of KTSU 90.9 FM for 18 years, George Wilson Thomas became a launching platform for "The Tavis Smiley Show" and other HBCU public radio stations that were soon to follow. It is now led by Ernest Walker as he takes it into the next generation of radio.

KMJQ 102.1, known as Majic 102, is a commercial radio station owned and operated by Urban One. Originally founded in 1961, it has had many disc jockeys who are now in the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. It also partners and is coowned with our urban station, 97.9, KBXX, The Box.

I salute the legendary radio DJs "Uncle Funky" Larry Jones, who has had a 50-year career and is in the Texas Radio Hall of Fame, as well as Kandi Eastman, who is "the only Kandi mom wants you to have," who is a 43-year radio veteran.

In addition to those, I salute the legendary Don Patrick Samuel, Sr., affectionately known as Don Sam, or The Original DS. He began his professional career at KYOK Radio in Houston in 1973 and spent 32 years at KCOH Radio as director and a radio personality. He was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in 2018.

Last but not least, an important name and influence in my growing up in Black media is Benjamin Thompson. For over two decades, he has been the voice known as the Madd Hatta, a voice of inspiration, entertainment, and empowerment. He started in Houston in 1993 and ascended to new heights, taking over the morning show on 97.9, the "Madd Hatta Morning Show."

He is a mentor and an advocate and a community leader who, in 2014, was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. He continues to be on many stations, and you will often see him out and about throughout Houston.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to salute Houston's rich legacy of Black media. I commend those who continue to use their voice to express the pains, passion, needs, and wants of our community.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE RETIREMENT OF JEFFERSON PARISH COUNCILMAN MARION EDWARDS

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the remarkable career of my dear friend, Marion Edwards, as he prepares to retire from Jefferson Parish Council.

A proud Louisiana native, born in Monroe, Marion Edwards has dedicated

his life to serving our State with integrity, passion, and a commitment to justice. From his role as assistant district attorney of Jefferson Parish, to serving as judge of division O of the 24th Judicial District Court and chief judge of the Fifth District Circuit Court of Appeals, he has worked tirelessly to uphold the principles of fairness and equity for the people of Louisiana.

Marion's service for our State extends to every part of our community. He was on the boards of several non-profit organizations, including the board of the Boys & Girls Club, The Salvation Army, Grace House of Louisiana, Responsibility House, G-REDI, and the Jefferson Parish Community Foundation.

He has also supported those suffering with substance abuse in our State, founding one of the first treatment-based district courts in Louisiana and receiving awards, including the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Pioneer and Recovery Award of the Office of Addictive Disorders Professional Services Award. The compassion he has shown to his neighbors in their most difficult moments is a testament to his character and serves as a shining example for all of us to follow.

Through his leadership, compassion, and vision, Councilman Marion Edwards has left a lasting mark on Jefferson Parish and our great State. His contributions will resonate for generations to come.

As Marion enters this new chapter of his life, he should know that his legacy of service, leadership, and love for community will continue to inspire all of us for many, many years to come.

My dear friend is, in fact, a gentleman, a scholar, and a statesman. I congratulate Marion on an extraordinary career and thank him for his unwavering dedication to the people of Louisiana and to our country. I also thank him for allowing me to call him my friend.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KIRK SCHURING

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and mourn the loss of Ohio State Senator Kirk Schuring, a true advocate and champion for the people of Stark County, Ohio.

Senator Schuring was a dedicated public servant who took great pride in serving Stark County for over three decades in the Ohio General Assembly as both a member of the house of representatives and the senate.

Senator Schuring held multiple leadership positions during his time in the general assembly, including as senate president speaker pro tempore, and acting as speaker of the house.

Among his advocacy was his tireless work to provide the freedom for com-

munities to create their own joint economic development districts and the creation of the Akron-Canton Metroplex to generate additional job opportunities and economic growth in the region.

I had the honor of working alongside Senator Schuring in the Ohio House of Representatives, where I witnessed firsthand his commitment to the people of northeast Ohio. Serving with Senator Schuring was a pleasure, and he was known as a reliable leader who found a way to work across the aisle and in support of his constituents every day.

As a first-term legislator, Kirk took me under his wing, a Democrat, because he was so deeply concerned about the work and did not allow partisan politics to get in the way of protecting our communities.

Notably, Senator Schuring was monumental in helping me pass House Bill 1, a bill to protect victims of dating violence. Surely, without his leadership, this bill would not have become law.

Without a doubt, Senator Schuring left a mark on Stark County and the State of Ohio. For his outstanding devotion to our community, he earned the respect and esteem of many. In the wake of his passing, his numerous contributions will not be forgotten.

Though his presence will be truly missed, his memory will live on through those he advocated for and his family, including his wife, Darlene; their son, J. Derrick; daughter-in-law, Allison; daughter, Kristen; and their six grandchildren, Preston, Parker, Quinn, Owen, Everett, and Lucy, whom he loved deeply. Thus, with deepest sympathy, I pay tribute to a truly phenomenal individual, Senator Kirk Schuring.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR VERNON SYKES ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a truly dedicated and true public servant, Ohio State Senator Vernon Sykes, the ultimate statesman, who is retiring from the Ohio General Assembly.

As the Member of Congress representing Ohio's 13th Congressional District, but most importantly as his daughter, it is my privilege to congratulate Senator Sykes on a distinguished career and extend my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Akron and the State of Ohio for his nearly 50 years in public service.

Senator Sykes' career as a legislator began in 1980 when he was appointed as the Ward 3 Councilmember in the city of Akron. In 1983, he was then appointed to the Ohio State House, becoming the first Black person to represent Summit County in the Ohio General Assembly. He would eventually serve as the chair of the Ohio House Finance & Appropriations Committee, in the Ohio State Senate as the co-chair of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, and as a professor emeritus of political science and former director of

the Columbus Program in State Issues at Kent State University.

Go Flashes.

In the legislature, he became a champion for early education, criminal justice reform, economic development, and so much more. Notably, Senator Sykes passed the toughest fair housing law in the country, the State of Ohio's first legislation to compensate the wrongfully imprisoned, and was the lead sponsor of two constitutional amendments to end the scourge of gerrymandering in Ohio that were approved by over 70 percent of the voters.

During his time in public office, Senator Sykes championed the people of our community, and he is the example of true selfless public service. He has always put the people of our community first, and his deep desire to serve his community is an inspiration to all who have had the opportunity to experience his passion for people and for public service.

For his advocacy, Senator Sykes has earned numerous awards and accolades, including the Public Elected Official of the Year Award; the Champion for Working Families from Ohio AFL-CIO; alumni awards from his alma maters, the University of Akron, as well as Ohio University.

My father is one of the main reasons I am standing here on the House floor today. He and my mother, who is also a public servant, taught me the value of hard work from a young age and equipped me with constant support and encouragement.

Mr. Speaker, today Senator Sykes is giving his farewell speech in the Ohio Senate, and I can't be there because of scheduled votes today, so I am doing the next best thing and giving him his flowers on the floor of the United States House of Representatives as a symbol of his legacy to the city of Akron, Summit and Portage Counties, the State of Ohio, the United States of America, and the entire global community.

It is not often elected leaders can brag about such impactful and prominent careers. Senator Sykes can, but he won't because he is simply too humble to do so. Thus, I am doing it for him.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate and thank Senator Vernon Sykes, my dad, on a storied career as a legislator at the State and local level and for over 40 years of outstanding service and devotion to our community.

FLORIDA BOOK BANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, Kurt Vonnegut, Toni Morrison, and Stephen King are just a few of the authors whose books have been banned from Florida public school libraries because of the censorship laws passed by extreme Republican politicians.

President Eisenhower once warned: "Don't join the book burners." "Don't be afraid to go in your library and read every book."

According to the Florida Department of Education, more than 700 books were banned from libraries in public school districts last year after Governor Ron DeSantis signed Florida's extreme book ban law.

□ 1100

There is nothing Americans hate more than politicians who want to take away their freedoms.

Yet Republican politicians want to take away the freedom of women to get an abortion. They want to take away the freedom of gay and lesbian Americans to marry their partners. Now, they want to take away freedom at the library.

Banning books is not just an attack on personal freedom. It is an attack on American values that we all believe in. People of all ages ought to be able to access the world of knowledge that comes from reading, including from those books that some may find controversial. Reading controversial books is part of how we challenge ourselves and each other to grow and strive and to create.

Book banners will claim that their goal is to protect people, but what they really want is to control people. That is not America.

"Having the freedom to read and the freedom to choose [what to read] is one of the best gifts my parents ever gave me," said children's author Judy Blume, another author whose name appears on the book ban list.

We must reclaim the freedom to read from the extreme politicians trying to turn back the clock for our kids, our country, and our future.

50 YEARS OF PROGRESS CANNOT ERASE 250 YEARS OF SUFFERING

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in February 1967, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote his famous book, "Where Do We Go From Here."

In that book, he pondered upon the question of whether or not America was prepared to choose community over chaos; whether this Nation, so long protected by the crosswinds of two oceans, was finally prepared to rid itself of the impediments of bitterness and hatred; or whether the malignant sicknesses of racism and sexism were so intrinsic and interwoven into the American fabric that we would never be able to rid ourselves of it.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I submit to all of my colleagues that this question is still before us. That is to say, some 60 years later, we are still trying to decide who we are as a country.

Sixty years after the historic Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts, we are still trying to figure out if everyone

still should have a vote that counts. We are still trying to determine if we will choose progress over regression, tomorrow over yesterday, truth over falsehood. In spite of the gains of the civil rights movement, the answer to these questions remains profoundly unclear.

In the words of Charles Dickens, we are living in the best of times and the worst of times, the age of wisdom and the age of foolishness.

After the last Presidential election in November, there are millions of Americans wondering if this country will ever come to know the things that make for peace.

I rise today because I fear that this Nation is on the precipice of the greatest rollback of civil rights since the end of Reconstruction in 1890.

I rise today because there are too many of my colleagues, in addition to too many people in America, who have no problem with rolling back the rights of the weakest and most vulnerable among us.

Given the long and meandering history of this Republic, there ought to be unanimous consent when it comes to ensuring that the people who have been systematically excluded from the American Dream are continually included in the future of American progress and prosperity. Sadly, that is not the case.

Whole segments of this society have arbitrarily decided that they have the omnipotent right to determine when there are too many Black people in boardrooms, as we saw on June 29, 2023, with the elimination of the affirmative action programs.

As a consequence, there are fewer African Americans in dental school. There are fewer African Americans in law school. There are fewer African Americans attending some of the most prestigious universities.

Some people have arbitrarily determined that African Americans enrolled in these selective universities is too much, as determined by the actions of the Students for Fair Admissions authored by Mr. Blum, or too many Black businesses finally being included in the procurement of government contracts and management opportunities is too much.

It pains me to have to remind the leaders of this country that a nation suffering from the sickness of racism for 250 years cannot stop taking its medicine. It needs to make sure that the cancer does not return.

Fifty years of progress cannot erase 250 years of suffering, and the suffering of which I speak is not limited to the African-American community but rather is located in the very soul of America. I am talking about those that are without jobs in Appalachia. I am talking about the life expectancy of Caucasian women in rural America.

We need to enforce and strengthen civil rights. Civilian rights are key to the growth of America, but let us never forget that hatred destroys the host

more than it devastates the object of its belligerent contempt.

I say to all of my colleagues today: America needs diversity, equity, and inclusion more than Black people do. I say that because, even if the prognosticators are right that the last election was about economics, then that simply means that millions of people in this country were willing to sublimate the moral authority of their conscience because of the price of chicken.

Mr. Speaker, that is just as terrifying a reality as is the prospect of racism and sexism being the driving cause.

I think sometimes we forget that the policies we enshrine have real effects on the lives of people. I know in my district, the First Congressional District of Illinois, the incoming administration's promised attack on affirmative action, diversity, equity, and inclusion will mean that thousands of people on the south side of Chicago, the inner cities of America, and the suburban and rural parts of our country will not be able to provide for their families.

It won't matter to them what the price of chicken is because, no matter the price, everything is too expensive when your income disappears and your income is stagnant.

In spite of the differences between the two parties, let us never forget that there are still millions of people in this country who cannot afford to pay their rent, who cannot afford hospitalization, who cannot afford to pay their mortgages, who find rents out of control, whose wages have not changed, and who are struggling to give their children a better life, a better country, and a better future. By better, I mean a more ethical society in which to grow old.

Mr. Speaker, let us do whatever we must to build up what others are determined to tear down. Let us do whatever we can to hold up the light. Let us keep the dream alive.

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 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Gracious and generous God, prepare our hearts and minds to receive all that You provide, both seen and unseen, in the days that lay ahead of us.

You have opened wide doors of opportunities for us to make a difference in this place, our communities, and our world. May we walk through those doors with confidence and with firm conviction, and may we glorify You in our work today.

When those moments prove challenging, when adversaries attempt to thwart our efforts to serve as vessels for the goodness, hope, love, and peace You have poured into us, may we stand firm in our faith. May our lives in the face of all trials serve as a testament to Your mercy and grace.

We entrust this day our deliberations and our discussions into Your care, sure of Your steadfast love and emboldened by Your abiding presence.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. HINSON 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING SHERIFF JOE CHAPMAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize and honor the retirement of Walton County Sheriff Joe Chapman.

Starting out as a beat cop, spending every day on the front lines keeping our community safe, to serving as Walton County sheriff, Joe Chapman has dedicated the last 40 years of his life to bringing no excuses, commonsense law enforcement to Walton County.

There is a sign above Sheriff Chapman's door that reads, "I hate excuses," and that is exactly how he operates. He is a true servant leader, a pillar to the community, and a mentor to the next generation of Georgia law enforcement.

In addition to being one of the most respected and admired lawmen in Georgia, Sheriff Chapman is a Marine Corps and Georgia Army National Guard veteran and a commissioner for the Sheriff's Retirement Fund of Georgia.

Sheriff Chapman's legacy and impact on Walton County will not be soon forgotten. I want to express my gratitude to Sheriff Chapman for his selfless work over these last 20 years. On behalf of Georgia's 10th Congressional District, I thank him for his service. I wish him a happy, healthy, and safe retirement. He has certainly earned it.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of Food Service Director Kirsten Nelson, the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District is proving that school meals can be local, nutritious, and delicious.

Last month, I joined school leaders, State and local officials, and food hub staff at Acton-Boxborough High School in my home State of Massachusetts to learn more about the nutritious meals being prepared for students using local produce.

With the support of Federal funding through the Farm to School Program, the district is utilizing nearby food hubs to purchase fruits and vegetables from local farmers. Our State's universal meal program has been key to improving school meal offerings and expanding access to local produce for all students.

I tried the curry cauliflower, and it was delicious. I talked with some of the students, who told me they have taught their parents recipes from school lunches.

This partnership should serve as inspiration for all of us to continue our work to improve school food, strengthen food systems, and end hunger now.

RECOGNIZING ERNEST TOPNESS

(Mrs. HINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ernest Topness for his distinguished and impactful career serving both our Nation and the people of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mr. Topness, known by many as Ernie, first joined the United States Postal Service in 1959 after serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean war.

Ernie delivered mail in Cedar Rapids for 65 years, making connections and building friendships with those on his route.

Ernie's dedication is unmatched. When others would sit out on a snow day or call in sick, he was always known to actually show up.

At the age of 91, Ernie recently retired as the second longest serving mail carrier in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Topness' legacy is one of unwavering dedication and inspiring service. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING PETER J. WESTBROOK

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of a trailblazing Olympic fencer, Peter J. Westbrook, who unfortunately passed away this weekend.

To keep her son off the tumultuous streets of 1967 Newark, Peter Westbrook's mother, Mariko, enrolled him in fencing class, where his natural talents were fully realized.

In 1984, he became the first Black American to win an Olympic bronze medal in fencing. Throughout his career, he won countless competitions and is recognized by many athletic halls of fame.

One of his greatest achievements, Mr. Speaker, was the opening of the Peter Westbrook Foundation, which allowed him to introduce Black and Latino youth to the fencing world, including my own family, which was touched by him. The foundation provides fencing lessons, academic assistance, and opportunities for marginalized youth.

The foundation has produced seven Olympians. Just this year, Lauren Scruggs, a foundation alum, made history by becoming the first Black woman to win a gold medal in the Olympics in fencing.

Peter Westbrook left an incredible legacy in the fencing world. He was an icon and trailblazer and changed the lives of countless youth. He will always be remembered in my household, New York City, and the country.

REMEMBERING STANLEY KLEIN

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Stanley Klein, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and entrepreneur. Stanley leaves behind a legacy of love, integrity, and innovation.

Born on July 20, 1942, Stanley graduated from Allderdice High School in 1960 and joined the Army. After the Army, Stanley attended Youngstown State College in Ohio and thereafter met his late first wife, Terry.

Stanley and his father-in-law, Irving Stern, went into business together and founded Multi-Flow Dispensers of Ohio. Stanley grew Multi-Flow into the dominant soft drink and beverage dispensing business for bars, restaurants, and taverns throughout north and central Ohio.

Stanley was married to his wife, Laura, for more than 44 years. He cherished every moment spent with his

family, especially his grandchildren, who were the light of his life.

Mr. Klein will be dearly missed, but his spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

HONORING WILLIAM STEINER

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my good friend, Orange County Supervisor Bill Steiner.

Bill was a valued neighbor, constituent, and leader in Orange County whose work directly impacted the lives of so many in our community. As an Orange city councilmember and Orange County supervisor, he dedicated his life to serving others.

Out of the many issues Bill championed, his passion was child welfare advocacy. His work was the driving force behind the creation of the Orange County Orangewood Children's Home.

Today, Bill's 5 children and 16 grandchildren help keep his memory alive.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Bill for a lifetime of work for our community and for his leadership. He will never be forgotten.

CONGRESS MUST HELP FARMERS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, farmers across North Carolina have had extreme difficulty, especially over the past 2 years, due to increased input costs and lower prices for their crops and products.

Drought withered tobacco, corn, and other crops across eastern North Carolina, and farmers are still struggling after Hurricane Helene.

If that is not enough, our farmers have fed the American people for Thanksgiving, and in return, they received the new Adverse Effect Wage Rate for 2025. In North Carolina, we are talking about an increase of 2.17 percent.

Mr. Speaker, too many are hurting trying to find out how to keep their family farms operating.

Agriculture is North Carolina's leading industry. We must help our farmers.

I urge Congress to address the immediate need for disaster assistance for our agricultural community in North Carolina and to hit pause on the Adverse Effect Wage Rate.

CALIFORNIA VOTERS ARE CLEAR ON CRIME

(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, California voters have made it very clear.

They are tired of the unchecked crime and soft-on-crime policies that have plagued our State for years.

With over 68 percent voting to strengthen penalties through Proposition 36 that just recently passed, the message couldn't be louder: Enough is enough.

What are California Democrats doing? Instead of focusing on this overwhelming mandate to restore public safety, they are pouring their energy into Trump-proofing California, an obsession with political theater while crime continues to rise and neighborhoods feel less safe.

Their so-called legislative solutions are more about optics than outcomes.

The voters wanted more action, but Democrats are too busy spinning excuses about pendulums and alternatives to incarceration to deliver real actual results.

Californians aren't asking for extreme swings. They are asking for accountability.

The people voted to reverse the disastrous criminal justice policies of the past. They want true action.

Sacramento Democrats need to stop ignoring that and wasting money on other things, like trying to stop an agenda here that will make the prices of food and energy go down and help their own citizens.

Enough with the distractions. Enough with the games. Let's get serious.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5349, CRUCIAL COMMUNISM TEACHING ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7198, PROVE IT ACT OF 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1602 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1602

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5349) to develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill 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 Education and the Workforce or their respective designees; (2) the further amendment printed in part A of 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 inter-

vention 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 division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit.

Sec. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 7198) to amend title 5, United States Code, to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill 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 the Judiciary or their respective designees; (2) the further amendment printed in part B of 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 division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit.

□ 1215

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), 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. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, last night, the House Committee on Rules met to report House Resolution 1602, providing for consideration of two pieces of legislation.

First, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5349, the Crucial Communism Teaching Act, under a structured rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. It also provides for one motion to recommit.

Second, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 7198, the Prove It Act, under a structured rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority

member of the Committee on the Judiciary. It also provides one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, a report recently found that nearly one-half of Gen Z students are unaware that the Chinese Communist Party is responsible for more deaths than Nazi Germany. One-quarter of Gen Z students holds a favorable opinion of communism, and nearly 20 percent think that communism is a better system of government than capitalism.

Further, roughly 500 million copies of "The Communist Manifesto" have been sold since 1848, more than three times as many as "The Lord of the Rings," and more than twice as many as "A Tale of Two Cities." The ignorance is stunning given one-fifth of the world's population, over 1 billion people, lives under Communist control. Our youngest generations' view of communism is a failure of our educational system.

The Crucial Communism Teaching Act bolsters the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation's ability to educate high school students on the facts, history, and dangers of communist ideology. According to the foundation, Communist governments have caused the deaths of over 100 million people and oppressed hundreds of millions more since the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. I hope this body continues to show strong, bipartisan support for this important piece of legislation.

The second bill under consideration is the Prove It Act, which continues House Republicans' efforts to rightsize the Federal Government and eliminate unnecessary burdens on our job creators. For too long, Federal regulators have ignored or underestimated the cost that they impose on small businesses. The result is a regulatory state that is simply crushing small businesses.

Some estimates put the regulatory toll as high as \$14,000 per employee annually. This is on top of the cost of inflation, supply chain issues, energy unaffordability, and other burdens that the Biden-Harris administration has inflicted on our communities and our livelihoods.

Today, small businesses spend over seven times as much per employee as medium-sized businesses on regulatory compliance. When we disadvantage our small businesses, Communist governments like China fill the void with their own.

The Prove It Act will empower small businesses to hold regulators accountable and force them to consider the impact of the regulatory red tape that they impose. This commonsense legislation makes certain that agencies are complying with their statutory obligations and accurately account for the costs of their rulemaking.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bills, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for

yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we are debating two bills that perfectly show who Republicans in Congress really work for, and, spoiler alert, it is not the American people. We are here today doing nothing to help regular people and families. Republicans just have us debating a bill to undercut our constituents' safety and a useless bill on communism.

One of these bills I call the corporate giveaway act. It will give massive trade associations the power to gut the very protections that keep workers safe, prevent kids from being poisoned by polluted air and water, and ensure that corporations don't cut corners on safety.

Republicans say this is all about freedom, but the only people who get more freedom under this bill are CEOs flying on private jets while the rest of us are stuck dealing with higher prices and unsafe products. If you are a billionaire, Mr. Speaker, then this bill works for you. If you are a mom or dad in Worcester, Massachusetts, where I am from, working two jobs to pay for rent and childcare, then this bill doesn't do anything for you. It sells you out.

Then there is H.R. 5349. Now, I guess the Republicans want us to spend time debating whether high school students should be taught that communism is bad. The last time I checked, most schools already do that, and I say that as a brother of two teachers, by the way. I actually read the bill, and I want to let everyone in on a little secret about their bill, a bill which claims to be about teaching kids about bad political ideologies.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker. They left out a really, really, really bad one. Here is a hint: It is what Adolf Hitler implemented in Germany and what Americans fought and died for to defeat in World War II. It is an ideology that idolizes racial purity and uses violence to suppress those who disagree. It is called fascism. For some reason, Republicans did not want to include it in their bill. I would love an answer as to why.

Can any of them tell me why they don't want to teach kids that fascism is bad?

Does anyone at all?

The silence is deafening right now, Mr. Speaker.

Let me help them out: Communism is bad, totalitarianism is bad, and fascism is bad.

Do you see how easy that is, Mr. Speaker?

All they had to do was put it in their bill, but they didn't and they won't because they feel they can't.

It is no oversight, by the way. I personally offered an amendment by Ranking Member SCOTT to include fascism as one of the ideologies we condemn, and they rejected it. Every single one of the Republicans in the Rules Committee, every single one, voted "no."

I can't think of a reason that they would do that, unless they don't agree and unless they don't think that fascism is a bad thing. My friends on the other side of the aisle literally take my breath away.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to say this again: Americans voted with their wallets in mind, and I don't blame them, but I do blame Republican leaders for bringing up this nonsense.

I go out in my district, and I listen to people.

Do you know what, Mr. Speaker?

They don't want to be talked down to by Republican leaders lecturing them about communism or telling us how to teach our kids. They want leaders who understand problems, leaders who understand we are not sent here to talk at people. We are sent here to work with them to make this country a better place.

On our side of the aisle, we are listening to the struggles of working families, and we are going to fight alongside of them.

Washington hasn't always worked the way it should, but we are committed to doing better because people in this country deserve better. That means lower costs, bigger paychecks, and building an economy that rewards hard work, not wealth. That is a fight that my colleagues and I will never ever stop showing up for.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, and I plead with Republicans: Please, please, let's focus on the real challenges facing all of us as Americans.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, in the words of Yogi Berra, this is like *deja vu* all over again. It was just last year that I was here in this very spot debating the ranking member over the evils of socialism, and now we have graduated to communism.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in strong support of my colleague, Congresswoman SALAZAR's, bill, H.R. 5349, the Crucial Communism Teaching Act.

Communism has a dark and dangerous history of political violence, oppression, and abuse that continues to be swept under the rug by foreign actors infiltrating the American education systems.

From the Soviet Union, Cuba, China, and beyond, communist regimes consistently demonstrate a callous disregard for human life and dignity.

The Chinese Communist Party is actively trying to dismantle American classrooms and cover up the atrocities of past regimes in K-12 schools and college campuses.

More than 500 K-12 schools across our Nation have allowed the CCP to creep into school hallways, making its way into our children's curriculums under the guise of Confucius Classrooms.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. This is not education. This is indoctrination.

Nearly one-fifth of the world's population is still under this oppressive system of government, yet our youth are being manipulated to blindly follow this corrosive influence of communism.

It should be alarming to our friend from Massachusetts and to every person in America, especially parents, that 28 percent of Gen Z hold a favorable view of the term "communism." Nineteen percent of Gen Z are favoring dictatorship as the best political system.

It is no surprise communism's modern-day manifestation, TikTok, with Communist-backed owners, holds influence over Gen Z.

We cannot allow our schools to become breeding grounds for Communist and Marxist ideologies and anti-American sentiment, Mr. Speaker. As President Reagan once said: "Freedom is only one generation away from extinction."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defend our Nation's values, reject the forces of oppression, and protect our children by supporting H.R. 5349.

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

Mr. Speaker, right before the gentleman spoke, I asked the question: Can anybody explain to me why fascism wasn't included in this bill as one of the ideologies that we should teach our young people is a bad thing?

The gentleman who just spoke went on for 4 minutes and never once answered that question.

The reality is that yes, communism is bad, totalitarianism is bad, and so is fascism, and we see fascist movements growing up and springing up all over the world, including in this country, and my friends on the other side of the aisle can't bring themselves to condemn it.

I don't understand this.

Does anyone remember World War II?

It seems that, for whatever reason, that is something that my friends can't seem to recall.

That is the point here. It is what you omit, Mr. Speaker. It is what you choose to protect and not include in this bill that is so disturbing in my mind.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we defeat the previous question. If we do, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 12, a bill that would ensure that every American has full access to essential reproductive healthcare, including abortion care.

In this country, the United States of America, we now have States with almost complete bans on abortions, like the State of Idaho. Just this week, a circuit court upheld an "abortion trafficking" law, ensuring that anyone in Idaho who accompanies a young woman to receive abortion care in another State gets a prison sentence.

Thank God the judge will allow people in Idaho to simply talk with pregnant minors about abortion healthcare, which the original law prohibited.

This is where women in this country now find themselves, Mr. Speaker, but that is why House Democrats are fighting to protect women and doctors who simply want access and the ability to provide needed care. H.R. 12, the Women's Health Protection Act, will keep fundamental healthcare services available across this country.

What is happening in some States in this country is offensive. It is dangerous. Women are dying because of these overly oppressive Republican-led laws that are being put into place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into 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 Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. LEE CARTER), one of our newest Members of the House, to discuss our proposal.

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think one of the best ways to protect children is to protect their mothers, and so I rise to speak on H.R. 12, the Women's Health Protection Act, a critical piece of legislation that we should be considering during these increasingly dangerous and tumultuous times for women and their reproductive healthcare.

There has never been a more appropriate time to discuss a woman's right to choose than today. Simply, but most impactful for our generation, the Women's Health Protection Act will reestablish a nationwide right to abortion in the United States.

The WHPA would create a statutory right for healthcare providers to provide abortion care and a right for their patients to receive the care free from bans and restrictions that single out abortion and impede access. It will save lives.

Reproductive rights have been constantly at risk since Roe v. Wade became the law of the land almost 50 years ago, but never have they been in jeopardy as much as they are in these current times. In the wake of the decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, State restrictions and new limits or bans on abortion fractured women's healthcare access and dramatically affected the ability of providers to treat pregnancy complications.

With the overturning of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court has taken away the constitutional right to abortion, leaving millions without access to care due to restrictive and deadly State abortion bans.

In my home State of Texas, we have seen horrific cases of women being de-

nied access to care. In fact, Texas is now ranked the second worst State in the Nation for women with health issues, according to research conducted by the Commonwealth Fund.

The Commonwealth Fund developed the first-ever State scorecard to track trends in women's health over time and documents how policy choices and judicial decisions may impact women's access to timely healthcare.

The data came from sources including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and evaluated States on 32 metrics across 3 areas: health outcomes; healthcare quality and prevention; and coverage, access, and affordability.

Texas ranked last in the country on healthcare coverage, access, and affordability for women according to the fund. The number of Texans seeking an abortion out of State more than quadrupled between 2021 and 2023, after a State law went into effect that banned the procedure in almost all cases.

Data from our own Texas Health and Human Services Commission shows at least 7,844 Texas residents received an abortion in a different State in 2023, up from 4,718 in 2022, and over 1,700 in 2021.

Still, the total abortions for Texas residents dropped by 85 percent compared to 2021. In 2023, just 62 abortions were reported in Texas, all due to medical emergency and/or to preserve the health of the mother. Between January of this year and June of 2024, 38 abortions were performed in the State.

Every day without congressional action means more people are being denied their human right to abortion. We need a Federal legislative solution. WHPA is the solution.

We must all continue to work together toward a future where all of us are free to make the personal decisions that shape our lives, our futures, and our families without political interference.

As we know and have seen, those hurt the most by abortion restrictions are those who already face discriminatory barriers to accessing healthcare, particularly Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian-American, Pacific Islander, and other people of color; women; and those working to make ends meet, especially those in my district.

Ensuring access to abortion care is central to the pursuit of reproductive justice and the human rights to maintain bodily autonomy and live in safe and sustainable communities.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I ask my colleagues to defeat the previous question so we can bring up this important legislation.

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

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

One of the bills that is being brought before us, H.R. 7198, is a Republican partisan bill, but it violates their own CutGo budgetary rule.

Yesterday, in committee, when we pointed that inconvenient fact out to

our colleagues across the aisle, rather than Republicans saying they were going to try to find a way to pay for the bill, my colleagues spent about 40 minutes railing against the CBO Director that the majority themselves, by the way, helped appoint.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article that reinforces what I just said.

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

There was no objection.

H.R. 7198, PROVE IT ACT OF 2024 AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY ON NOVEMBER 22, 2024

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2025	2025–2029	2025–2034
Direct Spending (Outlays).	1	5	10
Revenues	*	*	–7
Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit.	1	5	17
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays).	6	40	not estimated

* = between –\$500,000 and zero.

Increases *net direct spending* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035? <\$2.5 billion.

Increases *on-budget deficits* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035? <\$5 billion.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? Yes.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? Yes, under threshold.

The bill would:

- Allow small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and small local governments to request that the Small Business Administration (SBA) review a certification that a proposed rule would not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of such small entities

- Require the SBA to declare a rule no longer in effect if the issuing agency fails to review that rule periodically

- Impose mandates on private-sector entities

Estimated budgetary effects would mainly stem from:

- Requiring some federal agencies to devote staff to meet new analysis and reporting requirements

- Increasing costs for agencies that are funded through annual appropriations to carry out the bill's provisions

- Increasing direct spending and decreasing revenues for several fee-funded, independent agencies and the Federal Reserve System to carry out provisions of the bill

Bill Summary: H.R. 7198 would allow small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and small local governments to request that the Small Business Administration (SBA) review federal agencies' certifications that proposed rules would not significantly affect a substantial number of small entities. The bill would require the SBA to establish a process for reviewing those requests and determining whether certifications merit further review. (Federal agencies currently evaluate proposed rules' economic effects on small entities and either certify that a rule would not significantly affect them or they prepare a detailed regulatory flexibility analysis for the rule. A regulatory flexibility analysis is an assessment of a proposed regulation on small entities.)

If further review is required, the SBA would consult the rulemaking agency, rep-

resentatives of the small entities, and the Office of Management and Budget to determine whether, in place of a certification, the rulemaking agency must prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis. If the agency does not complete that process, the final rule would not apply to small entities.

Additionally, under the bill, if an agency fails to update its analysis of a rule's effect on small entities within 10 years of the rule taking effect, as they are required to do under current law, the rule would no longer be in effect. That provision would apply to rules for which agencies should have provided updated analysis within the 5-year period prior to the bill's enactment. Under the bill, a rulemaking agency could seek to reinstate a rule by carrying out a new rulemaking process.

Estimated Federal cost: The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within multiple budget functions.

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 7198 will be enacted near the end of calendar year 2024, that the estimated amounts will be appropriated in each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns.

If an agency fails to comply with the bill's requirements, the SBA would determine that the existing or proposed rule is no longer in effect or would not apply to small entities. Because CBO expects that federal agencies would generally comply with the bill's requirements, we estimate that any budgetary effects stemming from that change would be insignificant.

In addition, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase administrative costs for most agencies because they would need additional staff to carry out the bill's provisions.

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF H.R. 7198

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—											
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2025–2029	2025–2034
INCREASES IN DIRECT SPENDING												
Estimated Budget Authority	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	10
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	10
DECREASES IN REVENUES												
Estimated Revenues	*	*	*	*	*	–3	–1	–1	–1	–1	*	–7
NET INCREASE IN THE DEFICIT FROM CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING AND REVENUES												
Effect on the Deficit	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	2	2	2	5	17
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION												
Estimated Authorization	8	8	8	9	9	n.e.	n.e.	n.e.	n.e.	n.e.	42	n.e.
Estimated Outlays	6	8	8	9	9	n.e.	n.e.	n.e.	n.e.	n.e.	40	n.e.

n.e. = not estimated.

* = between –\$500,000 and zero.

Direct spending: The administrative costs of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), are classified in the budget as direct spending. Two of those agencies, the NCUA and the OCC, collect fees from financial institutions to offset their costs; those fees are treated as reductions in direct spending.

Using information about the rulemaking activities of those agencies, CBO estimates that the increased administrative workload under H.R. 7198 would increase net direct spending for those independent agencies by \$10 million over the 2025–2034 period.

Revenues: H.R. 7198 also would affect revenues by increasing operating costs for the Federal Reserve System, which remits its

net earnings to the Treasury; those remittances are classified as revenues in the federal budget. Based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that the increased costs under the bill would reduce revenues by \$7 million over the 2025–2034 period.

Spending subject to appropriation: CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 7198 also would increase spending for agencies that are funded by annual appropriations. CBO estimates that agencies that produce large numbers of rules affecting small entities would need more staff to meet the bill's requirements.

CBO expects that the agencies most affected by the bill include the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Labor, and Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency and Securities and Exchange

Commission (SEC). Using information about similar activities, CBO estimates that the administrative costs for federal agencies to implement H.R. 7198 would total \$35 million over the 2025–2029 period; any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Under current law, the SEC is authorized to collect fees sufficient to offset its annual appropriations. Therefore, CBO estimates that the net budgetary effect of that commission's activities to implement H.R. 7198 would be less than \$500,000 over the 2025–2029 period, assuming appropriation actions consistent with the commission's authorities.

Finally, the requirement for the SBA to establish and carry out a process for small entities to request certification review would pose additional costs to that agency. Using information from the SBA, CBO estimates

that those administrative costs would total \$5 million over the 2025–2029 period; any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Pay-As-You-Go considerations: The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in outlays and revenues that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in Table 1.

Increase in long-term net direct spending and deficits: CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 7198 would not increase net direct spending by more than \$2.5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 7198 would not increase on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035.

Mandates: If federal financial regulators increase annual fees to offset the costs of implementing the bill, H.R. 7198 would increase the costs of an existing private-sector mandate on entities required to pay those fees. CBO estimates that the incremental cost of the mandate would be small and would fall well below the annual threshold established in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) for private-sector mandates (\$200 million in 2024, adjusted annually for inflation).

The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

Previous CBO estimate: On December 2, 2024, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 7198, the Prove It Act of 2024, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Small Business on September 10, 2024. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and CBO's estimates of their budgetary effects are the same.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Julia Aman (for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency), David Hughes (for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau), Aurora Swanson (for the Small Business Administration and for federal agencies funded by annual appropriations); Revenues: Nathaniel Frentz; Mandates: Rachel Austin.

Estimate reviewed by: Justin Humphrey, Chief, Finance, Housing, and Education Cost Estimates Unit; Kathleen FitzGerald, Chief, Public and Private Mandates Unit; Christina Hawley Anthony, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

Estimate approved by: Phillip L. Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I also ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the CBO score for H.R. 7198.

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

There was no objection.

[July 27, 2023]

PHILLIP SWAGEL REAPPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRS LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED COLLABORATION

Today, House and Senate leadership reappointed Dr. Phillip Swagel to a second four-year term as Director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO). As required by the Congressional Budget Act, the appointment was made jointly by Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and President Pro Tempore of the Senate Patty Murray (D-WA), upon the joint recommendation of House Budget Chairman Jodey Arrington (R-TX) and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI).

“Dr. Swagel has the two key ingredients to faithfully execute the role as our nation’s

budget scorekeeper—objectivity and integrity,” said Chairman Arrington. “CBO’s work product has tremendous implications on public policy, and I am committed to working with Dr. Swagel to ensure we improve the budget scoring process and achieve more timely and accurate outcomes. Additionally, I look forward to working with him and his colleagues at CBO to sound the alarm regarding our unsustainable fiscal trajectory in order to spur bipartisan leadership to address our runaway deficit spending and record debt before it’s too late.”

“I look forward to continuing to work productively with Dr. Swagel,” said Senator Whitehouse. “He has been both a fair arbiter when scoring bills and responsive in explaining his agency’s methodology. I especially look forward to working with CBO as it does further work to analyze the vast budgetary and economic costs of climate change and to estimate the potential savings from delivery system reform of our byzantine health care system.”

Dr. Swagel assumed his position as the tenth Director of the Congressional Budget Office on June 3, 2019. His second term will end on January 3, 2027.

Prior to his appointment as CBO Director, Dr. Swagel taught economics at the University of Maryland’s School of Public Policy, Northwestern University, the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business. He also served at the Council of Economic Advisers and as Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at the Treasury Department under President George W. Bush. He earned his bachelor’s from Princeton University and his Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.

CBO was established in 1975 to produce independent, non-partisan analyses of economic and budgetary issues in support of the congressional budget process. The agency plays a key role in producing cost estimates for legislation proposed in Congress, but does not make policy recommendations.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in the Rules Committee last night, Democrats tried to have an amendment to basically not protect this bill from a point of order. If Republicans believe that this bill costs nothing, then surely the chair would rule in such a way. Clearly, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don’t even believe their own rhetoric.

The bottom line is that this bill, among many of the bad things it is going to do, will add to our deficit. There was a time when I thought Republicans cared about the deficit and debt, but apparently those days are gone forever because I have never met a group of people who are more interested in passing legislation without pay-fors, tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires and well-connected people and well-off people at the expense of the middle class, and then Republicans bring bills like this, which will add millions and millions of dollars to our deficit.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague has talked a lot about the Victims of Communism Foundation and the bill that has been introduced to support their efforts. Unfortunately, he misses the

point of the bill. Congress specifically chartered the Victims of Communism Foundation to study the abuses of communism. This was actually signed into law in 1993 by President Bill Clinton.

We have no doubt that harmful political ideologies besides communism exist, but the point of this bill is to educate students specifically about communism. There is an acute need to educate students on the topic given how many students are ignorant to communism’s abuses, and this is the work that the Victims of Communism Foundation is best equipped to conduct.

Mr. Speaker, if Democrats wish to expand, my colleagues are free to introduce their own bill covering other topics, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I am having trouble following this debate. I just raised an issue about the fact that one of the bills, H.R. 7198, is not paid for; that it is a violation of Republicans’ own CutGo rules; and that this bill, as passed, will add to the deficit. Then the gentleman just started talking about communism.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat that the reality is that one of the bills here, H.R. 7198, needs a special waiver to protect it from a Republican point of order on CutGo because this bill adds to the deficit. Republicans could have paid for it or could have found an offset but chose not to. My colleagues chose to protect it from a point of order. That was my question.

I don’t know what communism has to do with the CBO estimate that this bill will add millions of dollars to the deficit. Anyway, I make that clear in case people who are watching this are confused about the gentleman’s response to the point I raised.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire whether the gentleman wants to answer the CBO question or whether he wants me to close?

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared for the gentleman to close.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, let us talk about priorities. My Republican colleagues have theirs all screwed up, and I am being really kind here. Republicans are lecturing us about communism instead of talking about real struggles facing American families.

One of the speakers got up and complained that this is like *deja vu* all over again. The Republicans are in charge and set the agenda around here. These are their priority bills.

We are wasting time working on their bills. We are talking about studies to inform kids about communism in schools rather than talking about things that are going to lower healthcare costs or lower food prices or

help small businesses or do anything that is going to make any difference in the lives of average people in this country.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are talking about what bathrooms people should use instead of talking about grocery prices. I think one Republican Member tweeted 326 times about bathrooms in a 72-hour period. My colleagues are just strange. It is weird what is going on around here.

If my colleagues go out and actually listen to people in this country, Mr. Speaker, they will say what they want. It isn't what my friends on the other side have us here debating today. They want politicians to stop catering to those at the top. Yet, look at who Donald Trump is empowering in his new administration. This is not what people wanted.

Mr. Speaker, it looks like the requirements to be in the Trump White House are that you either abuse women or are an out-of-touch billionaire. What is next? Are they going to replace FBI background checks with a FOX News screen test? Forget about a White House Cabinet. Donald Trump is making it into a junk drawer.

His Commerce Secretary is a billionaire. Big surprise. I don't think this guy is capable of understanding what average people in my district deal with.

His Education Secretary is yet another billionaire. What is her qualification? She ran WWE. I guess some schools have wrestling programs. It would be funny if it weren't so sad.

His new Attorney General pick is an election denier.

The person he tapped to lead Health & Human Services thinks tap water turns kids gay.

His Defense Secretary is probably dropping out momentarily. Apparently he drinks on the job and paid to cover up his sexual assault allegations. Even his mom doesn't like him.

These people don't shop at grocery stores. Do my colleagues think that they pump their own gas or cook their own food? Of course not. These are people who hop on helicopters to avoid traffic. They are poster children for the out-of-touch elites. The Republicans are bending over backward for them. It is unbelievable.

It is not just bad governance, Mr. Speaker. These fights matter because they are fundamentally about who we want working for us. These people are going to make important decisions that are going to impact all of us.

Mr. Speaker, do my colleagues want people who understand our struggles, people who will fight for regular folks, or do we want billionaire, trust-fund weirdos who just prop up the same broken, rigged system that helps themselves and screws over the rest of us?

Mr. Speaker, I can anticipate what my good friend, the chairman of the Rules Committee, is going to say when he closes. He is going to accuse me of Trump derangement syndrome, which

the gentleman usually always does, but what is deranged here is what is happening right before our very eyes: these crazy picks that have no interest in what average people in this country care about.

I will say it again: People in this country voted for lower food prices and cheaper rent, not whatever the hell this is.

Guess what. Democrats are listening. We are not lecturing, and we are going to fight for what matters: lowering costs, building an economic system that works for everyone, and taking power from corporations and those at the top and returning it back to the American people where it belongs.

□ 1245

We are going to fight for young people who can't afford a downpayment on a house. We are going to fight for parents taking items out of the cart at the grocery store in order to make ends meet. We are going to fight for workers who come home after a long shift, get in the shower, and wonder how in the hell they are ever going to retire if Republicans cut Social Security and Medicare.

Guess what. We believe everybody, no matter where they come from or who they vote for, should live with dignity and have hope for a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that any of what my Republican friends are talking about on the floor today is in line with what the American people voted for. All this stuff that we are talking about here today is not what people voted for.

The people are probably scratching their heads and saying: What the hell is happening in the United States House of Representatives?

In January, Republicans will have the slimmest majority of any party in almost a century. I will make the American people a promise: Democrats will show up. We are not going to let them get away with taking away people's healthcare. We are not going to let them get away with rolling back the clock and taking this country backward.

We will show up. We are going to listen to the American people. We pledge to work with my Republican friends where we can, but I am going to tell you this: We are going to fight like hell for an economic system where all of us can succeed and nobody gets left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on this rule, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for that admonition. I will try to be careful to keep that in mind during my closing remarks.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Massachusetts is correct. He has pro-

vided me ample opportunity to study the clinical and psychological materials for Trump derangement syndrome, and I do feel that I have got an advanced degree in that after spending these years on the Rules Committee with him, but let me bring us back to the focus of the bills before us.

On the Prove It Act, H.R. 7198, the gentleman bemoans the fact that the American people sent us here for lower prices at the grocery store and to pay more attention to how their lives have been affected by this out-of-control government that we have seen for the last 4 years.

I don't know where the gentleman has been for the last 4 years, but I have had trouble getting a phone call answered by a Cabinet Secretary for 4 years. I, unfortunately, am not going to be serving here any longer after this Congress, but I am actually excited about a time when Congress can interact with the heads of Federal agencies and get their calls returned. That will be a novel approach.

With regard to the Prove It Act, let's focus for a minute on what this bill does. This requires Federal agencies to provide transparency regarding the impact of Federal regulatory decisions on small businesses. That is so simple.

If you are worried about prices, might you also not want to consider the cost that the regulatory regime of this administration has imposed upon businesses and what happens to those costs? They are not just absorbed by the business. They are passed along to the consumer. That is the way it all works.

Providing regulatory relief for our small businesses will prevent small businesses from having to pass those costs on to their consumers.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act is not a new phenomenon. This was enacted back in 1980 and requires Federal agencies to consider the effects their regulations have on small businesses and other small entities.

The RFA's goal is to reduce the economic impact of agency regulation on small businesses. That sounds like a good thing to me. If you are trying to consider opportunities to lower costs to the consumer, it seems like that is just exactly the type of thing you would want to do.

In 1996, long before Donald Trump became President, Congress amended the Regulatory Flexibility Act to add judicial review relative to some of its provisions to require some agencies to hold small business advocacy review panels and mandate that Federal agencies produce regulatory compliance guidelines.

Congress has not amended the RFA since 2010 when it made technical corrections and mandated that the newly formed Consumer Financial Protection Bureau convene small business review panels when promulgating rules.

Again, all of that seems like good government and a good idea, especially in an environment where you want to control costs.

After Congress enacted the Regulatory Flexibility Act, some evidence suggests that fellow agencies seriously undertook the policy of reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses, but evidence shows that the burden on small businesses continues to increase.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we are here. That burden continues to increase. What happens then is the cost of goods and services increase and are passed on to customers, customers who are our constituents who sent us here to do something about the high prices that they pay.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to support the rule and the underlying pieces of legislation. These bills solve critical issues facing our country today. They are thoughtfully drafted and worthy of bipartisan support.

I thank the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on the Judiciary for their work on these bills. I urge a strong showing of support in this body.

Now, I will comment briefly on the ranking member's issue with the waiver provided in the rule before I yield back. I understand his role is to find shortcomings in what the Rules Committee produces. He is good at that. He does a fine job of that, but he also tends to have a very short memory of when he held the gavel. I will remind the ranking member that when he had the gavel, his committee waived paygo 25 times, which is more than the majority by several factors.

I am proud of the work we have done on the committee, even with the challenges that the ranking member can appreciate. Again, I urge this body to support this rule and support the underlying legislation.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1602 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 12) to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any 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 Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 12.

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

The previous question was ordered.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. 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 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 4, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
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 4, 2024, at 11:23 a.m.

That the Senate passed S. 1956.
That the Senate passed S. 2514.
That the Senate passed S. 3277.
That the Senate passed S. 4107.
That the Senate passed S. 4243.
That the Senate passed S. 4569.
That the Senate passed S. 5355.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5536.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7764.

Appointment:
Co-Chairperson of the Commission on the Future of the Navy
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

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.

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

REVEREND HAROLD MIDDLEBROOK
POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9360) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Macedonia Lane in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the "Reverend Harold Middlebrook Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9360

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

SECTION 1. REVEREND HAROLD MIDDLEBROOK
POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300

Macedonia Lane in Knoxville, Tennessee, shall be known and designated as the "Reverend Harold Middlebrook Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Reverend Harold Middlebrook Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURCHETT. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a post office I hope we can name in honor of Reverend Harold Middlebrook. He is a well-known figure in our community and a civil rights leader. He was a close friend of Dr. Martin Luther King. As a matter of fact, he was part of the Memphis Sanitation worker strike in Memphis, Tennessee. He was arrested multiple times for alleged violations, but as we know, those weren't real violations. He was exhibiting his constitutional right. He was at the Lorraine Motel when King was assassinated.

In 1986, he founded the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission in Knoxville. For the record, every year they have the march, it is the coldest day in Knoxville. I always remember that because it is always cold.

Dr. Middlebrook has been a dear friend. I will say for the record that he has never voted for me, and he probably never will vote for me, but he is still my dear friend.

When I was mayor, I had him come to speak to the kids in my office, and we took him to lunch. I wanted them to know what they endured during the civil rights movement and what this country endured. I think it is more important than seeing it in black and white on TV or reading it in a magazine, but to hear it and see it from his eyes.

He spent his whole life befriending and mentoring folks in our community. He has been a dear friend to me and our Knoxville community, and he is a pretty dignified guy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can pass this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of H.R. 9360 for two reasons. One is the reason of process, which is,

as I understand it, the unanimous support of the Tennessee congressional delegation, which has always been the process threshold for these bills. Secondly, because of the substance.

Harold Middlebrook was born in Memphis, as my distinguished colleague, Mr. BURCHETT, tells us. He went to Morehouse and became involved as a college student in the civil rights movement. He was active both with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

At SNCC, he participated with Bob Moses and Ivanhoe Donaldson and a number of the other activists in SNCC, which was the organization that went door to door registering people to vote at great risk to life and limb.

They coined the expression “one person, one vote” later assimilated into the Supreme Court’s “one person, one vote” equal protection discourse in *Reynolds v. Sims* and *Wesberry v. Sanders*, but it started as a slogan of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

□ 1300

Reverend Middlebrook came to pastor churches in Memphis, Bolivar, and Knoxville. He founded the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission of Knoxville in honor of his late friend.

It is an honor to be able to rise in support of this legislation to create a post office that will be named in honor of Harold Middlebrook. I urge passage of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I am proud to support this bill to honor Reverend Harold Middlebrook.

I should have said in my notes earlier that there was an Urban League dinner, and Dr. Middlebrook, I thought, kind of had carried a heavy load his whole life. I remembered he was sitting off to the side. I was mayor of the county, and they asked me to come sit at the head table with all the, I guess, leaders.

Dr. Middlebrook was not at that table. My wife and I sat over at the side with Harold Middlebrook because I told him: You run with the ones that bring you, Preacher. He laughed and smiled. He told us great stories all night. I meant to say that, and I apologize.

I am proud to support this bill to honor my dear friend, Reverend Harold Middlebrook, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9360.

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.

FEDERAL AGENCY PERFORMANCE ACT OF 2024

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 709) to improve performance and accountability in the Federal Government, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 709

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 Agency Performance Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC REVIEWS AND REPORTING.

(a) STRATEGIC REVIEWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1121 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking the section heading and inserting “**Progress reviews and use of performance information**”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) AGENCY REVIEWS OF PROGRESS TOWARDS STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.—

“(1) COVERED GOAL DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered goal’ means a goal or objective established in the strategic plan of the agency under section 306(a) of title 5.

“(2) REVIEW.—Not less frequently than annually and consistent with guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the head and Chief Operating Officer of each agency, shall—

“(A) for each covered goal, review with the appropriate agency official responsible for the covered goal—

“(i) the progress achieved toward the covered goal—

“(I) during the most recent fiscal year; or

“(II) from recent sources of evidence available at the time of the review; and

“(ii) the likelihood that the agency will achieve the covered goal;

“(B) coordinate with relevant personnel within and outside the agency who contribute to the accomplishment of each covered goal;

“(C) assess progress toward each covered goal by reviewing performance information and other types of evidence relating to each covered goal, such as program evaluations and statistical data;

“(D) identify whether additional evidence is necessary to better assess progress toward each covered goal, and prioritize the development of the evidence described in subparagraph (C), such as through the plans required under section 312 of title 5, if applicable;

“(E) assess whether relevant organizations, program activities, regulations, policies, and other activities contribute as planned to each covered goal;

“(F) as appropriate, leverage the assessment performed under subparagraph (E) as part of the portfolio reviews required under section 503(c)(1)(G);

“(G) identify any risks or impediments that would reduce or otherwise decrease the likelihood that the agency will achieve the covered goal; and

“(H) for each covered goal at greatest risk of not being achieved, identify prospects and strategies for performance improvement, including any necessary changes to program activities, regulations, policies, or other activities of the agency.

“(3) SUPPORT.—In fulfilling the requirements of paragraph (2), the head and Chief Operating Officer of each agency shall be supported by—

“(A) the Performance Improvement Officer of the agency;

“(B) as appropriate, the Chief Data Officer, Evaluation Officer, Program Management Improvement Officer, and Statistical Official of the agency; and

“(C) any other senior agency official designated by the head of the agency, the sustained involvement of whom may help the agency increase the likelihood of achieving 1 or more covered goals.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1121 and inserting the following:

“1121. Progress reviews and use of performance information..”.

(b) SUMMARY REQUIRED.—Section 1116 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (6)(E), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) include a summary of the findings of the review of the agency under section 1121(c).”; and

(2) by striking subsections (f) through (i).

SEC. 3. REVISIONS TO THE FEDERAL PERFORMANCE WEBSITE.

Section 1122 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting “required to be included on the single website under subparagraph (A) and the information”; before “in the program inventory”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) ensure that the website described in subparagraph (A) conforms with the requirements for websites under section 3(a) of the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 note).”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) archive and preserve—

“(i) the information included in the program inventory required under paragraph (2)(B), including the information described in paragraph (3), after the end of the period during which that information is made available; and

“(ii) the information included in the single website under paragraph (2)(A) in accordance with subsections (b) and (c) after the end of the period during which such information is made available on the website; and”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) the results achieved toward the agency priority goals established under section 1120(b)—

“(A) during the most recent quarter and overall trend data for each quarter compared to the planned level of performance; and

“(B) at the end of the 2-year agency priority goal period compared to the overall planned level of performance;”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) the results achieved toward the priority goals developed under section 1120(a)(1)—

“(A) during the most recent quarter and overall trend data for each quarter compared to the planned level of performance; and

“(B) at the end of the 4-year Federal Government priority goal period compared to the overall planned level of performance;”.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITY GOALS.

Section 1120(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting “Such goals shall—

“(A) be updated and revised not less frequently than during the first year of each Presidential term;

“(B) be made publicly available not less frequently than concurrently with the submission of the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) made during the first full fiscal year following any year during which a term of the President commences under section 101 of title 3;

“(C) include plans for the successful achievement of each goal within each single Presidential term; and

“(D) explicitly cite to any specific contents of the budget described in subparagraph (B) that support the achievement of each goal.”

SEC. 5. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITY GOAL CO-LEADERS.

Section 1115(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) for each Federal Government performance goal, identify, as appropriate, not fewer than 2 lead Government officials who shall jointly be responsible for coordinating the efforts to achieve the goal, of whom—

“(A) not less than 1 shall be from the Executive Office of the President; and

“(B) not less than 1 shall be from an agency identified as contributing to the Federal Government performance goal described in paragraph (2);”

SEC. 6. REPEAL OF OUTDATED PILOT PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking sections 1118 and 1119.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9704 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the items relating to sections 1118 and 1119.

SEC. 7. CLARIFYING AMENDMENTS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT TO CITE TO EVIDENCE-BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN STRATEGIC PLANS.—Section 306(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8) by inserting “, as applicable” after “section 312”; and

(2) in paragraph (9), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “with respect to the head of an agency required to develop a plan described in subsection (a) or (b) of section 312,” before “an assessment”.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF TIMING OF AGENCY PERFORMANCE REPORT.—Section 1116(b)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “shall occur no less than 150 days after” and inserting “shall occur not later than 150 days after”.

SEC. 8. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report on the effectiveness of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURCHETT. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, the Federal Agency Performance Act, which provides additional transparency, accountability, and priorities for the Federal Government.

Federal agencies have many different missions. To meet these missions, they are required to develop goals and objectives. Developing the goal is an important first step toward progress. However, we know that more must be done to ensure that these goals and objectives are being achieved.

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, as later modernized in 2010 by a reform act known as GPRAMA, collectively established a solid foundation of reforms to improve the overall performance and outcomes of Federal agencies.

GPRAMA addressed a number of issues, such as focusing attention on crosscutting management issues, enhancing the usefulness of performance information, increasing transparency, and ensuring leadership commitment and attention to improving the performance of Federal agencies.

S. 709 builds upon existing law to codify the performance management practices that have shown the most positive results.

This bill requires agencies to proactively assess their progress toward achieving their strategic goals and objectives. It ensures that merely developing the goal is not enough.

Agencies would be required to track their progress and develop plans to address identified risks to not achieving their stated goals. This bill also requires agencies to determine whether they need more evidence to better assess their progress.

Agencies would also be required to assign senior leadership attention to completing these efforts, a common-sense reform that ensures that the work gets done, Mr. Speaker.

I thank Oversight Committee members WILLIAM TIMMONS and RO KHANNA for leading the House companion to this bill.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important, sensible, and bipartisan legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of the Federal Agency Performance Act. I also thank my colleagues, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA), for leading this bill to modernize the

Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, which we refer to as GPRA, I believe.

I am pleased to support this bipartisan legislation. I thank Senator PETERS, the chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, for his leadership of the bill on the Senate side.

GPRA established a performance management framework in 1993 for Federal Government agencies. It was last modernized in 2010, so we are overdue serious attention to make sure the framework is operating as effectively and smoothly as it can.

This bill would promote both accountability and transparency. It would codify OMB’s practice of conducting regular strategic reviews of Federal agency performance goals, and it would also set new requirements to improve publicly available data on performance.gov, allowing the public greater transparency into agency progress toward the goals that have been set forth.

The bill makes commonsense updates to ensure agencies are providing services to the people as efficiently and as effectively as possible, which is why we have a government, to serve the people.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS), my dear friend.

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of S. 709, the Federal Agency Performance Act.

I also thank my colleague, Mr. KHANNA, for partnering with me on the House companion version of this important bill and Chairman COMER for his support.

The Federal Agency Performance Act will help the incoming Trump administration root out waste, fraud, and abuse within many Federal agencies. The Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 already made important strides in improving agency performance. This bill builds on those reforms by introducing new proven practices that will reduce frivolous spending of taxpayer dollars.

Specifically, the bill requires agencies to develop clear strategic plans for how taxpayer money is allocated. Just as importantly, though, it holds agency employees accountable by requiring them to report their progress toward achieving those goals. By establishing a more rigorous strategic review process, improving access to publicly available data, and incorporating evidence-based practices into planning, we create a stronger framework for how taxpayer money is spent. This leads to greater transparency and accountability, not just for individual agencies, but across the government as a whole.

To increase government efficiency and demand accountability, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge everybody to pass this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and 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. BURCHETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 709, 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. BURCHETT. 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.

CORPORAL MATTHEW A. WYATT POST OFFICE

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8976) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West White Street in Millstadt, Illinois, as the "Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8976

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

SECTION 1. CORPORAL MATTHEW A. WYATT POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West White Street in Millstadt, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURCHETT. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Illinois for Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt.

Wyatt joined the United States Marine Corps shortly after graduating high school in June of 2001. On December 3, 2004, Corporal Wyatt was killed while stopping a suicide bomber's truck at the gates of his forward operating base in Iraq.

I support naming a post office in memory of Corporal Wyatt, and I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill. As a historical note, my father was a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 8976, which has bipartisan support.

Again, it is an honor to be able to support legislation named after Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt, who was a proud member of a military family, who joined the Marine Corps after graduating from high school in June of 2001. He was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Marine Corporal Matthew Wyatt was deployed to the Iraqi-Jordanian border, where tragically he was killed in action at the age of 21.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, which would honor his legacy by naming a post office in his hometown of Millstadt, Illinois, after him. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), who is a marine.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 8976, to rename the post office in Millstadt, Illinois, in honor of a fallen hero, Corporal Matthew Wyatt.

Matt was a marine, serving in Iraq's Al Anbar Province when a suicide bomber approached his base in a truck loaded with explosives. Matt and another marine quickly took action to attempt to block the breach, but the explosion killed both servicemen instantly.

Yesterday marked the 20th anniversary of their passing. Now, despite the passage of time, it is a mile marker that I am sure gets no easier for his loved ones left behind. It is a pain many of us could not imagine.

Matt had something special. He had something he couldn't learn by watching television or even being taught in a classroom. He was instilled with a commitment to his country that is really tough to find today.

Now, I spoke about Matt's background when I introduced this legislation in the spring, but it is important for me to share it again. Military service was in Matt's blood. It came from his father, Marine Gunnery Sergeant Alan Wyatt, and two grandfathers, one Army and one Navy.

When his mother, Verlene, asked if he was willing to go to war, without hesitation Matt said yes. His bravery in battle earned him the Purple Heart

and Bronze Star. His commanding officer personally traveled to Millstadt to present the family with his medals.

Though we mourn a precious life cut short, we honor a legacy that runs long. This is a small and meaningful tribute to a small-town southern Illinoisan who made a big difference for his country.

I am proud today that the people's House is taking the opportunity to honor him. I encourage all of my colleagues here to support this bill and pass H.R. 8976 in honor of Corporal Matthew Wyatt of Millstadt, Illinois. Semper fi, marine. Oorah.

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the naming of a post office after Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt.

My mama lost her oldest brother in the Second World War, and to the day she died, she talked about him. I could identify with what Marine Bost was just saying. 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. BURCHETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8976.

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.

□ 1315

FLOYD B. OLSON POST OFFICE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8841) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Center Street East in Roseau, Minnesota, as the "Floyd B. Olson Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8841

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

SECTION 1. FLOYD B. OLSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Center Street East in Roseau, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the "Floyd B. Olson Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Floyd B. Olson Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office located in Minnesota to honor Floyd Olson.

Floyd B. Olson was born in Roseau, Minnesota, and served in the U.S. Army for 2 years following his high school graduation. He began working at the Roseau post office as a clerk in 1963 and was appointed postmaster in 1966. Floyd passed away on December 26, 2017, at the age of 86.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would honor the life and legacy of the great Floyd B. Olson, Minnesota native and community postmaster for 25 years.

In addition to his important work making sure that the mail would be delivered through snow and sleet and rain, he was an Army veteran, an active member of a number of community groups, and active in politics. He belonged to the Roseau County Historical Society board and the postmasters association. I commend this legislation, and urge passage.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH).

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I am here to stand in support of my bill, H.R. 8841, to rename the post office in Roseau, Minnesota, in honor of Mr. Floyd B. Olson, who faithfully served as postmaster for the community for 25 years.

Floyd was a staple in his community. Born in Roseau on November 9, 1931, to a proud Swedish family, Floyd was named after Minnesota's Scandinavian Governor. He served 2 years in the U.S. Army and married Marjorie in 1954. The two would go on to have three children together, Jeff, Sarajane, and Lisa.

In addition to serving in the post office for nearly 30 years, he was a member of the Rose Free Lutheran Church, where he was an active participant on the board and a charter member of the Rose Church Men's Club. He served as vice president of the Roseau County Historical Society board for several years, and he served on the Roseau County Fair board for 25 years.

He looked forward to his Thursday morning coffee crew. He loved the great outdoors and anytime he could get out into nature. He took special pride in his six grandchildren and three great-granddaughters.

Sadly, Mr. OLSON passed away on December 26, 2017. He is remembered so fondly by his family and the Roseau community. A man of faith, a family man, a true public servant, I can think of no better person to dedicate this post office to than Mr. OLSON.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this legislation in his honor and look forward to voting on it on the floor.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentlewoman on this legislation.

My grandfather, who actually was in politics in Minnesota, was good friends with Floyd Olson, who also was in politics. He was a three-term Governor, an active member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, the 22nd Governor of Minnesota. Under his leadership, Minnesota instituted a progressive income tax, created a Social Security program for older people, expanded the State's environmental conservation programs, guaranteed equal pay for women, and fought for the right to collective bargaining and a minimum wage.

He is quite a great figure, and it is hard to think of a more deserving figure in Minnesota than that of Floyd Olson. We are delighted to endorse passage of this legislation.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this bill honoring Floyd B. Olson, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8841.

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.

STRENGTHENING AGENCY MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT OF SOFTWARE ASSETS ACT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1695) to improve the visibility, accountability, and oversight of agency software asset management practices, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 1695

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 "Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) AGENCY.—The term "agency" has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code, except that such

term does not include an element of the intelligence community.

(3) CLOUD COMPUTING.—The term "cloud computing" has the meaning given the term in Special Publication 800-145 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or any successor document.

(4) CLOUD SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term "cloud service provider" has the meaning given the term in section 3607(b) of title 44, United States Code.

(5) COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT.—The term "comprehensive assessment" means a comprehensive assessment conducted pursuant to section 3(a).

(6) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(7) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term "intelligence community" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(8) PLAN.—The term "plan" means the plan developed by a Chief Information Officer, or equivalent official, pursuant to section 4(a).

(9) SOFTWARE ENTITLEMENT.—The term "software entitlement" means any software that—

(A) has been purchased, leased, or licensed by or billed to an agency under any contract or other business arrangement; and

(B) is subject to use limitations.

(10) SOFTWARE INVENTORY.—The term "software inventory" means the software inventory of an agency required pursuant to—

(A) section 2(b)(2)(A) of the Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 11302 note; Public Law 114-210); or

(B) subsequent guidance issued by the Director pursuant to that Act.

SEC. 3. SOFTWARE INVENTORY UPDATE AND EXPANSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable, and not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief Information Officer of each agency, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Acquisition Officer, the Chief Data Officer, and General Counsel of the agency, or the equivalent officials of the agency, shall complete a comprehensive assessment of the software paid for by, in use at, or deployed throughout the agency, which shall include—

(1) the current software inventory of the agency, including software entitlements, contracts and other agreements or arrangements of the agency, and a list of the largest software entitlements of the agency separated by provider and category of software;

(2) a comprehensive, detailed accounting of—

(A) any software used by or deployed within the agency, including software developed or built by the agency, or by another agency for use by the agency, including shared services, as of the date of the comprehensive assessment, including, to the extent identifiable, the contracts and other agreements or arrangements used by the agency to acquire, build, deploy, or use such software;

(B) information and data on software entitlements, which shall include information on any additional fees or costs, including fees or costs for the use of cloud services, that are not included in the initial costs of the contract, agreement, or arrangement—

(i) for which the agency pays;

(ii) that are not deployed or in use by the agency; and

(iii) that are billed to the agency under any contract or business arrangement that creates duplication, or are otherwise determined to be unnecessary by the Chief Information Officer of the agency, or the equivalent official, in the deployment or use by the agency; and

(C) the extent—

(i) to which any software paid for, in use, or deployed throughout the agency is interoperable; and

(ii) of the efforts of the agency to improve interoperability of software assets throughout the agency enterprise;

(3) a categorization of software entitlements of the agency by cost, volume, and type of software;

(4) a list of any provisions in the software entitlements of the agency that may restrict how the software can be deployed, accessed, or used, including any such restrictions on desktop or server hardware, through a cloud service provider, or on data ownership or access; and

(5) an analysis addressing—

(A) the accuracy and completeness of the comprehensive assessment;

(B) agency management of and compliance with all contracts or other agreements or arrangements that include or reference software entitlements or software management within the agency;

(C) the extent to which the agency accurately captures the total cost of software entitlements and related costs, including the total cost of upgrades over the life of a contract, cloud usage costs, and any other cost associated with the maintenance or servicing of contracts; and

(D) compliance with software license management policies of the agency.

(b) CONTRACT SUPPORT.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The head of an agency may enter into 1 or more contracts to support the requirements of subsection (a).

(2) NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—Contracts under paragraph (1) shall not include contractors with organizational conflicts of interest, within the meaning given that term under subpart 9.5 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(3) OPERATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.—Over the course of a comprehensive assessment, contractors hired pursuant to paragraph (1) shall maintain operational independence from the integration, management, and operations of the software inventory and software entitlements of the agency.

(c) SUBMISSION.—On the date on which the Chief Information Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Acquisition Officer, the Chief Data Officer, and General Counsel of an agency, or the equivalent officials of the agency, complete the comprehensive assessment, the Chief Information Officer shall submit the comprehensive assessment to the head of the agency.

(d) SUBSEQUENT SUBMISSION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the head of an agency receives the comprehensive assessment under subsection (c), the head of the agency shall submit the comprehensive assessment to—

(1) the Director;

(2) the Administrator;

(3) the Comptroller General of the United States;

(4) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(5) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

(e) CONSULTATION.—In order to ensure the utility and standardization of the comprehensive assessment of each agency, including to support the development of each plan and the report required under section 4(e)(2), the Director, in consultation with the Administrator, shall share information, best practices, and recommendations relating to the activities performed in the course of a comprehensive assessment of an agency.

(f) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—For each element of the intelligence community, a comprehensive assessment described under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) conducted separately;

(2) performed only by an entity designated by the head of the element of the intelligence community, in accordance with appropriate applicable laws;

(3) performed in such a manner as to ensure appropriate protection of information which, if disclosed, may adversely affect national security; and

(4) submitted in summary form, not later than 30 days after the date on which the head of the element of the intelligence community receives the assessment, by the head of the element of the intelligence community to—

(A) the Director;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(C) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4. SOFTWARE MODERNIZATION PLANNING AT AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Information Officer of each agency, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Acquisition Officer, the Chief Data Officer, and the General Counsel of the agency, or the equivalent officials of the agency, shall use the information developed pursuant to the comprehensive assessment of the agency to develop a plan for the agency—

(1) to consolidate software entitlements of the agency;

(2) to ensure that, in order to improve the performance of, and reduce unnecessary costs to, the agency, the Chief Information Officer, Chief Data Officer, and Chief Acquisition Officer of the agency, or the equivalent officers, develop criteria and procedures for how the agency will adopt cost-effective acquisition strategies, including enterprise licensing, across the agency that reduce costs, eliminate excess licenses, and improve performance; and

(3) to restrict the ability of a bureau, program, component, or operational entity within the agency to acquire, use, develop, or otherwise leverage any software entitlement (or portion thereof) without the approval of the Chief Information Officer of the agency, in consultation with the Chief Acquisition Officer of the agency, or the equivalent officers of the agency.

(b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The plan of an agency shall—

(1) include a detailed strategy for—

(A) the remediation of any software asset management deficiencies found during the comprehensive assessment of the agency;

(B) the ongoing maintenance of software asset management upon the completion of the remediation;

(C) automation of software license management processes and incorporation of discovery tools across the agency;

(D) ensuring that officers and employees of the agency are adequately trained in the policies, procedures, rules, regulations, and guidance relating to the software acquisition and development of the agency before entering into any agreement relating to any software entitlement (or portion thereof) for the agency, including training on—

(i) negotiating options within contracts to address and minimize provisions that restrict how the agency may deploy, access, or use the software, including restrictions on deployment, access, or use on desktop or server hardware and restrictions on data ownership or access;

(ii) the differences between acquiring commercial software products and services and acquiring or building custom software; and

(iii) determining the costs of different types of licenses and options for adjusting licenses to meet increasing or decreasing demand; and

(E) maximizing the effectiveness of software deployed by the agency, including, to

the extent practicable, leveraging technologies that—

(i) measure actual software usage via analytics that can identify inefficiencies to assist in rationalizing software spending;

(ii) allow for segmentation of the user base;

(iii) support effective governance and compliance in the use of software; and

(iv) support interoperable capabilities between software;

(2) identify categories of software the agency could prioritize for conversion to more cost-effective software licenses, including enterprise licenses, as the software entitlements, contracts, and other agreements or arrangements come up for renewal or renegotiation;

(3) provide an estimate of the costs to move toward more enterprise, open-source, or other licenses that do not restrict the use of software by the agency, and the projected cost savings, efficiency measures, and improvements to agency performance throughout the total software lifecycle;

(4) identify potential mitigations to minimize software license restrictions on how such software can be deployed, accessed, or used, including any mitigations that would minimize any such restrictions on desktop or server hardware, through a cloud service provider, or on data ownership or access;

(5) ensure that the purchase by the agency of any software is based on publicly available criteria that are not unduly structured to favor any specific vendor, unless prohibited by law (including regulation);

(6) include any estimates for additional resources, services, or support the agency may need to implement the plan;

(7) provide information on the prevalence of software products in use across multiple software categories; and

(8) include any additional information, data, or analysis determined necessary by the Chief Information Officer, or other equivalent official, of the agency.

(c) SUPPORT.—The Chief Information Officer, or other equivalent official, of an agency may request support from the Director and the Administrator for any analysis or developmental needs to create the plan of the agency.

(d) AGENCY SUBMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the head of an agency submits the comprehensive assessment pursuant to section 3(d), the head of the agency shall submit to the Director, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives the plan of the agency.

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the head of an element of the intelligence community submits the summary assessment pursuant to section 3(f)(4), the head of the element shall separately submit the plan of the element to the Director, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(e) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The Director—

(1) in coordination with the Administrator, the Chief Information Officers Council, the Chief Acquisition Officers Council, the Chief Data Officers Council, the Chief Financial Officers Council, and other government and industry representatives identified by the Director, shall establish processes, using existing reporting functions, as appropriate, to identify, define, and harmonize common definitions, terms and conditions, standardized requirements, and other information and criteria to support agency heads in developing

and implementing the plans required by this section; and

(2) in coordination with the Administrator, and not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report detailing recommendations to leverage Government procurement policies and practices with respect to software acquired by, developed by, deployed within, or in use at 1 or more agencies to—

(A) increase the interoperability of software licenses, including software entitlements and software built by Government agencies;

(B) consolidate licenses, as appropriate;

(C) reduce costs;

(D) improve performance; and

(E) modernize the management and oversight of software entitlements and software built by Government agencies, as identified through an analysis of agency plans.

SEC. 5. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report on—

(1) Government-wide trends in agency software asset management practices;

(2) comparisons of software asset management practices among agencies;

(3) the establishment by the Director of processes to identify, define, and harmonize common definitions, terms, and conditions under section 4(e);

(4) agency compliance with the restrictions on contract support under section 3(b); and

(5) other analyses of and findings regarding the plans of agencies, as determined by the Comptroller General of the United States.

SEC. 6. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, the Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets Act.

Federal agencies spend billions of dollars a year on software licenses without a full understanding of what they are purchasing and how it compares to what they are already paying for. The result is wasteful spending on duplicative and unnecessary software licenses.

This legislation will provide Congress better insight into how our Federal

agencies purchase and use software and will improve government software purchasing without unduly limiting the procurement options of Federal agencies.

H.R. 1695 requires an agency to better manage its software and develop a plan for addressing any costly, unnecessary licenses. This will reduce wasteful spending and improve government efficiency.

I thank Representatives CARTWRIGHT, FALLON, and MACE for working to ensure this legislation appropriately achieves its goals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1695, the SAMOSA Act. I thank my friend and distinguished, eminent, erudite, and eloquent colleague, Mr. CARTWRIGHT of Pennsylvania, for his vigorous leadership on this bipartisan bill that will achieve big cost savings for the American people.

The government will spend tens of billions of dollars this year on software purchases and maintenance, which is a big chunk of the estimated \$100 billion that they will spend on IT annually.

Previous efforts to increase oversight and transparency of expenditures on software, including the MEGABYTE Act of 2016, have helped the agency save hundreds of millions of dollars over just 3 years.

Serious challenges remain. For example, a recent audit by GAO found that software license data reported by the agencies was inconsistent due to wide variation in how agencies track and maintain their computer inventories and contracts.

Current software contract and asset management practices fall short of achieving enough transparency to allow the agencies to purchase software products and services that actually will meet their needs and priorities.

H.R. 1695, the SAMOSA Act, would require Federal agency chief information officers to conduct comprehensive assessments of the software paid for by government or in use in government or being deployed there. These assessments would update and expand the software inventories required by the MEGABYTE Act.

The bill would require agencies to submit these comprehensive assessments to GSA, OMB, GAO, and Congress to facilitate more effective oversight of Federal software contracts.

Agencies would be required to use these assessments to develop a plan to better manage software procurement and management, which would be required to include remediation of deficiencies, automation of management processes, and workforce training.

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security says the bill could save taxpayers up to \$5 billion a year. This bipartisan legislation would enable the

Federal Government to operate more effectively, efficiently, and transparently. I am happy to support its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to speak about my bill, H.R. 1695, the SAMOSA Act, the Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets Act.

It is a signal mission, Chairman COMER, Ranking Member RASKIN. It is a signal mission of the Oversight Committee to root out waste, fraud, and abuse and to take measures to correct such waste of money of the American taxpayers.

This legislation would require all Federal agencies to conduct a comprehensive assessment of their current software assets and restructure their operations to reduce unnecessary costs.

The U.S. Government is the largest single software customer in the world. Our Federal Government spends billions of taxpayer dollars every year on software licenses alone. Most of these software license purchases are purposeful, but some are redundant, duplicative, and simply unnecessary.

GAO reports have called out duplicative IT purchases and concluded that better tracking and inventory systems are necessary to avoid unnecessary purchases. Current software procurement processes lack transparency about what software assets are purchased and which ones are deployed by Federal agencies. In fact, many of the government software audits are done by the software vendors themselves. That is a stunning oversight.

Additionally, rigid software licensing agreements restrict vendor competition and prevent Federal agencies from accessing more cost-effective options.

Congress took a step to improve oversight of the Federal Government software assets purchases when my bill, the MEGABYTE Act that Ranking Member RASKIN just mentioned, passed the House and was signed into law in 2016. I had the help of Republican Congressman Steve Russell from Oklahoma City, a fellow House Committee on Oversight and Reform member, on that.

The MEGABYTE Act directed agencies to maintain an inventory of software licenses and has saved American taxpayers over \$450 million. H.R. 1695, the SAMOSA Act, builds on the MEGABYTE Act's success by requiring independent assessment of software license management practices and contracts.

This bill would also require chief information officers to develop plans to improve negotiating power against software vendors by requiring all Federal agencies to better track their software purchases. This commonsense bill would reduce waste, strengthen cybersecurity, and modernize government operations.

The Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets

Act, the SAMOSA Act, symbolizes good governance, and it is a commonsense, bipartisan solution.

Again, I thank Oversight Committee Chair COMER and Ranking Member RASKIN for their support of my bill. I thank Senators PETERS and CASSIDY, both former House Members, for leading this measure in the United States Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” and encourage swift passage of the SAMOSA Act through the Senate.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage my colleagues 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 Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1695, 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.

□ 1330

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9598) to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act to reauthorize such Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9598

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 “Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998.—The Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 702 (21 U.S.C. 1701)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), by striking “Government Reform” and inserting “Accountability”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (L), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (M), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(N) tertiary prevention support or services, including opioid antagonists or overdose reversal agents such as naloxone, and other harm reduction activities such as overdose and drug detection testing.”;

(C) by amending paragraph (7) to read as follows:

“(7) EMERGING DRUG THREAT.—The term ‘emerging drug threat’ means the occurrence

of a new and growing trend in the illicit use or misuse of a drug, class of drugs, or non-controlled substance, or a new or evolving method of drug consumption or trafficking, including rapid expansion in the supply of or demand for such a drug or substance.”.

(D) in paragraph (9), by striking “drug laws” and inserting the following: “drug, trade, and illicit drug trafficking laws”;

(E) in paragraph (10), by inserting after “demand reduction,” the following: “illicit drug trafficking.”;

(F) by redesignating paragraphs (15), (16), and (17) as paragraphs (17), (18), and (19), respectively;

(G) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following new paragraph:

“(15) PRECURSOR CHEMICAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘precursor chemical’ includes a listed chemical and an unregulated precursor.

“(B) LISTED CHEMICAL.—The term ‘listed chemical’ has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

“(C) UNREGULATED PRECURSOR.—The term ‘unregulated precursor’—

“(i) means any chemical used in the production of illicit drugs that has not been identified as a listed chemical under the Controlled Substances Act; and

“(ii) does not include a solvent or reagent.

“(16) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and each territory or possession of the United States.”;

(H) in paragraph (19), as so redesignated—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (H) and (I), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) activities to map, track, dismantle, and disrupt the financial enablers of drug trafficking organizations, transnational criminal organizations, and money launderers involved in the manufacture and trafficking of drugs in the United States and in foreign countries.”; and

(I) by inserting at the end the following:

“(20) UNITED STATES.—The term ‘United States’, when used in a geographical sense, means all of the States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States, and any waters within the jurisdiction of the United States.

“(21) EVIDENCE.—The term ‘evidence’ has the meaning given that term in section 3561 of title 44, United States Code.”;

(2) in section 703(d) (21 U.S.C. 1702(d))—

(A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “accepted by a contractor to be used in its performance of a contract for the Office.” and inserting the following: “accepted—

“(i) by a contractor (or subcontractor thereof at any tier) for use in its performance of a contract for the Office; or

“(ii) by a grant recipient (or subgrantee thereof at any tier) for use in carrying out an award related to a fund administered by the Office.”; and

(B) in paragraph (6), by inserting after “paragraph (5)” the following: “and the registry shall be sent to the appropriate Congressional committees”;

(3) in section 704 (21 U.S.C. 1703)—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(C), by striking “shall” and inserting “may”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (16), by inserting after “to treat addiction” the following: “, encourage primary substance use prevention, and increase accessibility and effectiveness of life-saving opioid antagonists or reversal agents, such as naloxone”;

(ii) by striking paragraph (20);

(iii) by redesignating paragraph (21) as paragraph (20);

(iv) in paragraph (20), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(v) by inserting at the end the following:

“(21) shall coordinate with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State regarding the status of the enforcement of clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) and subparagraph (B) of section 237(a)(2) (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(2)) and subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section 212(a)(2) (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)) for the purposes of ensuring such drug control and illicit drug trafficking enforcement activities are adequately resourced.”;

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “supply reduction, and State, local, and tribal affairs, including any drug law enforcement activities” and inserting the following: “supply reduction, accessibility to life-saving opioid antagonists or reversal agents, such as naloxone, and State, local, and Tribal affairs, including any drug related law enforcement activities”;

(ii) in paragraph (3)(C)—

(I) in clause (ii), by inserting after “United States” the following: “, including at and between the ports of entry.”;

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(III) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(IV) by inserting at the end the following new clause:

“(v) requests funding for activities that facilitate illicit drug use, but not including overdose reversal medications, drug checking, or testing technology.”;

(D) in subsection (d)(8)(F)(ii), by striking “and at United States ports of entry by officers and employees of National Drug Control Program agencies and domestic and foreign law enforcement officers” and inserting the following: “and at and between United States ports of entry by officers and employees of National Drug Control Program agencies and domestic and foreign law enforcement officers”;

(E) in subsection (i)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “to address illicit drug use issues” and inserting the following: “to address illicit drug use, prevention and treatment of overdose and addiction, and law enforcement activities”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

(F) in subsection (k)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS” and inserting “SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION, HARM REDUCTION, AND LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT PROGRAMS”; and

(ii) in the first sentence, by inserting after “drug addiction and use” the following: “with the primary goal being the prevention of initial or continued use and the fostering of life-saving opioid antagonists or reversal agents, such as naloxone”;

(4) in section 705 (21 U.S.C. 1704)—

(A) in subsection (a)(3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting after “Federal Government” the following: “and such lands owned by a foreign principal (as such term is defined in section 1(b) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611))”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by inserting after “the preceding year” the following: “, along with historical comparisons over the prior 20 years.”;

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by inserting after “seizing drugs,” the following: “including precursor chemicals.”; and

(bb) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(III) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(IV) by inserting at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) the effects of trends of encounters of inadmissible aliens at and between the ports of entry, and the effect of any increases or changes in the level of trade and travel, on the capacity and ability of the Department of Homeland Security components to interdict and prevent the unlawful entry of illicit drugs into the United States by any means.”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by inserting after “the preceding year” the following: “; along with historical comparisons over the prior 20 years.”; and

(II) in clause (iii), by inserting after “seizing drugs,” the following: “including precursor chemicals.”;

(B) in subsection (e)(2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031”; and

(C) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by inserting after “agency shall” the following: “; in accordance with guidelines issued by the Director for standard definitions, identification, and review procedures.”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (4);

(5) in section 706 (21 U.S.C. 1705)—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (D);

(II) in subparagraph (H)—

(aa) by inserting after “identifying existing” the following: “evidence.”; and

(bb) by striking “will obtain such data” and inserting “will ensure such data is obtained”;

(III) in subparagraph (J)(ii), by inserting “evidence,” before “data”;

(IV) in subparagraph (L), by inserting “evidence” after “Such other”; and

(V) in subparagraph (M)(iv), by inserting “storing and retrieving,” after “collecting.”;

(i) in paragraph (2)—

(I) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively; and

(II) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraphs:

“(E) The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

“(F) The Chief Data Officers Council.”;

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(aa) in subclause (I), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(bb) in subclause (II), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(cc) by inserting at the end the following new subclause:

“(III) an analysis of the effects of trends of encounters of inadmissible aliens at and between the ports of entry, and the effect of any increases or changes in the level of trade and travel, on the capacity and ability of the Department of Homeland Security to interdict and prevent the unlawful entry of illicit drugs into the United States by any means.”; and

(II) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) REQUIREMENT FOR CARIBBEAN BORDER COUNTERNARCOTICS STRATEGY.—

“(i) PURPOSES.—The Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy shall—

“(I) set forth the strategy of the Federal Government for preventing the illegal trafficking of drugs through the Caribbean region into the United States, including through ports of entry, between ports of entry, and across air and maritime approaches;

“(II) state the specific roles and responsibilities of each relevant National Drug

Control Program agency for implementing the strategy;

“(III) identify the specific resources required to enable the relevant National Drug Control Program agencies to implement the strategy, to the extent practicable; and

“(IV) be designed to promote, and not hinder, legitimate trade and travel.

“(ii) SPECIFIC CONTENT RELATED TO PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS.—The Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy shall include—

“(I) a strategy to prevent the illegal trafficking of drugs to or through Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands, including measures to substantially reduce drug-related violent crime on such islands; and

“(II) recommendations for additional assistance or authorities, if any, needed by Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies relating to the strategy, including an evaluation of Federal technical and financial assistance, infrastructure capacity building, and interoperability deficiencies.”; and

(iv) in paragraph (5), by striking “data” each place it appears and inserting “evidence, data.”;

(B) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “publicly available in a machine-readable format” and inserting the following: “publicly available as an open Government data asset (as such term is defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code)”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting after “searchable format” the following: “available for bulk download to the extent practicable”; and

(iii) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) DATA.—The data included in the Drug Control Data Dashboard shall be updated annually with final data, and to the extent practicable, updated quarterly with provisional data, that aligns with the goals of the performance measurement system required under subsection (h) and include, at a minimum, the following:

“(A) For each substance identified by the Director as having a significant impact on illicit drug use in the United States, data sufficient to—

“(i) assess supply reduction efforts, including, to the extent practicable, the total amount of substances seized;

“(ii) assess drug use behaviors;

“(iii) estimate the prevalence of substance use disorders;

“(iv) show the number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses; and

“(v) assess the provision of substance use disorder treatment.

“(B) Any quantifiable measures the Director determines to be appropriate to detail progress toward the achievement of the goals of the National Drug Control Strategy, including, to the extent practicable, data disaggregated by specific geographic areas or sub-populations of interest.

“(C) Data sufficient to assess the effectiveness of such substance use disorder treatments.

“(D) To the extent practicable, data sufficient to show the extent of prescription drug diversion, trafficking, and misuse in the calendar year and each of the previous 3 calendar years.

“(E) Any quantifiable measures the Director determines to be appropriate to detail progress toward the achievement of the goals of the National Drug Control Strategy, including to the extent practicable, data disaggregated by specific geographic areas or sub-populations of interest.”; and

(C) in subsection (g)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (D), by striking “narcotics” and inserting “drugs”;

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking “drug use” and inserting “illicit drug use and misuse”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “drug use” and inserting “illicit drug use and misuse”;

(6) in section 707 (21 U.S.C. 1706)—

(A) in subsection (1)(2)(F), by inserting “and authorities enforcing illicit drug trafficking laws” after “task forces”;

(B) in subsection (m)(2), by inserting “; authorities enforcing illicit drug trafficking laws,” after “agencies”;

(C) in subsection (p)—

(i) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) \$298,579,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.”;

(D) in subsection (r)(3), by striking “addiction”;

(E) in subsection (s)—

(i) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking “The Director” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (t)(2), the Director”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) enhancing fentanyl seizure and interdiction activities.”; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(t) SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS FOR FENTANYL INTERDICTION ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) MINIMUM ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR FENTANYL INTERDICTION ACTIVITIES.—Of the amounts allocated for grants under subsection (s), not less than \$5,000,000 shall be allocated for the purpose of making grants under subsection (s)(4).

“(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—In addition to amounts allocated under subparagraph (A) for the purpose of making grants under subsection (s)(4), the Director may use amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this section for such purpose.

“(u) ADDITIONAL JUDICIARY PROSECUTORIAL RESOURCES.—

“(1) TEMPORARY REASSIGNMENT OF ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS.—

“(A) AUTHORITY.—The Attorney General may identify assistant United States attorneys who may be made available for temporary reassignment under subsection (b)(2) for a period of time determined by the Attorney General in coordination with the Director, during which an assistant United States attorney shall prioritize the investigation and prosecution of organizations and individuals trafficking in fentanyl or fentanyl analogues.

“(B) EXTENSION OF REASSIGNMENT.—Such reassignment may be extended by the Attorney General for such time as may be necessary to conclude any ongoing investigation or prosecution in which the assistant United States attorney is engaged.

“(2) PROCESS FOR TEMPORARY REASSIGNMENT.—The Attorney General may establish a process under which the Director, in consultation with the Executive Boards of each designated high intensity drug trafficking area, may request such an assistant United States attorney to be so temporarily reassigned.

“(v) USE OF FUNDS TO COMBAT FENTANYL TRAFFICKING.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—As part of the documentation that supports the President’s annual budget request for the Office, the Director shall submit to Congress a report describing the use of HIDTA funds for the purposes of enhancing fentanyl seizure and

interdiction activities under subsection (s)(4) or (t) and to investigate and prosecute organizations and individuals trafficking in fentanyl or fentanyl analogues in the prior calendar year.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

“(A) the amounts of fentanyl or fentanyl analogues seized by HIDTA-funded initiative in the area during the previous year; and

“(B) law enforcement intelligence and predictive data from the Drug Enforcement Administration showing patterns and trends in abuse, trafficking, and transportation in fentanyl and fentanyl analogues.

“(w) PROTECTION FROM UNREASONABLE SEARCH AND SEIZURE.—Any program or activity that receives funds made available under this section shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

“(x) REPORT ON DATA ANALYTICAL SERVICES PROGRAM.—

“(1) REPORT.—With respect to the Data Analytical Services program (formally known as Hemisphere), and any successor program, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report every two years on any activities of the program—

“(A) funded by the Office; and

“(B) carried out in two years prior to the submission of the report.

“(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) A documentation of any activities of the Data Analytical Services program, including—

“(i) the amount of searches conducted for each HIDTA; and

“(ii) each requesting local law enforcement jurisdiction.

“(B) Information on how the program was funded and how funds were expended under the program, including information on any—

“(i) funding sources derived from each HIDTA’s funding allocation for a HIDTA, or any other source of funding, for the program; and

“(ii) payments made by the program to any non-governmental entity or external vendor.

“(C) A description of any policies and guidelines provided to HIDTA personnel and local law enforcement jurisdictions governing the operation of the program in order to ensure that such program does not infringe on rights protected under the Fourth Amendment or violate legally protected privacy of United States citizens or individuals legally in the United States, along with any recommendations by the Director to strengthen such policies and guidelines.”;

(7) in section 709(f)(1) (21 U.S.C. 1708(f)(1))—

(A) by striking “shall” and inserting “may”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “abuse” and inserting “use or misuse”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking “addiction issues” and inserting “substance use disorders”;

(8) in section 709 (21 U.S.C. 1708)—

(A) in subsection (f)(2)(B)(iii), by inserting after “professionals” the following: “including experts in evidence-based media campaigns, education, and evaluation”; and

(B) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”;

(9) in section 711 (21 U.S.C. 1710), including the headings, by striking “Command and Control Plan” each place it appears and inserting “Strategic Plan”; and

(10) in section 714 (21 U.S.C. 1711), by inserting before the period at the end the fol-

lowing: “and \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031”.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE ANTI-DRUG ABUSE ACT OF 1988.—The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-690) is amended—

(1) in section 1024 (21 U.S.C. 1524)—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and \$109,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “8 percent” and inserting “10 percent”; and

(2) in section 1032(b) (21 U.S.C. 1532(b))—

(A) by striking “\$125,000” each place the term appears and inserting “\$150,000”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (F), the Administrator may award up to 2 additional grants under this paragraph to an eligible coalition awarded a grant under paragraph (1) or (2) for any first fiscal year after the end of the 4-year or 9-year period following the period of the initial or subsequent grant under paragraph (1) or (2), as the case may be.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “a renewal grant” and inserting “up to 2 renewal grants”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “an additional grant” and inserting “the additional grants”;

(iv) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) RENEWAL GRANTS.—Subject to subparagraph (F), the Administrator may award a renewal grant to a grant recipient under this paragraph for each fiscal year of the 4-fiscal-year period following the first fiscal year for which an additional grant under this paragraph is awarded in an amount not to exceed the amount of non-Federal funds raised by the coalition, including in-kind contributions, for that fiscal year.”.

(c) REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY ANTI-DRUG COALITION INSTITUTE.—Section 4(d) of Public Law 107-82 (21 U.S.C. 1521 note) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) DISBURSEMENT.—The Director shall, using amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 1024 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1524), disburse \$2,500,000 made available under subsection (a), for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2031.”.

(d) REAUTHORIZATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED COALITION ENHANCEMENT GRANTS TO ADDRESS LOCAL DRUG CRISES.—Section 103 of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (21 U.S.C. 1536) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “ADMINISTRATOR” and inserting “ASSISTANT SECRETARY”; and

(ii) by striking “Administrator” each place it appears and inserting “Assistant Secretary”;

(B) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “abuse” and inserting “use or misuse”; and

(C) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “abuse” and inserting “use or misuse”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “Administrator” and inserting “Assistant Secretary”;

(3) in subsection (h), by striking “Administrator” and inserting “Assistant Secretary”;

(4) in subsection (i), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and \$5,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031”.

(e) REPORT REGARDING LIFE-SAVING OPIOID ANTAGONISTS OR REVERSAL AGENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—The Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-469) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 1121. REQUIREMENT FOR LIFE SAVING OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL STUDY.

“(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that it is vital to support access to treatment and emergency intervention tools to address drug addiction while also pursuing strategies to ensure communities have readily available access to life-saving drug overdose reversal medications, including opioid antagonists or reversal agents, such as naloxone, in case of an emergency.

“(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy shall submit to Congress a report that contains the following:

“(1) A summary of the relevant roles, responsibilities, and authorities of each relevant National Drug Control Program agency to ensure that life-saving drug overdose reversal medications are readily available in case of an emergency, including life-saving opioid antagonists or reversal agents, such as naloxone, across the Nation.

“(2) A strategy for the Federal Government to ensure that State, local, and Tribal governments, and agencies thereof including law enforcement and public health and safety entities, have life-saving drug overdose reversal medications readily available in case of an emergency, including life-saving opioid antagonists or reversal agents, such as naloxone, which at a minimum identifies—

“(A) any Federal and State policies and actions necessary for the relevant National Drug Control Program agencies to take to address—

“(i) the challenges faced by pharmacists, prescription drug providers, dispensers (including manufacturers, distributors, and retailers), and other health care providers, to make such medications readily available to patients over the counter for emergency use;

“(ii) the challenges faced by pharmacists, health care providers, and State health officials to educate the public on the risks and benefits of such medications, including how to effectively use such medications; and

“(iii) the appropriate training of State and local health care providers and first responders on the use of such medications; and

“(B) identifies any budgetary resources, personnel resources, licensing requirements, and legal authorities that relevant National Drug Control Program agencies needs to enable the availability of such life-saving emergency drug overdose medications;

“(3) A summary of policies in effect before the submission of the report that are administered by—

“(A) the Director of the Office National Drug Control Policy;

“(B) the Secretary of Health and Human Services; and

“(C) each National Drug Control Program agency, as applicable.

“(4) A summary of the specific actions taken over the previous 10 years before the submission of the report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Drug Enforcement Administration to coordinate with one another and with State health agencies to ensure that—

“(A) such treatments, including medications, are accessible to the public; and

“(B) appropriate public education on the use of, and the risks and benefits of, such treatments, including medications, are readily available.

“(c) UPDATES.—Any significant update made to the strategy included in the report required by paragraph (2)(B) after such report is submitted shall be included in the next National Drug Control Strategy submitted to Congress after such update is made.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The Table of Contents for the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 1121. Requirement for Life Saving Opioid Overdose Reversal Study.”.

(f) REPORT ON PILL PRESS MACHINES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy shall make public a report that includes an analysis of and a description of strategic ways to regulate the shipment of pill press machines and their critical parts using reports previously prepared by the Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act.

We have a drug overdose crisis in this country. It is unacceptable and intolerable. In 2019, roughly 70,000 people in the United States died of an overdose. In 2021, that number rose to over 106,000, and in 2022, to over 111,000 deaths.

In 2023, overdose deaths remained over 100,000 with 107,000 Americans dying of an overdose. Overdose deaths remain near record highs. This is an ongoing, deadly national emergency that affects every community in our Nation.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy, or ONDCP, was established in the Executive Office of the President with the specific mission to coordinate the government-wide resources to combat the loss of life and human misery caused by illicit narcotics and overdoses.

This bill, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2024, will reauthorize ONDCP and two critical grant programs the office administers at current spending levels for the next 7 years.

Specifically, the bill will reauthorize the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, which helps local law enforcement coordinate efforts to take down drug traffickers, and the Drug Free Communities Program, which works in communities across the country to prevent young people from ever trying drugs in the first place.

I commend the great Americans who work hard to get results through the

Drug Free Communities coalitions. We listen to these coalitions and ensure that the grant limitation for local communities was increased from \$125,000 to \$150,000 and gave the ONDCP Director the ability to award up to two additional grants to eligible coalitions rather than the previous limit of one.

I thank Congressman JOHN DUARTE of California and Congresswoman ELISSA SLOTKIN of Michigan for their efforts to reauthorize HIDTA. Key elements of this bipartisan bill, H.R. 7185, have been incorporated into this reauthorization bill to ensure that HIDTA resources are used to combat fentanyl, including granting the Attorney General the authority to temporarily reassign U.S. attorneys to prioritize fentanyl trafficking.

I am sure that every single member of this committee and every Member of this Congress knows constituents and their families who have been tragically impacted by illicit narcotics, especially synthetic opioids like fentanyl. No drug has affected our communities more in recent years than fentanyl.

The DEA has assessed that virtually all of the deadly fentanyl found in the United States is mass-produced by transnational criminal organizations in Mexico using precursor chemicals sourced from China and then smuggled into the United States across the southwest border.

This bill requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess how an increase in encounters at the southwest border affects DHS' ability to prevent the unlawful entry of fentanyl and other illicit drugs into the United States.

It also directs the ONDCP Director to coordinate with the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, and State to ensure that the appropriate agencies are properly resourced to ensure that traffickers of illicit drugs are held accountable under title 8 immigration authorities.

I thank Congresswoman GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico and Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT of the U.S. Virgin Islands for their work on H.R. 920, and ensuring that the Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy is codified in this reauthorization package ensuring that ONDCP will properly assess the threat of drug trafficking into the United States through the Caribbean.

I thank Ranking Member RASKIN and his staff for working with us to make this important bill a reality over the past year.

H.R. 9598 represents an important reauthorization effort in the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability's legislative jurisdiction. I also thank the chairs and ranking members of the Energy and Commerce Committee and House Judiciary Committee and their professional staff for closely coordinating on our shared jurisdiction within this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill

so we can keep the U.S. Government's collective resources focused on addressing the national drug crisis in our great country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority for working together with us to bring this bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy, or ONDCP, to the floor.

The office has the critical responsibility to coordinate the whole-of-government response to the Nation's continuing brutal addiction and substance abuse crisis, which affects every community in the land.

In the face of this crisis, new data shows that opioid overdose deaths have decreased 14.5 percent over the 12-month period ending on June 30, 2024, due, in no small part, to the strong actions of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

To understand the addiction and overdose crisis, the Biden-Harris administration sees the need to address the problem at both the levels of supply and demand. ONDCP has taken decisive action to intercept the flow of fentanyl and other illicit substances into the country.

This reauthorization will further bolster our efforts to block the supply of drugs, including by funding the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program providing more than \$275 million in grant making to law enforcement entities that will help keep illicit and harmful drugs off of our streets.

The reauthorization also confronts the problem by countering the demand for illegal drugs. The Drug Free Communities Program, for example, brings together approximately 35,000 people across the country to help prevent and combat youth substance abuse.

I am proud this authorization would make sure that this successful grant program continues. Research shows also that harm-reduction strategies, programs that meet people where they are, work. Under the Biden-Harris administration, ONDCP has adopted harm-reduction strategies as part of the national campaign to address the addiction crisis and save lives.

The office has supported community access to naloxone, syringe service programs, and fentanyl test strip distribution. The legislation will allow the office to continue these harm-reduction programs and will direct an evidence-based examination of opioid reversal medications, like naloxone.

During last year's hearing examining reauthorization, we discussed the importance of empowering ONDCP to identify and respond to new and emerging illegal drug threats, including Xylazine, a street drug that is used by veterinarians as a tranquilizer for large animals. This legislation will enable the office to continue this work as new threats come to market and begin to besiege our communities.

I thank the chairman and his staff for working with us on this bipartisan legislation in a bipartisan way, and I am happy to support reauthorization through 2031.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 9598, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2024, of which I am an original cosponsor.

I am pleased this legislation includes my bill, H.R. 920, the Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act, to combat drug trafficking from the Caribbean region into the United States with a particular focus on Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The smuggling of illicit drugs across our Nation's borders poses a major threat to our communities, fueling both the overdose epidemic and drug-related violent crime. To tackle this, Congress has tasked the Office of National Drug Control Policy, or ONDCP, with overseeing and coordinating the Federal Government's counterdrug efforts.

This includes the development and implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy every 2 years. By law, this strategy must also include supplemental strategies to prevent drug trafficking across the southwest and the northern border.

In response to congressional directives placed in appropriations reports, ONDCP has also previously released strategies to combat the flow of illegal drugs coming through our third border in the Caribbean.

However, unlike the existing statutory requirement to issue the Southwest Border and the Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategies, there is currently no requirement in statute to develop this Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy despite the ongoing threats we face from drug traffickers operating in the region.

For instance, according to data shared by the U.S. Coast Guard with my office, the known maritime cocaine flow in the U.S. moving through the Caribbean grew from 652 metric tons in fiscal year 2020 to 950 metric tons in fiscal year 2023, an almost 46 percent increase in this 4-year period.

This proves that transnational criminal organizations continue to rely on Caribbean smuggling routes to transport illegal drugs and endanger communities across the Nation.

Nowhere is this risk more apparent than in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, home to 3.3 million Americans and where the illicit activities of drug traffickers contribute to violence and higher-than-average homicide rates.

Just in fiscal year 2023 alone, Federal law enforcement authorities seized over 80,000 kilograms of drugs in and around the two territories. Puerto Rico

and the U.S. Virgin Islands are also used as transshipment points to smuggle drugs into the mainland.

Law enforcement agencies estimate that anywhere between 70 and 80 percent of the drugs that enter Puerto Rico are then transported to the continental U.S. This underscores that the threats posed by Caribbean-based drug traffickers are national in scope and require that the Federal Government has the necessary strategy in place to strengthen interdiction operations in the region.

That is why we introduced H.R. 920, the Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act, which will codify the requirement for ONDCP to include a Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy in the National Drug Control Strategy, just as it is required by law to include a Southwest Border and a Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy.

Additionally, to crack down on the financing schemes and money laundering operations that support the illicit narcotics trade, H.R. 920 will amend the definition of supply reduction in ONDCP's authorization to ensure the National Drug Control Strategy and its supplemental border strategies explicitly include activities to track and disrupt the financial networks of drug trafficking organizations.

I thank Chairman COMER and his staff for working with us to incorporate my bill within H.R. 9598, the bipartisan Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2024. I also recognize Ranking Member RASKIN for his support, and I thank Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT who was my co-lead on the Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act, as well as Senator RICK SCOTT and Senator ALEX PADILLA who introduced the Senate companion bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9598.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Puerto Rico for her kind words. We have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DUARTE).

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the commonsense bipartisan Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2024. I thank Chairman COMER and Ranking Member RASKIN for including provisions from legislation I introduced, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Reauthorization Act, in this package to help combat the fentanyl and drug epidemic in California's central valley and across the United States.

□ 1345

The Federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, or the HIDTA Program, allows Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials to share intelligence and pool resources to

help get these dangerous drugs off of our streets and out of our schools. They do this through 33 individual HIDTAs that have been designated around the country, including throughout my district.

In 2022, the Central Valley California HIDTA seized over 1.4 million dosages of fentanyl, 3,000 kilograms of methamphetamine, 355 kilograms of cocaine, and 101 kilograms of heroin. These seizures of illegal drugs are exponentially higher for the United States. However, the HIDTA Program expired in 2023.

The version of my HIDTA bill included in this larger package would authorize \$298.5 million in funding for the HIDTA Program, a \$18.5 million increase; renew this program through fiscal year 2031; and make \$5 million available to individual HIDTAs across the country to further enhance their fentanyl seizure and interdiction activities.

In addition, I commend the local prosecutors and district attorneys in my community who work hard every day to put drug traffickers behind bars, but resources can be limited, and California's soft-on-crime and lenient bail policies don't help. These partnerships between Federal and local prosecutors are critical to putting these high-volume drug traffickers in prison for decades, not months. That is what Federal prosecution can do.

Included in this package are additional provisions for my bill that would empower the U.S. Attorney General to assign Federal prosecutors, known as assistant U.S. attorneys, to individual HIDTAs to investigate and prosecute organizations and individuals who are trafficking in fentanyl in the United States to the fullest extent of Federal law—decades, not months.

I am proud to have worked with local sheriffs and DAs in the valley to develop my HIDTA bill, and I appreciate their support for this important legislation that will help our communities become safer.

I again thank Chairman COMER and Ranking Member RASKIN for working with me on my HIDTA bill and including provisions on this program in the ONDCP package we are considering now. It is critical to ensure that law enforcement has the necessary tools and resources to continue to fight against fentanyl and the drug crisis across the United States. Protecting our communities and families is not a partisan issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9598.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this very important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Utah). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9598, 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. COMER. 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.

SGT BILL HOOSER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8717) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West Main Street in Santaquin, Utah, as the “SGT Bill Hooser Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8717

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

SECTION 1. SGT BILL HOOSER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West Main Street in Santaquin, Utah, shall be known and designated as the “SGT Bill Hooser Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “SGT Bill Hooser Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office located in Utah to honor Sergeant Hooser.

Sergeant Hooser served as a law enforcement officer in Utah, where he was promoted up the ranks and proudly served as corporal, detective, and sergeant.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in proud support of H.R. 8717. Sergeant Bill Hooser, who, as I understand it, is not a Hoosier from Indiana but rather is from Utah, launched his career in law enforcement when he

joined the Santaquin City Police Department in 2017.

In February 2024, this year, he was promoted to sergeant for his strong commitment to keeping communities safe.

He was tragically killed on duty on May 5 of this year. We extend our very sincere condolences to his family, his friends, and the whole community that was traumatized by his death.

This legislation would honor Sergeant Hooser's legacy by naming the post office in Santaquin after him.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for introducing the legislation. I urge passage of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a true hero, Sergeant Bill Hooser, whose life was tragically taken on May 5, 2024, in the line of duty.

Sergeant Hooser dedicated himself to protecting our communities, serving first in the San Juan County Sheriff's Office in New Mexico and later joining the Santaquin City Police Department in Utah in 2017.

Just this last February, he was promoted to sergeant, a testament to his dedication and leadership.

Sergeant Hooser gave 29 years of his life to his family—a devoted husband, a loving father to two daughters, and a proud grandfather. He also gave himself fully to his community, sacrificing everything to keep others safe.

On May 5, 2024, he was struck and killed by a tractor-trailer during a high-speed chase on Interstate 15. His courage and selflessness are the very embodiment of what we ask of our law enforcement officers each day.

Utah has not faced a line-of-duty death since 2020, but this loss is a stark and sobering reminder of the risks our officers take every time they put on their uniforms.

Sergeant Hooser's passing is a wound in the heart of our State and a call for all of us to reflect on the cost of the safety and security we often take for granted.

Today, we have an opportunity to honor Sergeant Hooser's legacy in a lasting and meaningful way. My legislation, cosponsored by the entire Utah House delegation, will name the Santaquin post office the Sergeant Bill Hooser Post Office Building.

This act ensures that Sergeant Hooser's sacrifice is remembered by future generations. It is a small gesture in the face of an immense loss, but it carries a profound message: Utah will not forget its heroes.

I say to Sergeant Hooser's family that their loss is immeasurable, and their grief is shared by our grateful State. May God comfort them and give them strength. To our law enforcement officers across the country, know that we see you, we value you, and we stand with you.

Let us come together today to pass this legislation and honor Sergeant Bill Hooser's courage, sacrifice, and enduring legacy.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this bill honoring Sergeant Hooser, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8717.

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.

SFC SHAWN MCCLOSKEY POST OFFICE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8919) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 Highway 74 South in Peachtree City, Georgia, as the “SFC Shawn McCloskey Post Office”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8919

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

SECTION 1. SFC SHAWN MCCLOSKEY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 Highway 74 South in Peachtree City, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the “SFC Shawn McCloskey Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “SFC Shawn McCloskey Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill that would rename a post office in Georgia for Sergeant First Class Shawn P. McCloskey.

In response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, McCloskey enlisted in the Army after his graduation from North Cobb High School. On September 16, 2009,

McCloskey was conducting a mounted patrol in Afghanistan when his vehicle was fatally struck by an improvised explosive device, an IED.

I support naming a post office in memory of Sergeant First Class McCloskey, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8919. Shawn McCloskey was a member of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, as an engineer sergeant in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

While serving as an intelligence sergeant, Army Sergeant First Class McCloskey made the ultimate sacrifice on September 16, 2009, when he was killed by enemy forces on his third deployment to Afghanistan.

I urge passage of this legislation, which would honor his legacy and the sacrifice of Sergeant McCloskey and his family by naming a post office after him.

If I could add, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say something about the process by which we adopt post office namings because I am not sure that the whole Congress, much less the public, understands what we do.

This has been, for decades, a bipartisan process where a Member who is seeking to get a post office named after someone in his or her district will go and get the support of every member of that delegation, whether it is the Kentucky delegation, as in the case of the distinguished chairman, or the Maryland delegation in my case, and so on.

Once all the members of that delegation on a bipartisan basis, if it is bipartisan, have signed off, then it comes to our committee. We package them together and bring them to the floor precisely because we don't want it to be a matter of controversy. It should be a unifying thing for us when the beautiful thing occurs of naming a post office after someone.

Alas, we have a problem, and I am hoping that our experienced and talented chairman will help us resolve it. Apparently, in the Texas delegation, there are people who are refusing to sign on to bills on a bipartisan basis, and that is causing a lot of rancor. It is causing a lot of division, and we don't want this whole thing to blow up. We don't want it to be said that this is the first Congress in decades that can't even name a post office after someone.

I would just urge the chairman to work with us to help our colleagues in Texas get to yes and to return to what has been protocol, policy, and custom in the Oversight Committee for the last several decades.

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

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

Before I yield, I might add to what Mr. RASKIN said. There was also a bill that the minority party had that didn't

get all the delegation in his home State of Maryland, but we passed that bill through the committee as well.

I understand what his argument is, but again, both post offices were, I think, of the utmost importance to the sponsors and the majority of each State's delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON), who will be greatly missed upon his retirement from this great body.

□ 1400

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 8919, which designates the United States Post Office in Peachtree City, Georgia, as the Sergeant First Class Shawn McCloskey Post Office.

After working in construction since graduating from North Cobb High School, Sergeant First Class McCloskey enlisted in the Army in response to 9/11.

Sergeant First Class McCloskey was killed in action on September 16, 2009. It was during his third deployment in Afghanistan when an IED struck his vehicle. He was conducting a mounted patrol in the Afghan city of Ghur Ghuri in support of operations while serving with Company B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant First Class McCloskey earned the title of Green Beret as a Special Forces Engineer Sergeant and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Deployment Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Special Operations Diver Supervisor Badge, and the Special Forces Tab.

Sergeant First Class McCloskey left behind his wife, Jessica; his two children, Katie and Collin; as well as his parents, Patrick and Kathryn; and many other friends and family.

Although this Nation can never fully repay Sergeant First Class McCloskey for making the ultimate sacrifice, renaming this post office is a solemn tribute to his courageous service and ultimate sacrifice.

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

Mr. Speaker, I restate our strong support for the post office being named after Mr. McCloskey in honor of his service and his sacrifice and in recognition of the sacrifice of his whole family.

I am sorry to intrude on Mr. McCloskey's time here by just returning to the general problem we are having.

I thank the chairman for his remarks, and I thank him also for helping us to pair together a post office favored by a Member of the minority with a post office favored by a Member of the majority, both of whom did not get the complete support of their dele-

gations. We paired them together and we have decided to proceed in a bipartisan way to make that happen.

I am just addressing the general problem that seems to be spinning out of control a little bit where there are Members who are deliberately blocking unanimous consensus within their State, and that is going to create real problems. We don't want it to be a tit-for-tat situation where we have legislative sharpshooters trying to bring down post office namings in someone else's district or someone else's State.

I hope we can sit together and have a meeting and brainstorm about this for the next session because this is, obviously, at the very lowest level of Maslow's hierarchy of legislative need. However, if we can't even get together to do the postal namings as we have done for decades, it doesn't hold a lot of promise for bigger things like the budget, climate change, and so on.

I do hope the chairman will work with us in trying to address both the specific State eruptions that have occurred, and let's hope that we can keep them from spilling outward. That is not any kind of finger-pointing. We have had the problem on both sides, as the chairman knows. Let's just see what we can do to restore what I think has been a very good tradition, custom, and policy for several decades.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring Sergeant First Class Shawn McCloskey, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8919.

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.

JIMMY AND ROSALYNN CARTER POST OFFICE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9600) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 Main Street in Plains, Georgia, as the "Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9600

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

SECTION 1. JIMMY AND ROSALYNN CARTER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119

Main Street in Plains, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the "Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. 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 this suspension.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which would rename a post office in Plains, Georgia, for Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter.

Jimmy Carter married Rosalynn Carter in 1946. Jimmy Carter served as the Governor of Georgia until 1974 before serving as President of the United States from 1977 to 1981.

During their time in the White House, Mrs. Carter worked tirelessly to assist refugees escaping Cambodia's genocide and was a strong proponent for mental health.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, I may not have agreed with all of President Carter's policies. From a historical standpoint, I was a very young boy when he was President. I have always been a fan of the Carter family, their great Christianity and their great support for Habitat for Humanity, and I believe that President Carter will go down in history as one of the greatest former Presidents in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of H.R. 9600.

President Carter was a great patriot, a great humanitarian, and a great citizen. He, of course, was a member of the Georgia State Senate. He wrote a beautiful book about his rise in politics. He was the Governor of Georgia, and he is, at 100 years old, I think our longest lived President that we ever had.

He did remarkable things in office, and he did remarkable things when leaving office. His wife, Rosalynn Carter, was an extraordinary first lady, beloved by our whole country. We are going to urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP)

for any remarks he may have on this occasion.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as the sponsor of H.R. 9600, legislation to designate the United States Postal facility in Plains, Georgia, as the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office.

President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter dedicated their lives in service to their community, their country, and the world. Together they rose to the greatest heights, supporting and cherishing one another along the way as they helped people across Georgia, America, and across the globe.

Yet, no matter where they went, they remained grounded and humble, and Plains always remained home in their hearts.

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter both grew up in Plains and attended Plains High School. They married in 1946 and would go on to spend 77 cherished years together until Mrs. Carter's passing in November of 2023.

President Carter graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1946 and was an Active-Duty servicemember for 7 years. Following the death of his father, Jimmy took over the family's struggling peanut farm, quickly turning its fortunes around with Rosalynn's help and support every step of the way.

Wanting to be more involved in the local Plains community, Jimmy began advocating for racial integration at his church. He ran and won a seat on the Sumter County School Board and served as its chairman for 2 years.

In 1962, Jimmy Carter decided to run for the Georgia State Senate where he would go on to serve two terms.

In 1970, Senator Jimmy Carter launched his campaign for Governor, and Rosalynn took a leading role on the campaign trail.

Following Jimmy Carter's election as Governor, Mrs. Carter served as Georgia's first lady from 1971 to 1975, where she would take on the role of her husband's most trusted adviser and confidante.

In his inaugural address as Governor, he famously declared that the time for racial discrimination is over.

Mrs. Carter made her own mark in public policy, serving on the Governor's Commission to Improve Services for the Mentally and Emotionally Handicapped.

Governor Jimmy Carter completed his term in January of 1975. Prior to moving back to Plains from Atlanta, Governor Carter had already announced his intention to make what would become his successful run for the Presidency of the United States in the 1976 election.

As President, Jimmy Carter showed great success in international affairs, delivering the Camp David Accords, Panama Canal Treaties, SALT II Treaty, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

He also delivered on his domestic agenda, signing legislation to establish the United States Department of Education, expanding the Head Start program, successfully making America less dependent on foreign energy, and protecting millions of acres of public lands for future generations.

As an equal partner to her husband, Rosalynn Carter attended many Cabinet meetings and attended weekly business meetings with President Carter where she could draw his attention to the policy issues of the day.

In 1977, President Carter appointed Rosalynn the honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health. Thanks to her advocacy and testimony before the United States Senate, the Congress passed the Mental Health Systems Act when it was signed into law by President Carter on October 7, 1980.

Following the Carters' loss in the 1980 Presidential election, Jimmy and Rosalynn continued their ministry of service after their time in the White House with the same vigor and urgency, becoming heavily involved in Habitat for Humanity.

In 1982, they founded The Carter Center, a nonprofit human rights organization, which has since become famous for its work eradicating disease, strengthening democracies, and alleviating human suffering all around the world.

In 1999, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter were jointly awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, by President Bill Clinton, and in 2002, President Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize for decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflict, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development.

On a personal note, it has been a privilege to call Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter my friends and fellow southwest Georgians for over five decades. I will always cherish their friendship, as well as their sage counsel and advice which has been invaluable to me as I have served in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support H.R. 9600, legislation to designate the U.S. Postal facility in Plains, Georgia, as the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office. This is a small but meaningful gesture we can make to honor two dedicated servant leaders who spent their lives working on behalf of others.

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

I thank Representative BISHOP for those beautiful and eloquent words. I am not sure in the extraordinary encyclopedia of President Carter's accomplishments if the gentleman from Georgia had a chance to mention his work with Habitat for Humanity, but I got a chance to work on a Habitat for Humanity project once with President Carter, and that is an indelible experience in my mind.

He is someone who operated with great compassion, as Lincoln said: "With malice toward none; with charity for all."

I thank the gentleman for doing this.

That will be an amazing post office for people to be able to go to, and people will be able to travel there with pride.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to designate a post office for Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, two people who lived a purpose-driven life that is a model for Americans. They have done a lot for the community of Plains, Georgia, as well as all across America and the world for that matter.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9600.

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. COMER. 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.

□ 1415

BENJAMIN BERELL FERENCZ POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6116) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14280 South Military Trail in Delray Beach, Florida, as the "Benjamin Berell Ferencz Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6116

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

SECTION 1. BENJAMIN BERELL FERENCZ POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14280 South Military Trail in Delray Beach, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Benjamin Berell Ferencz Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Benjamin Berell Ferencz Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Delray Beach, Florida, for Benjamin Berell Ferencz.

Benjamin Ferencz was an American lawyer and investigator of Nazi war crimes following World War II. He served as the chief prosecutor of the United States Army at the Einsatzgruppen Nuremberg trials. I encourage my colleagues to support the renaming of the post office after Benjamin Berell Ferencz.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support and great pride in this legislation, H.R. 6116.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL) for any remarks she may have.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and ranking member for their help in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with immense pride to support my bill to name a post office in Delray Beach, Florida, after Benjamin Berell Ferencz, a Congressional Gold Medal recipient, a man whose life was a master class in courage, justice, and humanity.

I am deeply honored to say that Mr. Ferencz was my constituent, who enjoyed the latter years of his life in a vibrant community of retirees called Kings Point, where he was not only a neighbor, but an inspiration to those who knew him.

The post office is situated in the very community where Mr. Ferencz and his neighbors lived, and it will stand as a daily reminder of his incredible life and legacy and bring much pride to the community.

Mr. Ferencz' story is extraordinary. He was the last living Nuremberg prosecutor when he passed away at the remarkable age of 103.

During World War II, Mr. Ferencz served in an anti-aircraft military unit in the U.S. Army before being assigned to gather evidence of Nazi crimes. That assignment led him to witness firsthand the horrors of the concentration camp, where millions of Jews and others were systematically murdered. He later described that experience as having peered into hell.

At just 27 years old, with remarkable courage and resolve, Ben served as the

chief prosecutor in one of the Nuremberg trials, what scholars have called the biggest murder trial in history. It was his first case as a lawyer, and he successfully prosecuted 22 high-ranking Nazi officials responsible for the deaths of over 1 million people.

His work set a global standard for justice and accountability and made clear that even the most powerful perpetrators of evil would face consequences.

His fight for justice did not end in the courtroom. For the rest of his life, he was a tireless advocate for global peace, for human rights, and the rule of law. He believed in building a better and more compassionate world where atrocities would never happen again.

Now more than ever, Mr. Speaker, his legacy calls to us because anti-Semitism is on the rise, with 2023 marking the highest recorded incidences in U.S. history.

The Jewish people and, indeed, all who value justice and tolerance are facing growing threats. Mr. Ferencz warned us that creating a world of tolerance and compassion would be a long and arduous task, and that task remains unfinished.

By naming this post office after Mr. Ferencz, we honor not only the man, but also the principles he dedicated his life to: justice, dignity, and the fight against hatred and division. It is a reminder for all of us to stand against the forces of hate and division and recommit to building a future defined by justice and humanity.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL) for bringing this forward.

Mr. Ferencz was, indeed, a great lawyer, a great humanitarian, and a great defender of freedom and democracy. We are proud to be able to push this legislation forward.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING).

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), my friend, for yielding time to me.

I also thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), my good friend, for her efforts to recognize the hard work and dedication of Benjamin Ferencz by naming a post office in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, in the wake of World War II and the Holocaust, Mr. Ferencz bravely prosecuted Nazis during the Nuremberg trials. Mr. Ferencz' family fled Jewish persecution in Romania and immigrated to the United States when he was just a baby.

He later studied law and joined the U.S. Army. Through his military service and his tireless pursuit of justice at the Nuremberg trials, he proved himself to be a true American patriot.

At a time of rising anti-Semitism, both globally and in this country, it is crucial to honor Mr. Ferencz. He fought to hold accountable those responsible for anti-Semitic actions that led to the unprecedented murder of 6 million innocent Jews.

Today, as I mentioned, we are seeing a frightening rise of anti-Semitism all across our country and around the globe, and we are seeing the growth of Holocaust deniers, people who deny that the 6 million Jews were murdered in cold blood. These are people who blame these deaths on the victims themselves.

We are seeing victim blaming in other instances of anti-Semitism—for example, what just happened in Amsterdam.

Ben Ferencz knew the truth of what happened, and he was willing to hold people accountable.

As the first Jewish Member of Congress elected from my home State of North Carolina, it is both a privilege and an honor to recognize a fellow Jew who served his country and his people with distinction and honor. Mr. Ferencz was the embodiment of the Biblical instruction: "Justice, justice you shall pursue."

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Ms. FRANKEL, for her efforts to make sure this post office is named for such a deserving honoree.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING), my colleague and, indeed, my cousin, for her thoughtful and eloquent remarks about Mr. Ferencz.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6116.

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.

LARRY LAVAGNINO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7158) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 East Battles Road in Santa Maria, California, as the "Larry Lavagnino Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7158

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

SECTION 1. LARRY LAVAGNINO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 East Battles Road in Santa Maria, California, shall be known and designated as the "Larry Lavagnino Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Larry Lavagnino Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Santa Maria, California, for Larry Lavagnino.

Larry is a longtime Santa Maria resident, as well as a Navy veteran. He served on the Santa Maria City Council as mayor.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7158.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL) for any remarks he may have.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage every Member of this Chamber to support my legislation honoring the legacy and service of one of the favorite sons of Santa Maria, California, former mayor and veteran, Larry Lavagnino.

My bill would name the post office in Santa Maria in recognition of Larry Lavagnino's steadfast love and service for Santa Maria, including 10 years as its mayor from 2002 to 2012.

Larry's story is homegrown. He started as a local kid, attending Santa Maria schools, including Santa Maria Union High School and Allan Hancock College. After earning his degree, he served in the United States Navy for 4 years.

After the Navy, he returned home and began his service to Santa Maria as a supervisor's staff member in county government.

Later, after an extensive career in the private sector, he continued his public service as a city council member, then as mayor.

During his time as mayor, Santa Maria saw a new library, transit center, three new fire stations, a new police department building, the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant, and much more.

He also secured more than \$46 million in Federal funding for improvements to the Santa Maria River Levee, which protects thousands of homes and businesses. Thanks to his service as mayor, his leadership in Santa Maria Valley Beautiful and the Elks Lodge, and his work in many other roles, Santa Maria would not be the same place without him.

His championing of bipartisanship, a Republican working across the aisle with Democrats to get things done, is exactly the kind of spirit we need more of here in Washington. Every community should be so lucky to have a Larry Lavagnino.

Mr. Speaker, again, I ask my colleagues to join me in this recognition so we can thank Larry; his wife, Donna; and his children for his incredible career of service by passing my bill to name the Santa Maria post office in his honor.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 7158, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7158.

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.

GLADYS P. TODD POST OFFICE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7508) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1285 Emancipation Highway in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as the "Gladys P. Todd Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7508

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

SECTION 1. GLADYS P. TODD POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1285 Emancipation Highway in Fredericksburg, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Gladys P. Todd Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Gladys P. Todd Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Fredericksburg, Virginia, for Gladys P. Todd.

Gladys Todd was a revered schoolteacher and community organizer who was active in Fredericksburg's civil rights movement. She was known for her work as a voting rights advocate and contributed to Fredericksburg electing its first Black mayor.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7508.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER) for any remarks she may have.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary Virginian, Gladys P. Todd, whose legacy of service, advocacy, and dedication to advancing civil rights has left an indelible mark on the city of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and beyond.

I am proud to lead legislation to rename a post office in Fredericksburg to the Gladys P. Todd Post Office in recognition of her pioneering work and her relentless advocacy.

□ 1430

Mrs. Todd was a force for justice and a force for good. She was an organizer, an educator, and a lifelong member of the NAACP. She fought for equality and opportunity, and she was active in the local civil rights movement across Fredericksburg and the greater Commonwealth. She was known for her tireless work with the NAACP Youth Division, where she helped Black children and teens learn, grow, and thrive.

From establishing a playground to founding the Youth Canteen, a community center for young local students, she worked to make sure that young people across Fredericksburg had a safe place to connect, learn, and grow.

Mrs. Todd was also a passionate voting rights advocate. Her work played a pivotal role in the election of Fredericksburg's first Black mayor. She made Fredericksburg a more inclusive and equitable place, and her work continues to inspire the community today.

Renaming this post office in her honor is a small but meaningful way to guarantee that her contributions are remembered for generations and that her work is present far into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from Virginia for their unanimous support of this legislation. As we are looking to honor this incredible woman, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 7508, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this bill honoring an influential advocate, Gladys P. Todd, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7508.

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.

CHIEF MICHAEL MALONEY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8868) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 609 Portsmouth Avenue in Greenland, New Hampshire, as the "Chief Michael Maloney Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8868

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

SECTION 1. CHIEF MICHAEL MALONEY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 609 Portsmouth Avenue in Greenland, New Hampshire, shall be known and designated as the "Chief Michael Maloney Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Chief Michael Maloney Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office located in Greenland, New Hampshire, to honor Chief Michael Maloney.

After high school, Michael joined the Army Reserve and later became the chief of the Greenland Police Department in 2000. Michael was tragically killed in the line of duty on April 12, 2012, only 8 days out from his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I support naming a post office in honor of Chief Michael Maloney. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8868.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) for any remarks he may have.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank the chair and ranking member for bringing my bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 609 Portsmouth Avenue in Greenland, New Hampshire, as the Chief Michael Maloney Post Office Building.

Chief Maloney was a dedicated public servant, community leader, and law enforcement professional who served his country in the Army Reserves and served his State as a police officer, rising to the rank of chief of the Greenland Police Department in the year 2000.

Tragically, on April 12, 2012, Chief Maloney was killed in the line of duty, just 8 days before his retirement, while participating in a drug raid operation with the New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force. He was just 48 years old.

Michael Maloney grew up in North Hampton, New Hampshire. After graduation, he enlisted in the Army Reserves, graduated from the New Hampshire Police Academy, and began a 26-year career in law enforcement.

Chief Maloney is remembered as someone who was bigger than life, who was always quick to crack a joke, and who always had a smile on his face, even on the worst of days.

He is remembered as someone who cared deeply about his community and worked with purpose and passion each and every day to make it safer and stronger.

When thinking about the impact he left on those he knew and worked with, one story, shared on the 10-year anniversary of his death, underscores his leadership and dedication carried by all those in law enforcement. After a long day that stretched late into the morning, responding to the death of their leader, mentor, and friend, the remaining members of the Greenland Police Department were told to stay home the

next day. It is a credit to their commitment and resolve that by 8 a.m., they all returned to work.

Twelve years have passed since the death of Chief Maloney, but his legacy lives on. It is a small token of our thanks and appreciation that we can name this post office in Chief Michael Maloney's honor to remind future generations of that legacy, his tremendous service, and the sacrifice he gave on behalf of the community that he loved.

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 8868, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this bill honoring Chief Michael Maloney, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8868.

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.

CAPTAIN ROBERT E. "BOB" BATTERSON POST OFFICE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 10065) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 802 North Tanchua Street in Corpus Christi, Texas, as the "Captain Robert E. 'Bob' Batterson Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 10065

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

SECTION 1. CAPTAIN ROBERT E. "BOB" BATTERSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 802 North Tanchua Street in Corpus Christi, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Captain Robert E. 'Bob' Batterson Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Captain Robert E. 'Bob' Batterson Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office located in Texas to honor Captain Robert E. Batterson.

Captain Batterson served in the U.S. Navy for 35 years and was stationed at Pearl Harbor during the 1941 attack.

In retirement, he spent 26 years as a volunteer at the Pearl Harbor exhibit in the USS Lexington Museum in Corpus Christi.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the naming of a post office in honor of Captain Batterson, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Robert Batterson, better known as Bob, served for more than three decades in the U.S. Navy. While stationed at Pearl Harbor, Captain Batterson witnessed a surprise attack on the U.S. naval base on December 7, 1941. This military strike on Pearl Harbor, as then-President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated to the Nation, is "a day which will live in infamy."

In the years following, Captain Batterson served at the naval air station in Corpus Christi, Texas, and later in the Supply Corps.

After retiring from the U.S. Navy, Captain Batterson continued volunteer work to educate the public about Pearl Harbor. This legislation will honor the service and legacy of Captain Batterson.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 10065 to name a post office in Corpus Christi in memory of Captain Robert "Bob" Batterson.

Captain Batterson's life is a life of service and a testament to the very best of American character.

In 1939, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, setting sail on his life's journey of dedicated and devoted service to our Nation.

In 1941, he was stationed at Pearl Harbor and survived the attack that thrust America into World War II. That same resilience carried him to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, where he earned his wings in 1944 and flew F6F Hellcats in defense of our Nation.

Captain Batterson's service continued long after World War II as he transitioned to the Navy Supply Corps, serving faithfully until his retirement in 1974.

Over the course of his 35-year military career, he exemplified duty and honor, but Captain Batterson didn't stop serving when he took off the uniform. For 26 years, he volunteered at the USS Lexington Museum in Corpus Christi, where he could often be found

at the Pearl Harbor exhibit, sharing his firsthand accounts of the attack on Pearl Harbor and other personal stories of valor from the war with visitors from around the world. His personal stories preserved a living history, ensuring future generations understood the sacrifices made for freedom.

Captain Batterson passed away last year at the age of 102 years young, leaving behind his wife, Hilda, and an indelible legacy of service and patriotism. His dedication to his community and his country will not be forgotten.

In naming this post office in his honor, we commemorate a life of extraordinary service to our country and the Corpus Christi community. Captain Batterson's name will continue to inspire all who pass through its door, reminding us of the courage and sacrifice that define our Greatest Generation and should continue to inspire our current and future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill to honor a true American hero. May God bless Captain Batterson's memory, his family, the city of Corpus Christi, and our beloved Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who had the opportunity to know him personally, there is no one who could be more worthy of this honor.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, our committee's protocols for considering postal naming measures require the entire State delegation to be cosponsors. That is a protocol that has been in place for decades.

While limited exceptions have been made in the past, this bill currently has only 27 cosponsors from Texas' 38 members. We are, of course, supportive on the substance of the legislation and are absolutely supportive of honoring the legacy of the Representative's constituent, and we would simply urge mindfulness toward the committee rules.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and agree with hopefully the next ranking member of the House Oversight Committee, and there are two bills we are talking about, including the one for Mr. MFUME, that didn't meet those requirements.

Hopefully, that will not ever happen again in the future, but I will make that point again to the new speaker on the other side of the aisle.

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 10065, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I might add they have nowhere to go but up in the ranking member category on that side of the aisle, and I appreciate my friend from New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 10065.

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.

□ 1445

ARMY 1ST LT. JOHN KUULEI KAUHAIHAO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8909) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 82-6110 Mamalahoa Highway in Captain Cook, Hawaii, as the "Army 1st Lt. John Kuulei Kauhahao Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8909

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

SECTION 1. ARMY 1ST LT. JOHN KUULEI KAUHAIHAO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 82-6110 Mamalahoa Highway in Captain Cook, Hawaii, shall be known and designated as the "Army 1st Lt. John Kuulei Kauhahao Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Army 1st Lt. John Kuulei Kauhahao Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Hawaii for First Lieutenant John Kuulei Kauhahao.

Mr. Kauhahao exhibited exceptional heroism while serving under the 1st Cavalry Division against armed forces in the Republic of Vietnam. I support naming a post office in memory of First Lieutenant Kauhahao, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8909.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA) for any remarks she may have.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in strong support of H.R. 8909.

In January of this year, The Wall That Heals, a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on The National Mall made its inaugural visit to the island of Hawaii. It was there in front of West Panel 18 that I met Shirley Kauhahao, the widow and high school sweetheart of Army First Lieutenant John Kuulei Kauhahao. She and her daughters were putting flowers and a lei in front of line 40 where his name is etched.

On September 5, 1969, at the age of 27, Lieutenant Kauhahao, or Lieutenant K, as he was affectionately called, was leading his men on a reconnaissance in force operation in Tay Ninh province when his platoon came under enemy fire. With extraordinary courage, he launched over 30 hand grenades in 15 minutes at enemy bunkers while simultaneously drawing fire on himself, so that his men could sight enemy gunners.

Eventually, he ordered the withdrawal of his platoon and crawled over 100 meters of fire-swept terrain, dragging vital equipment and helping wounded soldiers to safety. While they moved to rejoin their company, Lieutenant K saw an enemy squad moving up on his platoon and quickly moved to engage. He was mortally wounded that day. It was the fourth birthday of his son, Charles.

For his bravery and sacrifice, Lieutenant K was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, our Nation's second highest combat award. His fearless and selfless actions at the cost of his life reflect great honor upon himself, his family, and the "ahupua'a" "land division" of Honaunau where he was born and where he lived.

Naming the post office in the community where generations of Lieutenant K's family lived and still live is more than just honoring and celebrating a fallen "kama'aina" "local resident" warrior who gave his life for our Nation.

It is a tribute to an entire generation of men and women who served in Vietnam and who came back to a country that took far too long to honor their service and that is still trying to make this right.

It is a reminder of the incredible sacrifices made by those who serve in uniform and the loved ones waiting at home—past, present, and future—to whom we are forever indebted and who allow us to live in freedom today.

That day in Hilo, standing next to Shirley as she pointed out Lieutenant

K's name on the wall to me, I couldn't help but feel like he had finally come home.

Mr. Speaker, 55 years have passed since Lieutenant K's death, and his widow, children, and generations of their "mo'opuna" "grandchildren" have continued to live in service to their community, the island of Hawaii, and the State of Hawaii.

Passing H.R. 8909 to designate the United States Post Office in Captain Cook, Hawaii, as the Army First Lieutenant John Kuulei Kauhahao Post Office is a tribute to him and the legacy of service that lives on through the lives he saved and through his "family" "ohana."

Every day when Shirley heads into town or goes to volunteer at the Greenwell Botanical Gardens, she passes by that post office. I hope seeing John's name each time she drives by will make her feel like he is a little closer to home and that he will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and ranking member of the committee for their work on this bill.

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further speakers. I urge the passage of H.R. 8909 and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and proud to support this legislation to honor a true American hero, First Lieutenant Kauhahao. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8909.

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.

CAPTAIN MIGUEL JUSTIN NAVA POST OFFICE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9285) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3913 Leland Avenue Northwest in Comstock Park, Michigan, as the "Captain Miguel Justin Nava Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9285

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

SECTION 1. CAPTAIN MIGUEL JUSTIN NAVA POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3913 Leland Avenue Northwest in Comstock Park, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Captain Miguel Justin Nava Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Captain Miguel Justin Nava Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Michigan for Captain Miguel Justin Nava.

After graduating from Comstock Park High School in 2013, Nava attended the United States Naval Academy. He was commissioned into the Marine Corps to become a pilot and later promoted to the rank of captain in November of 2021.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9285.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN) for any remarks she may have.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased that my bill to rename the Comstock Park, Michigan, post office after Captain Miguel Justin Nava is being brought up for consideration today.

Captain Nava is an American hero. He represented the best of west Michigan. It is only right that his legacy is remembered in the community that helped raise him.

A true son of west Michigan, Captain Nava was widely admired and respected throughout the community. After graduating from Comstock Park High School, Captain Nava was nominated by former Congressman Justin Amash, who previously represented my district. He attended the United States Naval Academy. He was then commissioned to the Marine Corps to become a pilot, earning his wings in July of 2020. He was promoted to the rank of captain in 2021.

Captain Nava earned several decorations for his service, including the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

He was tragically killed while serving his country in a helicopter training exercise in February of this year. He is survived by a loving family whom he cherished, including the love of his life, his wife Ryann Isabelle Andres; his young son, Luca; his parents, Lisa and Javier; his brother, Nikolas, along with his grandparents and in-laws and many other family members who keep his legacy alive.

Getting to know Captain Nava’s family and learning about his incredible legacy has been one of the true privileges of my service and representation of this district. I was proud to lead a moment of silence earlier this year honoring Captain Nava and his three fellow marines who were killed in the training exercise and later to welcome his body home to Grand Rapids at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

The groundswell of support for this bill that we have received both from the Comstock Park community and Captain Nava’s fellow marines has been nothing short of inspiring. Passing this bill is the least we can do for a man who lived his life with honor and integrity in service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill.

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 9285, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my House colleagues to support this bill honoring Captain Miguel Justin Nava, an American hero. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9285.

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.

JUDGE JAMES R. WILLIAMS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9322) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 675 Wolf Ledges Parkway in Akron, Ohio, as the “Judge James R. Williams Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9322

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

SECTION 1. JUDGE JAMES R. WILLIAMS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 675 Wolf Ledges Parkway in Akron, Ohio, shall

be known and designated as the “Judge James R. Williams Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Judge James R. Williams Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Ohio for Judge James R. Williams.

President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Williams as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. Judge Williams made history as the first African-American judge on the Summit County Common Pleas Court, appointed in 1989 and was reelected in 1990, 1992, and 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9322.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SYKES) for any remarks she may have.

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 9322 to designate the United States Post Office located at 675 Wolf Ledges Parkway in Akron, Ohio, as the Judge James R. Williams Post Office Building.

This bill has earned unanimous bipartisan support from every member of the Ohio delegation, and I thank my colleagues from the Ohio delegation for lending their names to this bill.

Judge James R. Williams lived an impressive and meaningful life that continues to impact Ohio’s 13th Congressional District through his life’s work as a civil rights leader, city councilman, civic leader, judge, scholar, and veteran.

Born in Columbus, Mississippi, Judge Williams moved to Ohio following Active-Duty service in the United States Army. He attended the University of Akron and was one of the first Black students to graduate from the university’s school of law, blazing a trail for a more inclusive and diverse legal field.

After law school, Mr. Williams went into private practice until 1978, when he was appointed as the United States attorney for the Northern District of Ohio by President Jimmy Carter. Six years later, he was appointed as judge for the Akron Municipal Court and elected to that court in 1985 and 1987.

Judge Williams became the first Black judge to serve on the Summit County Court of Common Pleas when he was appointed to the bench in 1989. He was elected three more times, serving the people of Summit County, including presiding over several high-profile cases of national importance.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I had the opportunity to work with Judge Williams when I was a summer law clerk at the Akron Municipal Court, and he was a tough but fair jurist. He reminded me that coming to the court, you will see people who are experiencing perhaps the worst day of their life, and you have to remember that your job is to provide justice and kindness to those before you.

Judge Williams' distinguished service continued in his private life as a civil rights activist and leader for many civic organizations, including as secretary of the Akron NAACP and vice-president of the Ohio NAACP.

□ 1500

Mr. Speaker, on a special note, Judge Williams was elected as the 25th general president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the oldest intercollegiate fraternity for Black men, where he was the principal founder of the Alpha Phi Alpha Homes, Incorporated, a visionary nonprofit responsible for building 1,600 housing units in northeast Ohio, including low-income and senior housing units in 10 northeast Ohio communities.

Today is Alpha Phi Alpha's 118th celebration. I can't think of a more fitting way to recognize the fraternity and its 25th general president than with the naming of this post office.

Judge Williams was a legal luminary whose unwavering dedication to justice paved the way for future generations of leaders in Akron and across the country. I am proud to lead the effort to rename the Wolf Ledges Post Office in Akron to honor his memory and to serve as a reminder of the ongoing impact of his legacy on our community.

Sadly, Judge Williams passed away in 2020. Upon his passing, his wife, Jewell, offered these words from an old hymn that summed up his character which said: May the work I have done speak for me. May the service I give speak for me.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and all of my colleagues will join me in honoring Judge James Williams' lifetime of accomplishments and legacy of service by voting in favor of this bill.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am pre-

pared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge the passage of H.R. 9322, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this bill to acknowledge the great life of Judge Williams and all of the service that he gave his community.

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 New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9322.

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.

MAYOR ROB GORDON POST OFFICE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9421) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 North Main Street in Bucoda, Washington, as the "Mayor Rob Gordon Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9421

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

SECTION 1. MAYOR ROB GORDON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 North Main Street in Bucoda, Washington, shall be known and designated as the "Mayor Rob Gordon Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Mayor Rob Gordon Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which honors Mayor Rob Gordon by naming a post office in his memory.

Mayor Gordon was a lifelong resident of southwest Washington. He was elect-

ed mayor of Bucoda, a town of approximately 580 residents, in May 2021, and served until his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9421.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ) for any remarks she may have.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Rob Gordon of Bucoda, who passed away this June after a 7-month battle with stomach cancer. Rob Gordon was born in Centralia, Washington, and remained a lifelong, loyal resident of southwest Washington. He was elected mayor of Bucoda, a town of about 580 people, in May of 2021, and served as its mayor until his passing.

Before and during his tenure as mayor, Rob was the assistant chief of the Bucoda Fire Department where he had been serving as a firefighter since he was 16 years old.

In addition to his decades of public service, Mayor Gordon also worked for his family's company, which he co-owned with his brother, driving dump trucks and log trucks. Outside of work, he enjoyed raising cattle on his family farm, collecting old International Tractors, and he passed down his love of fixing stuff to his children, Jakob and Anna.

It is fitting to rename this post office after Rob, a place where rural neighbors convene and routine and profound work is done quietly, diligently, and honorably. Honor, diligence, and community were all qualities that Rob exemplified.

On behalf of Rob's family, his fellow firefighters, and friends across Bucoda and southwest Washington, and with the support of the Bucoda Town Council and Thurston County Board of Commissioners, it is my privilege to lead this bill to honor Rob's life of service.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to its being signed into law. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 9421, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor Mayor Gordon, a man deeply committed to his community, by supporting this postal naming.

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 New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9421.

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.

ELIZABETH FURSE POST OFFICE
BUILDING

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9549) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 South 1st Avenue in Hillsboro, Oregon, as the "Elizabeth Furse Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9549

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

SECTION 1. ELIZABETH FURSE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 South 1st Avenue in Hillsboro, Oregon, shall be known and designated as the "Elizabeth Furse Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Elizabeth Furse Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which would rename a post office in Oregon after Elizabeth Furse. Ms. Furse was the first woman to be elected to Oregon's First District and the first African-born person to win a seat in the House of Representatives from Oregon.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9549.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for any remarks she may have.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 9549, to designate the Elizabeth Furse Post Office Building in Hillsboro, Oregon. I thank all of my Oregon colleagues for their support on this bill.

Elizabeth Furse served northwest Oregon in Congress for 6 years. She was the first woman elected to represent Oregon's First Congressional District which I am now honored to represent.

When she was first elected, Elizabeth was only one of 48 women in the House.

Today, there are 127 women, thanks in part to the courageous example set by Elizabeth and other early congresswomen.

Elizabeth Furse was raised in a family that valued service and justice. Her father served in the British Navy when she was growing up in Nairobi, Kenya. Her mother launched an anti-apartheid women's group, and her grandmother was a commandant of the British Red Cross Voluntary Aid during World War II. Elizabeth knew that government has the power protect civil rights or to threaten them.

Beginning at her first anti-apartheid march when she was only 15 years old, she continued her family's legacy of service by advocating for those at the margins and continuing through her work, speaking on this very floor of the House of Representatives, where she championed the issues of human rights and social justice.

Elizabeth believed that Congress should look like the country it represents. Good policy comes when people of diverse backgrounds and experience shape it. We have come closer to that goal, but we have further to go.

Representative Furse came to Congress to advocate for meaningful change. She fought for Tribal sovereignty, social justice, and peace. She inspired dedication to worthy causes including cofounding the Oregon Peace Institute. She embodied the traits public servants should strive to uphold.

Elizabeth assisted countless people during her time in Congress and throughout her life. Her many achievements include helping the Grand Ronde, Klamath, and Coquille Tribes gain Federal recognition. That work meant a lot to her, and it certainly meant a lot to the Tribes.

She increased access to public transportation in our region by extending the light rail service to Hillsboro, and she was one of the original founders of the bipartisan Congressional Diabetes Caucus.

Elizabeth was a trailblazer and an inspiration to many, including me. She dedicated her life to service, bolstering the lives of people in northwest Oregon. I am privileged to have been able to call her a mentor and a friend.

Elizabeth lived many places before she came to Oregon in 1978, but she made our State her home. She will always be remembered as one of the smart, courageous women who shaped Oregon today.

When she faced adversity, she overcame it and opened the door for others to walk through. She pursued a non-traditional career path, and she fought tirelessly for justice.

I am honored to support this legislation to recognize her contributions to northwest Oregon by naming this post office, which is close to the home where she spent her final days, in her honor so people will be inspired by her example for years to come.

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 20 seconds to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I know that I will continue to draw inspiration from her legacy and her commitment to justice.

On behalf of her friends, family, and former constituents, I request that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle support this important bill.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 9549, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to honor Elizabeth Furse by supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9549.

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.

MILLIE DUNN VEASEY POST
OFFICE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9580) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2777 Brentwood Road in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the "Millie Dunn Veasey Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9580

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

SECTION 1. MILLIE DUNN VEASEY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2777 Brentwood Road in Raleigh, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Millie Dunn Veasey Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Millie Dunn Veasey Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which would rename a post office in North Carolina after Millie Dunn Veasey.

Committed to serving her Nation, Ms. Veasey joined the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps following the entrance of the United States into World War II.

Ms. Veasey passed away on March 9, 2018, at the age of 100 after a long life of civil and Federal service.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9580.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) for any remarks she may have.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to speak in support of my bill naming the United States Postal Service facility at 2777 Brentwood Road in Raleigh after Staff Sergeant Millie Dunn Veasey.

This legislation pays tribute to the life and legacy of Millie Dunn Veasey, a remarkable woman whose contributions profoundly shaped not only our local community but our Nation.

Ms. Dunn Veasey's legacy began when the U.S. Army assigned her to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion as a typist. The 6888th was the only African-American unit in the Women's Army Corps to operate overseas during the war. This group of pioneering women sorted and delivered mail to soldiers, ensuring that they received vital letters from home. The unit adopted the phrase: "No mail, low morale."

These courageous women knew the power that these letters held for the soldiers who received them. The women worked tirelessly to develop a new mailing system and began successfully processing up to 195,000 pieces of mail each day.

□ 1515

Ms. Dunn Veasey's courage and determination during this time was instrumental in the success of this mission and the story of her service is one of trailblazing leadership in the face of adversity.

After the war, Ms. Dunn Veasey returned to Raleigh and took advantage of the GI Bill, enrolling in Saint Augustine's University. She became active in the civil rights movement, working as an organizer in Raleigh to push for integrated public spaces.

After serving our country honorably overseas, she came home and recommitted herself to the pursuit of justice and equality for all.

In 2018, Millie Dunn Veasey passed away at the age of 100 in her hometown of Raleigh and was buried with distinct honor at the VA Raleigh National Cemetery.

Today, we can ensure that her legacy to the Postal Service lives on and celebrate her place in history as a figure who changed our community and country for the better.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge the passage of H.R. 9580.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation to honor veteran and activist Millie Dunn Veasey, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9580.

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.

WALTER FRANCIS ULLOA MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8641) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Main Street in Brawley, California, as the "Walter Francis Ulloa Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8641

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

SECTION 1. WALTER FRANCIS ULLOA MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Main Street in Brawley, California, shall be known and designated as the "Walter Francis Ulloa Memorial Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Walter Francis Ulloa Memorial Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Brawley, California, after Walter Francis Ulloa.

In 1996, Ulloa cofounded Entravision Communications, which expanded to be a global media outlet in over 40 countries.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8641, for Walter Francis Ulloa.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life and legacy of Walter Francis Ulloa, a friend and trailblazer who transformed Spanish-speaking television.

Walter grew up in the under-resourced, underserved city of Brawley with humble beginnings and a big dream. Walter was a visionary, a beloved husband, father, brother, and a dear friend.

He started his career at KMEX in Los Angeles, a Spanish language television station where he worked his way up from writing commentary to becoming the news director.

In 1996, he cofounded Entravision Communications, which grew to become a global digital media powerhouse with a presence in over 40 countries. Throughout his career, Ulloa remained deeply committed to diversity and Latino/Latina representation in the media.

I introduced H.R. 8641 to designate the U.S. Post Office building in Brawley, California, as the Walter Francis Ulloa Memorial Post Office Building. My bill is a token of gratitude for Walter Ulloa's legacy, which continues to inspire the people in Brawley, in the entire California's 25th District, and our Nation.

His legacy of service, leadership, and unwavering dedication will forever be a cornerstone of our community's history. I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge the passage of H.R. 8641, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this initiative to honor Walter F. Ulloa, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8641.

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.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9544) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9544

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

SECTION 1. UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, shall be known and designated as the "United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Baltimore after Congressman Elijah Cummings.

Congressman Cummings was born in Baltimore on January 18, 1951, and was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1982. In 1996, Mr. Cummings was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and later served as the chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very proud support of H.R. 9544. It is a proud day for people of Maryland. It is a proud day for the House Oversight Committee.

It is a proud day for the United States Congress that we have the opportunity to vote on a post office

named after the late, great chairman of the House Oversight Committee, Elijah Cummings.

Mr. Speaker, Elijah Cummings was a favorite son of Maryland who devoted his life and his career to making the government an instrument of the common good for everyone and uplifting everybody in our society together. He was always seeking that higher ground, always telling us in the midst of debate and discussion we are better than this, that we can always lift ourselves higher to find unity and consensus around the values that make our country great.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME), who is both his predecessor and his successor in office.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland, the ranking member, for his kind and overly gracious remarks.

Mr. Speaker, in his absence, I thank Chairman COMER who made a commitment several months back that we would get to this point and for his co-sponsorship of this bill. I thank my other colleagues from the State of Maryland, some of whom will be speaking today.

I rise in obvious support of this, encouraging Members of this body to embrace it and to say that the diligence and the collective commitment to your word to get us to this point means a lot to me. It is not lost on me. It is not lost on the people of the State of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation designates the United States Postal Service facility, as you heard, located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the United States Representative Elijah Cummings Post Office Building.

This legislation will bestow, I believe, a very fitting honor on a former chair of the Oversight Committee, former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and, most importantly, an unwavering servant of the people in the House that we now all serve in.

His legacy, in many respects, lives through the work that he has done, and this legislation will ensure once and for all that his name will continue to be called by the people that he so dutifully served.

Mr. Speaker, Elijah Cummings, as was noted a moment ago, was born on January 18, 1951, to Ruth Elma and Robert Cummings, two South Carolina sharecroppers who moved to Baltimore in search of more opportunities during the period of the Great Migration.

Elijah's parents worked long and hard, as did many parents in that era, because they were up against so many things coming out of the Great Depression and out of a period of war that our Nation found itself in.

They worked and also served as preachers of a local church that both of them founded. With their teachings, his parents instilled in Elijah a sense of faith, justice, and morality that would

go on to exemplify his four decades of public service.

While they were not formally educated in the traditional sense, Elijah's parents made certain that all of their children understood the importance and the essence of education. He tirelessly worked, as many of you know, over and over again to earn his Phi Beta Kappa key at Howard University and his juris doctorate degree at the University of Maryland School of Law.

Elijah knew that his story would ultimately illustrate the power of hard work and perseverance, and he always did that in a sense of believing that it would be the kind of message that young people who might be lost in many different ways would find a way to latch onto.

His values instilled in that generation, we believe, a whole new sense of public service. As a young lawyer in 1983, Elijah was elected and served with distinction in the Maryland House of Delegates. I might say, his personal credibility and relationships with members of that body existed then, and they still exist now.

He has, in many respects, given us the sort of model and the sort of example that we all talk about and many of us strive to attain.

In 1996, Elijah won his first of 12 elections to this body, assuming the seat that I had voluntarily vacated to head up the presidency of the NAACP.

Elijah's sense of fairness, his respect for others, and his relentless efforts to make life better for all people won him the respect and the admiration of his colleagues on this side of the aisle and his colleagues on that side of the aisle.

He and I were friends for 42 years up until the day of his death, and so I carry with me a lot of memorable moments of his congressional career, of the time that we served together on the board at Morgan State University, and as our people will tell you, as part of our organizations, our time together learning politics in the street, finding a way to organize and make a real difference.

He was the only person that I know of who continued to remind us that we could be better than this. I am so glad that Mr. RASKIN brought that up.

Mr. Speaker, I am hoping I might get an additional 30 seconds here. I would like to conclude. I know we are running out of time.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, in this time of national division and in this time of great partisanship, I am reminded of when we went through similar periods, and it was always Elijah Cummings on this side of the aisle and others who would remind us that we really were better than this, that we really did have a higher calling.

For me, personally, as a friend, as a former colleague, and as someone that

I admired—even though he would tell you he admired me, I admired him even more—it is just a great honor to bring this bill forward. I would ask that it is adopted today, and I thank all of those Members who supported this, both Democrats and Republicans, and the sponsor.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the former distinguished majority leader of the House of Representatives.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are better than this. Surely, all of us ought to be saying that to ourselves as we conclude this Congress. We are better than this. You will hear that said so often when we talk about our friend, Elijah Cummings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation. The Old Testament tells us of a man long ago who saw injustice, wrongdoing, and suffering and devoted his life to banishing these evils from his native land, a man who kept an enduring faith not only in God, but in his fellow men and women, a man who inspired that same faith in the people around him. That man was Elijah the prophet.

□ 1530

The Elijah I served with in Congress for nearly 23 years was my dear friend Elijah Cummings. He was like Elijah the prophet. He possessed a moral clarity that guided him in every part of his life.

Whether it was protecting voting rights, alleviating poverty, expanding civil rights, or promoting justice, Elijah Cummings demonstrated principled tenacity and boundless energy when standing up for the causes in which he believed. He believed in this House's ability and sacred responsibility to better our Republic and the lives of each and every one of our citizens.

It was because of that belief that he held all who served in this House to such a high standard of ethics, the same standard to which he held himself.

When he believed this institution was falling short of that standard, he would demand of us, as I said at the beginning and will repeat again: "We are better than this."

Frankly, as we sit in these extraordinary seats given to us only through the hands of our neighbors and friends in our districts, when we have the opportunity to make a decision, we ought to have resounding in our head that someone will say when we act that we are not better than this but we are what we have done. We need to be better.

No place benefited from Elijah's principled leadership more than his hometown. He was a true son of Baltimore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, he was a true son of Baltimore, the city of grit, of opportunity, of hard work, and, as they would say of themselves, of charm.

He loved his city, and his city loved him in return.

Naming this post office after him pays tribute to his lifelong devotion to Baltimore, to democracy, to justice, to the average person, to every person, to his brothers and sisters, and to his country.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we lost Elijah far too early. His memory continues to guide us. His example is one to which all Members of this institution, all Members, all Americans, and all people ought to aspire.

Attaching his name to this post office will serve as a reminder to all who seek, in his words, "not just common ground, but higher ground."

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I certainly support this legislation to pay tribute to the giant Elijah Cummings.

I have so many memories of Elijah. The first memory I have is that we both represented Baltimore for many years together. I started to notice that he and I, even though we represented different parts of Baltimore, there would be events that were for the benefit of the entire city, and we would always be showing up at those together. It gave me great pride because I felt like that showed we had some shared values about what was important. His leadership in those places was unrivaled.

A second observation I have is that—and certainly KWEISI knows this intimately—Elijah was always the person who the family wanted to come to give the eulogy at the funeral. It was because oftentimes he had a deep connection to the family that made a difference. They also knew that he would articulate what that person had meant to the community better than anybody else could. It was always an inspirational time when you would sit there and hear those powerful words with that powerful voice kind of enveloping you.

The thing I remember most is the story he would tell about when he was sworn in and his father was sitting up in the gallery. Many of us know this story. His father began to cry. Afterward, Elijah went to him and said that he noticed that he was crying. He had never seen his father cry. He observed that not even when his own mother died had his father cried. He asked why he had been crying. His father said: You think it is because you became a Congressman, don't you?

Elijah said yes. His father said no, that was not the reason, although he was very proud of him. He said that he was crying because, looking at Elijah, he could see what he could have been.

That is an observation that many generations of Americans who encounter barriers could make looking at the success of the next generation and the generation beyond, "I see what I could have been," and how emotional that is. Elijah was representing all of those generations, but in the same way, they were saying that those children and grandchildren could look at an Elijah and say not that is what I could have been, but that is what I can be. This is why he made such a powerful difference in the lives of so many.

If we could all reach a little bit for the kind of service that Elijah Cummings gave to this country, the world would be a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MFUME for leading this effort to pay tribute to our former colleague, our former friend, a giant, Elijah Cummings.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ), the vice ranking member of the Oversight Committee.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank my colleague, Representative MFUME, for presenting this tremendously important legislation.

What else can there be said about the great chairman, Elijah E. Cummings? He was a father, mentor, visionary civil rights leader, and fierce defender of democracy.

As the son of sharecroppers rising to become chairman of one of the most powerful committees in the United States Congress, his life and his existence were a testimony to the American Dream.

As chairman of the House Committee on Oversight, he would often remind us of our purpose within this body. He asked: "When we are dancing with the angels, the question will be asked . . . what did we do to make sure we kept our democracy intact?"

Our democracy is what made Elijah's life possible, the great arc of his life possible. He was an inspiring coach and mentor who was uniquely focused on serving his hometown of Baltimore and improving the lives of the American people.

His work inside and outside of this building was a master class in how to speak truth to power and keep our country together. He was tough yet compassionate and always reminded people that they were never too late to do good.

Elijah dedicated his life to preserving American democracy, a fight that will be even more prevalent in the years to come, and his legacy guides many in our work today.

I am proud to support the renaming of the South Loudon Avenue post office after Chairman Elijah E. Cummings as a nod to his incredible legacy.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank my good friends from Maryland, Mr. MFUME and Mr. RASKIN, for their diligent work on this bill to honor the life and legacy of Elijah Cummings.

Chairman Cummings was known throughout this Chamber and the Nation as a man of strength and integrity and someone who compassionately yet fearlessly wielded his powers of oversight and transparency to make our Nation as strong as it could possibly be.

He was also a mentor to me and many others, and someone I proudly called my friend. I had the privilege of serving on the Committee on Oversight and Reform under Chairman Cummings and saw up close how he fought for what is right and just, even if it wasn't popular.

Elijah Cummings was also known for telling hard truths. It didn't matter who you were, what your politics were, or where you came from. He told difficult truths to American baseball heroes who had tarnished our beloved pastimes, and he confronted powerful people who priced prescription drugs beyond the reach of our citizens.

One of Elijah Cummings' best qualities was that he listened, and more importantly, he actually heard you. He heard you whether you were a schoolteacher or a janitor, a colleague here in Congress or the President of the United States.

I still carry the advice that Chairman Cummings gave to me, and I am sure he shared it with many of you as well: You need to think about the decisions you make and their impact not just on the moment at hand but on the future.

I could spend all day listing out his legislative and political accomplishments, but one thing stands out and cements his lasting impact: the thousands of people he inspired to fight for justice and freedom.

He served this House and the American people with grace, unmatched integrity, and passion. He loved the city and the people of Baltimore, and they loved him right back.

This post office is another visible and lasting testament of respect for this true American giant, and I proudly support this bill and encourage all of my colleagues to do the same and continue to acknowledge the incredible legacy and leadership of this remarkable man.

Rest in power, my friend.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for those beautiful remarks.

Elijah Cummings was a great Representative for the people of Baltimore and for the people of Maryland. He was a great leader, and he was a great teacher, too.

I remember when I was in my third term in office, and I had started off here on the Judiciary Committee and the Oversight Committee, to which Chairman Cummings had recruited me. I was also on the House Administration Committee. Then, I had an invitation to go on the Rules Committee, but I was afraid that I might be overextended.

I went and sat right over on the floor next to Chairman Cummings where he liked to sit, and I told him that I was afraid that I might be overburdening myself with too many committees. He turned silent for a moment, and then he said: "Raskin"—he spoke very sharply to me at that moment. I had never heard him use that tone of voice. I said: Yes? He said: You are never too busy to do that which you ought to be doing.

I never forgot that, and I have used that line for a lot of other colleagues. People will complain about being tired and exhausted and so on, but we are never too busy to be doing that which we ought to be doing.

Congressman MFUME, with this visionary legislation, is setting up a post office at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore that will be graced with the name of the great Elijah Cummings. How fitting that is, a place where people go to send letters and messages, because another thing I remember Chairman Cummings always saying was that children are the ultimate message that we send to future generations of people who we will never meet. He meant we have to invest in children and young people because they will end up defining a world that will long outlast and outsurvive us.

□ 1545

I hope that post office lasts forever, and I hope when parents take their kids to that post office to mail their letters, they will be able to tell them that there was once a great man named Elijah Cummings whose whole life reaps a lot of study for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 9544, legislation in honor of a true American hero, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation to honor Congressman Elijah Cummings. It has been wonderful to hear so many great stories of his time here in these hallowed Halls. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9544.

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.

**OFFICER NOAH JACOB SHAHNAVAZ
POST OFFICE BUILDING**

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9775) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 North Anderson Street in Elwood, Indiana, as the "Officer Noah Jacob Shahnava Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9775

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

**SECTION 1. OFFICER NOAH JACOB SHAHNAVAZ
POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 North Anderson Street in Elwood, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "Officer Noah Jacob Shahnava Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Officer Noah Jacob Shahnava Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which would rename a post office in Indiana for Officer Noah Shahnava.

After graduating from Fishers High School in 2016, he joined the U.S. Army and was deployed to the Middle East.

Later, Officer Shahnava became a dedicated member of the Elwood Police Department in Indiana. Officer Shahnava's life was cut short on July 31, 2022, when he was ambushed by a shot during a routine traffic stop.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am rising in support of H.R. 9775 to honor Noah Shahnava. Born and raised in Indianapolis, he joined the U.S. Army in 2016 where he was deployed to the Middle East as a

sergeant with the 591st Military Police Company.

Officer Shahnnavaz transitioned to a new service role in law enforcement by taking a position with the Elwood Police Department in 2021. Tragically, he was killed on duty on July 31, 2022, during a traffic stop.

This bill would honor the life and the great service of Officer Shahnnavaz and also recognize the sacrifice of his family by naming a post office in Elwood, Indiana, after him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ).

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9775 to honor the life of fallen Elwood Police Officer Noah Jacob Shahnnavaz by naming the Elwood, Indiana, Post Office after him.

Officer Shahnnavaz was a dedicated public servant, a courageous protector of his community, and a beloved member of the Elwood Police Department. Born in 1998, he served our country with distinction as a sergeant in the U.S. Army, deploying to the Middle East during the global war on terrorism. His leadership and professionalism earned him the respect of his fellow soldiers.

After his military service, Officer Shahnnavaz returned home to Indiana, joining the Elwood Police Department in 2021. His calm demeanor, work ethic, and deep sense of duty quickly made him a respected member of the force.

Tragically, on July 31, 2022, Noah's life was cut short during a routine traffic stop. He was ambushed and fatally shot by an individual with a violent criminal history. He was just 24 years old.

Today, we honor his legacy and ensure that his ultimate sacrifice is never forgotten by naming the Elwood Post Office in his memory.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all the members of the Indiana delegation sponsoring this bill on a bipartisan basis, and I urge my colleagues in the House to support this important legislation.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this bill naming a post office for Officer Noah Shahnnavaz, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9775.

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.

BILL BARRETT POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7507) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, as the "Bill Barrett Post Office Building", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7507

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

SECTION 1. WILLIAM E. AND ELSIE L. BARRETT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, shall be known and designated as the "William E. and Elsie L. Barrett Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "William E. and Elsie L. Barrett Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 related to this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which would rename a post office in Lexington, Nebraska, for Bill and Elsie Barrett. Bill Barrett served as the congressional Representative for the western two-thirds of Nebraska for five terms.

Bill and Elsie met while Bill was serving in the Navy, and the couple married in 1952. Bill and Elsie passed away in 2016 and 2024, respectively, and are survived by siblings, children, and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to support H.R. 7507, and I rise for the purpose of doing that.

I did not know Congressman William Barrett, but he was a lifelong public servant, and this legislation would honor his legacy by naming a post office in Lexington, Nebraska, after him. He served in the Nebraska legislature for a dozen years, including as speaker of the house. He later represented Ne-

braska's Third District here in Washington in the U.S. House for a decade where he supported the drafting of the Freedom to Farm Act of 1996 which was a proud accomplishment of his.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation.

Although I didn't know Congressman Barrett, I would like to use the case of this post office naming in the interests of improving the process by which this is going on, Mr. Speaker. There are a handful of Members of the House who object to naming post offices after former Members of Congress, for example, Congressman Barrett from Nebraska. They don't like that.

Now, the problem is that the way that this process works is that under the protocols and the rules, the custom of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee is we wait for a recommendation from the entire congressional delegation, whether it is from Nebraska, California, or Florida. Obviously, in the larger States, it is tougher because you have got to get the sign-off of every Member. Once you have gotten the sign-off of every Member, then it comes to the House Oversight and Accountability Committee. At that point, we bring it to the floor.

Now, we are starting to encounter some difficulty. There are a handful of Members who are throwing a monkey wrench into the whole process by refusing to consent to post offices that are sponsored by a Member of the opposite party in their State. So that turns what has been a proudly bipartisan process for decades into a vehemently and perhaps destructively partisan process.

I raise this because I want us to do a U-turn from that. I don't want us to head down the road towards mutually assured partisan destruction on something that should be the opportunity for unity as we have seen on today's bills.

I ask all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to participate in the process the way Members have participated in this process for decades, to assent to the naming of post offices even when they are being recommended by Members of the other party.

If not, then I am afraid we are going to have to change the rules of the House so it will no longer be a unanimous recommendation of each State's delegation but something like a majority of the delegation or 60 percent of the delegation.

I do not want it to be said to the people of America that we have gotten to a point of such vicious partisanship that we cannot even get unity on post office naming bills. That would be a truly sad day for all of us across the board.

I invite any reflections by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but I beseech all of our colleagues to not stand in the way of post office namings that are not in your district and that are maybe not even in your State but you are trying to block them.

Here, the bump in the road are people who are withholding their assent at the State level and then escalating the conflict up the ranks. We can do as well as prior generations of people who served in this great and august body.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I restate my support for H.R. 7507, which will honor a lifelong public servant, Congressman William Barrett, whose party designation is completely irrelevant in this process. He was a U.S. citizen who served all of us, and we should be able to honor him in a bipartisan and unanimous way.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7507 for the purpose of, as somewhat outlined by my colleague from Maryland, honoring by naming a post office in Lexington, Nebraska, after former Congressman Bill and his wife, Elsie Barrett.

Bill Barrett was born in Lexington, Nebraska, in 1929. Following his service in the U.S. Navy during the Korean war, Bill returned to his alma mater, Hastings College, graduated, then served as vice president for student admissions and later on the college's board of trustees for 32 years.

In 1978, he was elected to the Nebraska legislature, the unicameral, serving for 12 years, with his last 4 as speaker. He was then elected to represent the Third District of Nebraska in the U.S. House.

Known for his ability to cultivate consensus and connect with anyone, Bill was the president of his freshman congressional class, a group that even included the future Speaker of the House, John Boehner.

Tirelessly focused on issues important to Nebraska's farmers and ranchers, as we heard earlier, Bill's former staff have recounted how he would always ask: Does this help the Third District?

During his 5 years in Congress, he served on the House Agriculture Committee and coauthored the 1996 farm bill.

He also presided over the weekly bipartisan prayer breakfast and was eventually appointed chairman of the National Prayer Breakfast. He set a lasting standard of dedicated statesmanship and summed up his approach to public service as a high calling with the quote: Service to others is the best work of life.

Bill's wife, Elsie Carlson Barrett was born in 1930 to a Swedish immigrant family in New London, Connecticut. Elsie and Bill met while Bill was stationed in New London for naval service, and the two married in 1952. They settled in Hastings, Nebraska, where Elsie worked as a nurse before the family moved to Lexington. In Lexington Bill and Elsie raised four children.

Her passion for improving the lives of children blessed many as she served on

the Nebraska Foster Care Review Board and as president of her local Philanthropic Educational Organization chapter. Bill and Elsie were an extraordinary team and worked together to help host the National Prayer Breakfast in 1997.

Whether serving in the Navy, the Nebraska unicameral, or in the U.S. House, Bill always put Nebraska first, and Elsie leaves behind a great legacy of bettering the lives of others.

It is a great privilege to sponsor this bill which would name the post office located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, for Bill and Elsie Barrett.

I thank my colleagues in the Nebraska delegation who joined in this effort to honor Bill and Elsie, and I urge support for this bill. As Bill would say in this body, we all have an armchair to history.

I am honored to represent the same great district that Bill Barrett did.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the Third District of Nebraska for his thoughtful remarks and his description of the life of Congressman William Barrett. I didn't know that he was a Republican Member of Congress, but that does not diminish in any way my support for this post office naming bill.

There was a bill that was up earlier today offered by a Member from Texas which did not have the support of all of the Members, and this was a Member who himself withheld support in other cases. I don't know the full extent of the controversy. I don't want to get into the complete controversy, but I hope that everybody on both sides of the aisle will respect the traditions and the customs of the U.S. House of Representatives because we have played nice and supported bills on all sides even when there are people trying to sabotage and sandbag bills that are being introduced by Democratic Members.

Up until this point, we have taken that position, but we would like to see that people are playing fair on this process and not taking advantage of our goodwill to stand by the bipartisan traditions of our committee, the Oversight and Accountability Committee, and the Congress in doing this.

□ 1600

We want to see that it is a two-way street and not a one-way street.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the chairman of the committee is still around or if there is someone else who could speak on behalf of the committee, but I hope that somebody at least will articulate a continuing devotion to the customs of the committee, which is that we work to get everybody's bills through and we don't try to sabotage and sandbag the bills from the other side at the State level because that will plunge us into a race of mutually assured postal-naming destruction that is not going to benefit anybody in this body.

I liked what the gentleman from Nebraska said, that Mr. Barrett, who this bill will have the post office named for, would ask the question: What will this do for the people in my district?

It will do nothing for the people of anybody's district if we start throwing a monkey wrench into this process. I hope that the Members in Texas and the Members all over the country will adhere to the protocols and the customs that have lasted for decades on the Oversight Committee and that I hope will last long after all of us are gone.

These post office namings are an opportunity to recognize and to celebrate truly great people in our districts and Nation, not the opportunity for ceaseless partisan conflict and sabotage.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my House colleagues to support this bill naming a post office for Bill and Elsie Barrett, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7507, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, as the 'William E. and Elsie L. Barrett Post Office Building'".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOURCE CODE HARMONIZATION AND REUSE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9566) to require government-wide source code sharing, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

9566

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 "Source code Harmonization And Reuse in Information Technology Act" or the "SHARE IT Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "agency" has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional

committees” means the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

(3) **CUSTOM-DEVELOPED CODE.**—The term “custom-developed code”—

(A) means source code that is—

(i) produced in the performance of a contract with an agency or is otherwise exclusively funded by the Federal Government; or

(ii) developed by a Federal employee as part of the official duties of the employee;

(B) includes—

(i) source code, or segregable portions of source code, for which the Federal Government could obtain unlimited rights under part 27 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation or any relevant supplemental acquisition regulations of an agency; and

(ii) source code written for a software project, module, plugin, script, middleware, or application programming interface; and

(C) does not include—

(i) source code that is solely exploratory or disposable in nature, including source code written by a developer experimenting with a new language or library; or

(ii) commercial computer software, commercial off-the-shelf software, or configuration scripts for such software.

(4) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEE.**—The term “Federal employee” has the meaning given the term in section 2105(a) of title 5, United States Code.

(5) **METADATA.**—The term “metadata”, with respect to custom-developed code—

(A) has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code; and

(B) includes—

(i) information on whether the custom-developed code was—

(I) produced pursuant to a contract; or

(II) shared in a public or private repository;

(ii) any contract number under which the custom-developed code was produced; and

(iii) any hyperlink to the repository in which the code was shared.

(6) **PRIVATE REPOSITORY.**—The term “private repository” means a software storage location—

(A) that contains source code, documentation, configuration scripts, as appropriate, revision history, and other files; and

(B) access to which is restricted to only authorized users.

(7) **PUBLIC REPOSITORY.**—The term “public repository” means a software storage location—

(A) that contains source code, documentation, configuration scripts, as appropriate, revision history, and other files; and

(B) access to which is open to the public.

(8) **SOFTWARE.**—The term “software” has the meaning given the term “computer software” in section 2.101 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(9) **SOURCE CODE.**—The term “source code” means a collection of computer commands written in a computer programming language that a computer can execute as a piece of software.

SEC. 3. SOFTWARE REUSE.

(a) **SHARING.**—Not later than 210 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each agency shall ensure that the custom-developed code of the agency and other key technical components of the code (including documentation, data models, schemas, metadata, architecture designs, configuration scripts, and artifacts required to develop, build, test, and deploy the code) of the code are—

(1) stored at not less than 1 public repository or private repository;

(2) accessible to Federal employees via procedures developed under subsection (d)(1)(A)(ii)(III); and

(3) owned by the agency.

(b) **SOFTWARE REUSE RIGHTS IN PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS.**—The head of an agency that enters into a contract for the custom development of software shall acquire and exercise rights sufficient to enable the governmentwide access to, sharing of, use of, and modification of any custom-developed code created in the development of such software.

(c) **DISCOVERY.**—Not later than 210 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each agency shall make metadata created on or after such date for the custom-developed code of the agency publicly accessible.

(d) **ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS.**—

(1) **AGENCY CIOS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief Information Officer of each agency, in consultation with the Chief Acquisition Officer, or similar official, of the agency and the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government, shall develop an agency-wide policy that—

(A) implements the requirements of this Act, including—

(i) ensuring that custom-developed code follows the best practices established by the Director of the Office and Management and Budget under paragraph (3) for operating repositories and version control systems to keep track of changes and to facilitate collaboration among multiple developers; and

(ii) managing the sharing of custom-developed code under subsection (b), and the public accessibility of metadata under subsection (c), including developing—

(I) procedures to determine whether any custom-developed code meets the conditions under section 4(b) for an exemption under this Act;

(II) procedures for making metadata for custom-developed code publicly accessible pursuant to subsection (c);

(III) procedures for Federal employees to gain access to public repositories and private repositories that contain custom developed source code; and

(IV) standardized reporting practices across the agency to capture key information relating to a contract under which custom-developed source code was produced for reporting statistics about the contract; and

(B) corrects or amends any policies of the agency that are inconsistent with the requirements of this Act.

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT.**—

(A) **MINIMUM STANDARD REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government shall establish minimum standard reporting requirements for the Chief Information Officers of agencies, which shall include information relating to—

(i) measuring the frequency of reuse of code, including access and modification under subsection (b);

(ii) whether the shared code is maintained;

(iii) whether there is a feedback mechanism for improvements to or community development of the shared code; and

(iv) the number and circumstances of all exemptions granted under section 4(a)(2).

(B) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—

(i) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government shall publish on a centralized website a report on the implementation of this Act that includes—

(I) a complete list of all exemptions granted under section 4(a)(2); and

(II) information showing whether each agency has updated the acquisition and other policies of the agency to be compliant with this Act.

(ii) **OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ASSET.**—The report under clause (i) shall be maintained as an open Government data asset (as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code).

(3) **GUIDANCE.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance, consistent with the purpose of this Act, that establishes best practices and uniform procedures across agencies for the purposes of implementing this subsection.

(I) a complete list of all exemptions granted under section 4(a)(2); and

(II) information showing whether each agency has updated the acquisition and other policies of the agency to be compliant with this Act.

(ii) **OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ASSET.**—The report under clause (i) shall be maintained as an open Government data asset (as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code).

(3) **GUIDANCE.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance, consistent with the purpose of this Act, that establishes best practices and uniform procedures across agencies for the purposes of implementing this subsection.

SEC. 4. EXEMPTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **AUTOMATIC.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—This Act shall not apply to classified source code or source code developed primarily for use in a national security system (as defined in section 11103 of title 40, United States Code).

(B) **NATIONAL SECURITY.**—An exemption from the requirements under section 3 shall apply to classified source code or source code developed—

(i) primarily for use in a national security system (as defined in section 11103 of title 40, United States Code); or

(ii) by an agency, or part of an agency, that is an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))).

(C) **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.**—An exemption from the requirements under section 3 shall apply to source code the disclosure of which is exempt under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”).

(2) **DISCRETIONARY.**—

(A) **EXEMPTION AND GUIDANCE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chief Information Officer of an agency, in consultation with the Federal Privacy Council, or any successor thereto, may exempt from the requirements of section 3 any source code for which a limited exemption described in subparagraph (B) applies.

(ii) **GUIDANCE REQUIRED.**—The Federal Privacy Council shall provide guidance to the Chief Information Officer of each agency relating to the limited exemption described in subparagraph (B)(i) to ensure consistent application of this paragraph across agencies.

(B) **LIMITED EXEMPTIONS.**—The limited exemptions described in this paragraph are the following:

(i) The head of the agency is prohibited from providing the source code to another individual or entity under another Federal law or regulation, including under—

(I) the Export Administration Regulations;

(II) the International Traffic in Arms Regulations;

(III) the regulations of the Transportation Security Administration relating to the protection of Sensitive Security Information; and

(IV) the Federal laws and regulations governing the sharing of classified information not covered by the exemption in paragraph (1).

(ii) The sharing or public accessibility of the source code would create an identifiable risk to the privacy of an individual.

(b) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—

(1) **AGENCY REPORTING.**—Not later than December 31 of each year, the Chief Information Officer of an agency shall submit to the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government a report of the source code of the agency to which an exemption under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) applied during the fiscal year ending on September

30 of that year with a brief narrative justification of each exemption.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on all exemptions granted under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) by each agency, including a compilation of all information, including the narrative justification, relating to each such exemption.

(3) FORM.—The reports under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be submitted in unclassified form, with a classified annex as appropriate.

SEC. 5. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes an assessment of the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed as requiring the disclosure of information or records that are exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”).

SEC. 7. APPLICATION.

This Act shall apply to custom-developed code that is developed or revised—

(1) by a Federal employee not less than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) under a contract awarded pursuant to a solicitation issued not less than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. REVISION OF FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised as necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Source Code Harmonization and Reuse in Information Technology Act, otherwise known as the SHARE IT Act. This bill is a common-sense solution to a longstanding, overlooked inefficiency within our Federal Government.

Each year, the government spends approximately \$6 billion on software development, a portion of which funds the creation of custom code for agency-specific programs.

These investments are often necessary to manage the complexity of

government operations, but without a clear mandate for code sharing, agencies are left operating in silos. This leads to costly duplication as they pay contractors to recreate solutions that already exist elsewhere within the vast sums of the Federal Government.

In 2016, the Office of Management and Budget introduced a Federal source code policy which led to the establishment of code.gov, a platform housing over \$1 billion worth of custom-developed software.

However, without such strong enforcement mechanisms, the full potential of that policy has yet to be realized. Several Federal agencies still do not consistently share their code, resulting in millions of dollars of taxpayer money being wasted on duplicative efforts.

The SHARE IT Act addresses this problem directly. It mandates that agencies publicly list and share their custom code, allowing solutions to be reused across the government, saving both time and important taxpayer dollars.

Importantly, the bill includes provisions to safeguard sensitive or classified information, ensuring national security and privacy are not compromised. It also holds agency chief information officers accountable, requiring them to ensure code is properly shared and adding much-needed transparency to the process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in passing the SHARE IT Act, a straightforward practical measure that will improve government efficiency, foster innovation, and, most importantly, save taxpayers' money.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, every year, Federal agencies spend billions of dollars purchasing software, including custom-developed code for websites, public databases, and mobile apps to improve the public's experience using government services. Too often, agencies keep custom-developed code for internal use rather than sharing it across the Federal Government with other agencies.

This can undermine interoperability, security efficiency, and certainly cost-effectiveness in the Federal Government's acquisition and use of software. The SHARE IT Act seeks to address these problems.

In 2016, President Obama released a Federal source code policy requiring the custom source code developed by or for the Federal Government be made available for reuse by all Federal agencies. Among other things, the policy required GSA to create code.gov to facilitate code sharing. As of 2019, code.gov featured more than 6,000 code bases from 26 different Federal agencies.

Despite this success, many of the 24 largest agencies required to post their custom-developed code inventory to

code.gov under the policy still haven't done so, and the policy lacks an effective enforcement mechanism to ensure compliance.

To improve compliance and further unlock the benefits of sharing custom-built code, the SHARE IT Act would require agencies to list the custom code the purchaser produced and to share such code, either publicly, or governmentwide.

Among other things, it assigns agency chief information officers the responsibility of overseeing compliance with the act.

Mr. Speaker, I support the purpose of this bill, which is to promote innovation, collaboration, efficiency, and better value. However, as the administration has pointed out, it will require several key improvements before it can truly live up to its full promise.

Most importantly, Federal entities will need additional funding in order to effectively meet the new requirements of the bill.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage with the improvements aforementioned. We have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the SHARE IT Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9566, 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.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:
 H.R. 390 and
 H.R. 8219;
 Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1602; and
 Adoption of House Resolution 1602, if ordered.

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

MAURICE D. HINCHEY HUDSON RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ENHANCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 390) to amend the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333; 54 U.S.C. 320101 note) to include all of Saratoga and Washington Counties in the boundaries of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 16, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 480]
 YEAS—378

Adams Carey Deluzio
 Aderholt Carl DeSaulnier
 Aguilar Carson DesJarlais
 Alford Carter (GA) Diaz-Balart
 Allen Carter (LA) Dingell
 Allred Carter (TX) Doggett
 Amo Cartwright Duarte
 Amodei Casar Duncan
 Armstrong Case Dunn (FL)
 Arrington Casten Edwards
 Auchincloss Castor (FL) Ellzey
 Babin Castro (TX) Emmer
 Bacon Chavez-DeRemer Escobar
 Baird Cherfilus-Eshoo
 Balderson McCormick Espaillat
 Balint Chu Estes
 Banks Ciscomani Ezell
 Barr Clark (MA) Fallon
 Barragán Clarke (NY) Feenstra
 Bean (FL) Cleaver Ferguson
 Beatty Cline Finstad
 Bentz Clyburn Fischbach
 Bera Clyde Fitzgerald
 Bergman Cohen Fitzpatrick
 Beyer Cole Fleischmann
 Bice Collins Flood
 Bilirakis Connolly Fong
 Bishop (GA) Correa Foster
 Boebert Courtney Foushee
 Bonamici Craig Foxx
 Bost Crawford Franklin, Lois
 Boyle (PA) Crockett Franklin, Scott
 Brown Crow Frost
 Brownley Cuellar Fry
 Buchanan D'Esposito Garamendi
 Bucshon Davids (KS) Garbarino
 Budzinski Davidson Garcia (IL)
 Burgess Davis (IL) Garcia (TX)
 Bush Davis (NC) Garcia, Robert
 Calvert De La Cruz Gimenez
 Cammack Dean (PA) Golden (ME)
 Caraveo DeGette Goldman (NY)
 Carbajal DeLauro Gonzales, Tony
 Cárdenas DelBene Gonzalez, V.

Gooden (TX) Malliotakis Scalise
 Graves (LA) Maloy Scanlon
 Graves (MO) Mann Schakowsky
 Green (TN) Manning Schiff
 Green, Al (TX) Mast Schneider
 Griffith Matsui Scholten
 Grothman McBeth Schrier
 Guest McCaul Schweikert
 Guthrie McClain Scott (VA)
 Hageman McClellan Scott, Austin
 Harder (CA) McClintock Scott, David
 Harris McCollum Sessions
 Harshbarger McCormick Sewell
 Hayes McGarvey Sherman
 Hern McGovern Sherrill
 Higgins (LA) McHenry Simpson
 Hill McIver Smith (MO)
 Himes Meeks Smith (NE)
 Hinson Menendez Smith (WA)
 Horsford Meng Smucker
 Houchin Meuser Sorensen
 Houlihan Mfume Sorenson
 Hoyle (OR) Miller (OH) Soto
 Huffman Miller (WV) Spanberger
 Huizenga Miller-Meeks Spartz
 Hunt Mills Stansbury
 Issa Molinaro Stauber
 Ivey Moolenaar Steel
 Jackson (IL) Mooney Stefanik
 Jackson (NC) Moore (AL) Steil
 Jackson (TX) Moore (UT) Steube
 James Moore (WI) Stevens
 Jayapal Moran Strickland
 Jeffries Morelle Strong
 Johnson (GA) Moskowitz Suozzi
 Johnson (SD) Mrvan Swalwell
 Jordan Mullin Sykes
 Joyce (PA) Murphy Takano
 Kamlager-Dove Nadler Tenney
 Kaptur Napolitano Thanedar
 Kean (NJ) Neal Thompson (CA)
 Keating Neguse Thompson (MS)
 Kelly (IL) Nehls Tiffany
 Kelly (MS) Newhouse Timmons
 Kelly (PA) Nickel Tlaib
 Kennedy Norcross Tokuda
 Khanna Nunn (IA) Tonko
 Kiggans (VA) Ocasio-Cortez Torres (CA)
 Kildee Omar Torres (NY)
 Kiley Owens Trahan
 Kilmer Pallone Turner
 Kim (CA) Palmer Underwood
 Kim (NJ) Panetta Valadao
 Krishnamoorthi Pappas Van Drew
 Kuster Pelosi Van Duyne
 Kustoff Peltola Van Orden
 LaHood Pence Vargas
 LaLota Perez Vasquez
 Lamborn Pettersen Veasey
 Landsman Pfluger Velázquez
 Langworthy Phillips Pingree
 Larsen (WA) Larson (CT) Pocan
 Lee (CA) Latta Posey
 Lee (FL) Lawler Pressley
 Lee (NV) Lee (CA) Quigley
 Lee (PA) Lee (FL) Ramirez
 Lee Carter Lee (NV) Raskin
 Leger Fernandez Reschenthaler
 Lesko Rodgers (WA)
 Levin Leger Fernandez Rogers (AL)
 Lieu Ross
 Lofgren Rouzer
 Lopez Ruiz
 Loudermilk Rulli
 Lucas Ruppertsberger
 Luttrell Rutherford
 Lynch Ryan
 Mace Salinas
 Magaziner Sanchez
 Sarbanes Zinke

NAYS—16

Biggs Donalds
 Brecheen Fulcher
 Burchett Good (VA)
 Burlison Greene (GA)
 Cloud Massie
 Crane Norman

NOT VOTING—38

Bishop (NC) Crenshaw
 Blumenauer Curtis
 Blunt Rochester Evans
 Bowman Fletcher
 Comer Gallego
 Costa Garcia, Mike
 Ogles
 Perry
 Rosendale
 Self
 Gomez
 Gosar
 Gotthelmer
 Granger
 Grijalva
 Hoyer

Hudson Miller (IL) Slotkin
 Jacobs Moulton Smith (NJ)
 Joyce (OH) Obernolte Titus
 LaMalfa Porter Trone
 Letlow Rogers (KY) Wexton
 Luetkemeyer Roy Williams (NY)
 Luna Salazar

□ 1656

Mr. BURCHETT changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. CORREA and Mrs. PELTOLA changed their 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.

Stated for:

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and the roll call vote on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 390—Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Enhancement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 480 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 390.

LAHAINA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8219) to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Lahaina National Heritage Area, 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) 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 378, nays 25, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 481]
 YEAS—378

Adams Bost Cherfilus-McCormick
 Aderholt Boyle (PA) Chu
 Aguilar Brown Ciscomani
 Alford Brownley Clark (MA)
 Allen Buchanan Clarke (NY)
 Allred Bucshon Cleaver
 Amo Budzinski Clyburn
 Amodei Burgess Cohen
 Armstrong Bush Cole
 Auchincloss Calvert Collins
 Babin Cammack Comer
 Bacon Caraveo Connolly
 Baird Carbajal Correa
 Balderson Cárdenas Costa
 Balint Carey Courtney
 Barr Carl Craig
 Barragán Carson Crawford
 Bean (FL) Carter (GA) Crenshaw
 Beatty Carter (LA) Crockett
 Bentz Carter (TX) Crow
 Bera Cartwright Cuellar
 Bergman Casar D'Esposito
 Beyer Case Davids (KS)
 Bice Casten Davidson
 Bilirakis Castor (FL) Davis (IL)
 Bishop (GA) Castro (TX) Davis (NC)
 Bonamici Chavez-DeRemer

De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Fox
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Frost
Fry
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden (TX)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley

Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)

Arrington
Banks
Biggs
Boebert
Brecheen
Burchett
Burlison
Cline
Cloud

Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bowman
Curtis
Evans
Fletcher
Gallego
Garcia, Mike
Gomez

Wittman
Womack

NAYS—25

Clyde
Crane
Donalds
Fulcher
Good (VA)
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Harris
Mann

Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
Jacobs
Letlow
Luettkemeyer
Luna

Miller (IL)
Moulton
Porter
Rogers (KY)
Roy
Salazar
Smith (NJ)
Wexton
Williams (NY)

NOT VOTING—29

Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
Jacobs
Letlow
Luettkemeyer
Luna

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1705
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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5349, CRUCIAL COMMUNISM TEACHING ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7198, PROVE IT ACT OF 2024.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 1602) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5349) to develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7198) to amend title 5, United States Code, to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses, and for other purposes, 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.
This is a 5-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 206, nays 200, not voting 26, as follows:
[Roll No. 482]
YEAS—206
Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Webster (FL)
Weststrum
Wenstrom
Wied
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Baird
Balderson
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl

Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Fouxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)

Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley

Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rodgers (AL)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Rulli
Rutherford
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—200
Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragan
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Lieu
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gonzalez, V.
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Lieu
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gonzalez, V.
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley

McGovern Pressley Strickland
 McIver Quigley Suozzi
 Meeks Ramirez Swallowell
 Menendez Raskin Sykes
 Meng Ross Takano
 Mfume Ruiz Thanedar
 Moore (WI) Ruppertsberger
 Morelle Ryan Thompson (CA)
 Moskowitz Salinas Thompson (MS)
 Mrvan Sanchez Titus
 Mullin Sarbanes Tlaib
 Nadler Scanlon Tokuda
 Napolitano Schakowsky Tonko
 Neal Schiff Torres (CA)
 Neguse Schneider Torres (NY)
 Nickel Scholten Trahan
 Norcross Schrier Trone
 Ocasio-Cortez Scott (VA)
 Omar Scott, David Underwood
 Pallone Sewell Vargas
 Panetta Sherman Vasquez
 Pappas Sherrill Veasey
 Pelosi Slotkin Velazquez
 Peltola Smith (WA) Wasserman
 Perez Sorensen Schultz
 Peters Soto Waters
 Pettersen Spanberger Wild
 Phillips Stansbury Williams (GA)
 Pingree Stanton Wilson (FL)
 Pocan Stevens

NOT VOTING—26

Bishop (NC) Gomez Miller (IL)
 Blumenauer Gosar Moulton
 Blunt Rochester Gottheimer Porter
 Bowman Granger Rogers (KY)
 Curtis Grijalva Roy
 Evans Jacobs Salazar
 Fletcher Letlow Wexton
 Gallego Luetkemeyer Williams (NY)
 Garcia, Mike Luna

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1711

Ms. LEE of Nevada changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER changed his vote from “present” 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. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 207, noes 199, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 483]

AYES—207

Aderholt Bost Collins
 Alford Brecheen Comer
 Allen Buchanan Crane
 Amodei Bucshon Crawford
 Armstrong Burchett Crenshaw
 Arrington Burgess D’Esposito
 Babin Burlison Davidson
 Bacon Calvert De La Cruz
 Baird Cammack DesJarlais
 Balderson Carey Diaz-Balart
 Banks Carl Donalds
 Barr Carter (GA) Duarte
 Bean (FL) Carter (TX) Duncan
 Bentz Chavez-DeRemer Dunn (FL)
 Bergman Ciscomani Edwards
 Bice Cline Ellzey
 Biggs Cloud Emmer
 Bilirakis Clyde Estes
 Boebert Cole Ezell

Fallon Kiley Pfluger
 Feenstra Kim (CA) Posey
 Ferguson Kustoff Reschenthaler
 Finstad LaHood Rodgers (WA)
 Fischbach LaLota Rogers (AL)
 Fitzgerald LaMalfa Rose
 Fitzpatrick Lamborn Rosendale
 Fleischmann Langworthy Rouzer
 Flood Latta Rulli
 Fong LaTurner Rutherford
 Foxx Lawler Scalise
 Franklin, Scott Lee (FL) Schweikert
 Fry Lesko Scott, Austin
 Fulcher Lopez Self
 Garbarino Loudermilk Sessions
 Gimenez Lucas Simpson
 Gonzales, Tony Luttrell Smith (MO)
 Good (VA) Mace Smith (NE)
 Gooden (TX) Malliotakis Smith (NJ)
 Graves (LA) Maloy Smucker
 Graves (MO) Mann Spartz
 Green (TN) Massie Stauber
 Greene (GA) Mast Steel
 Griffith McCaul Stefanik
 Grothman McClain Steil
 Guest McClintock Steube
 Guthrie McCormick Strong
 Hageman McHenry Tenney
 Harris Meuser Thompson (PA)
 Harshbarger Miller (OH) Tiffany
 Hern Miller (WV) Timmons
 Higgins (LA) Miller-Meeks Turner
 Hill Mills Valadao
 Hinson Molinaro Van Drew
 Houchin Moolenaar Van Dуйne
 Hudson Mooney Van Orden
 Huiזenga Moore (AL) Wagner
 Hunt Moore (UT) Walberg
 Issa Moran Waltz
 Jackson (TX) Murphy Weber (TX)
 James Nehls Webster (FL)
 Johnson (LA) Newhouse Wenstrup
 Johnson (SD) Norman Westerman
 Jordan Nunn (IA) Wied
 Joyce (OH) Obernolte Williams (TX)
 Joyce (PA) Ogles Wilson (SC)
 Kean (NJ) Owens Wittman
 Kelly (MS) Palmer Womack
 Kelly (PA) Pence Yakym
 Kiggans (VA) Perry Zinke

NOES—199

Adams Dean (PA) Landsman
 Aguilar DeGette Larsen (WA)
 Allred DeLauro Larson (CT)
 Amo DeBene Lee (CA)
 Auchincloss Deluzio Lee (NV)
 Balint DeSaunier Lee (PA)
 Barragan Dingell Lee Carter
 Beatty Doggett Leger Fernandez
 Bera Escobar Levin
 Beyer Eshoo Lieu
 Bishop (GA) Espallat Lofgren
 Bonamici Foster Lynch
 Boyle (PA) Foushee Magaziner
 Brown Frankel, Lois Manning
 Brownley Frost Matsui
 Budzinski Garamendi McBath
 Bush Garcia (IL) McClellan
 Caraveo Garcia (TX) McCollum
 Carballo Garcia, Robert McCarvey
 Cardenas Golden (ME) McGovern
 Carson Goldman (NY) Melver
 Carter (LA) Gonzalez, V. Meeks
 Cartwright Green, Al (TX) Menendez
 Casar Harder (CA) Meng
 Case Hayes Mfume
 Casten Himes Moore (WI)
 Castor (FL) Horsford Morelle
 Castro (TX) Hoyer Moskowitz
 Cherfilus-McCormick Hoyle (OR) Mrvan
 Chu Huffman Mullin
 Ivey Nadler
 Jackson (IL) Jackson (NC) Napolitano
 Neal Jayapal
 Jeffersons Jeffrey
 Johnson (GA) Kamlager-Dove
 Kaptur Keating
 Kelly (IL) Kennedy
 Kennedy Khanna
 Kildeer Kildee
 Kilmer Kim (NJ)
 Krishnamoorthi Kim (NJ)
 Kuster Krushnamoorthi Phillips

Pingree Scott, David Titus
 Pocan Sewell Tlaib
 Pressley Sherrman Tokuda
 Quigley Sherrill Tonko
 Ramirez Torres (CA) Slotkin
 Raskin Smith (WA) Torres (NY)
 Ross Sorensen Trahan
 Ruiz Soto Trone
 Ruppertsberger Spanberger Underwood
 Ryan Stansbury Vargas
 Salinas Stanton Vasquez
 Sanchez Stevens Veasey
 Sarbanes Strickland Velazquez
 Scanlon Suozzi Wasserman
 Schakowsky Swallowell Schultz
 Schiff Sykes Waters
 Schneider Takano Watson Coleman
 Scholten Thanedar Wild
 Schrier Thompson (CA) Williams (GA)
 Scott (VA) Thompson (MS) Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—27

Bishop (NC) Gomez Luna
 Blumenauer Gosar Miller (IL)
 Blunt Rochester Gottheimer Moulton
 Bowman Granger Porter
 Curtis Grijalva Rogers (KY)
 Evans Houlihan Roy
 Fletcher Jacobs Salazar
 Gallego Letlow Wexton
 Garcia, Mike Luetkemeyer Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1718

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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I missed four votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 480, NAY on Roll Call No. 481, YEA on Roll Call No. 482, and YEA on Roll Call No. 483.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call Nos. 480, 481, 482, and 483 today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 480, YEA on Roll Call No. 481, NAY on Roll Call No. 482, and NO on Roll Call No. 483.

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4243) to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4243

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 “Shirley Chisholm Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) In 1968, Shirley Chisholm became the first African-American woman elected to Congress where she served until 1982.

(2) Shirley Chisholm inspired and led the march of political achievement by African Americans and women in the 3 decades since she ran for the Presidency of the United States.

(3) Her election to Congress and her candidacy for the Presidency raised the profile

and aspirations of all African Americans and women in the field of politics.

(4) Shirley Chisholm was recognized for her activism, independence, and groundbreaking achievements in politics during and after the civil rights era.

(5) Shirley Chisholm was born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 30, 1924, attended Brooklyn College, and earned a master's degree from Columbia University.

(6) Shirley Chisholm worked in education and social services before being elected to the New York State Assembly in 1964.

(7) Shirley Chisholm established the Unity Democratic Club in 1960, which played a significant role in rallying Black and Hispanic voters in New York City.

(8) In 1969, Shirley Chisholm began her service in the 91st Congress, representing New York's 12th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

(9) During her service in the House of Representatives, Shirley Chisholm promoted the employment of women in Congress and was vocal in her support of civil rights, women's rights, and the poor, while fervently opposing the Vietnam War.

(10) In 1972, Shirley Chisholm was the first African American to seek the nomination of a major party for President of the United States.

(11) A historic figure in American political history, Shirley Chisholm died at the age of 80 in Ormond Beach, Florida, on New Year's Day 2005.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration of Shirley Chisholm.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary. The design shall bear an image of, and an inscription of the name of, Shirley Chisholm.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold medal referred to in subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be displayed as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations and events associated with Shirley Chisholm.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for

the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. 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 material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4243, a bill that would posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

On November 5, 1968, Shirley Chisholm, the daughter of Caribbean immigrants, became the first African-American woman in our Nation's history elected to Congress. As she liked to put it, she was "the first Black woman Congressman."

Mr. Speaker, 2 years later, she became a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. A year after that, she became the first woman and first African American to run for one of the two major parties' Presidential nominations.

Shirley Chisholm has a much longer list of achievements that are quite impressive.

Born on November 30, 1924, in Brooklyn, New York, Chisholm began her career in early childhood education before turning her focus to politics.

Throughout her political career, Chisholm was a no-nonsense advocate. She was willing to fight for her working-class constituents and call out perceived injustices.

Representative Chisholm once remarked: "I did not come to Congress to behave myself and stay away from explosive issues so I can keep coming back."

Now, my ranking member on the Financial Services Committee, the former chair of the Financial Services Committee, is equally unashful in her approach in Congress, and I welcome that. At this point, I will allow the ranking member of the committee to say her words on one of her mentors.

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

□ 1730

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4243, the Shirley Chisholm Congressional

Gold Medal Act, sponsored by Representative BARBARA LEE.

Today we will vote to honor former Representative Shirley Chisholm with a Congressional Gold Medal for her activism, independence, and groundbreaking achievements in politics as the first African-American woman elected to serve in Congress. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill.

Shirley Chisholm was born in Brooklyn, New York, and was the oldest of four daughters to immigrant parents. In fact, Chisholm lived in Barbados between the ages of 5 and 9 and always considered herself Barbadian. Last week, I was pleased to join Minority Leader JEFFRIES and many members of the Congressional Black Caucus as we celebrated Chisholm along with the people of Barbados. It was such a great time, and I am thankful that we continue this celebration in Congress today.

Chisholm graduated from Brooklyn College cum laude in 1946 where she also excelled on the debate team. Her professors encouraged her to consider a political career. She knew she would face difficulties as an African-American woman, but that did not stop her. In 1964, Chisholm became the second African American to serve in the New York State legislature. In 1968 she was elected to the 91st Congress as the first African-American woman Member.

As the first African American and the first woman to chair the Financial Services Committee, I am grateful for trailblazers like Shirley Chisholm who created space in politics for Americans like me.

During her congressional term, Congresswoman Chisholm introduced more than 50 pieces of legislation, focusing on gender and racial equality and ending the Vietnam war. In 1971 she became a cofounder of the National Women's Political Caucus and founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, which I am proud to be a member of.

In the 1972 Presidential election, Shirley Chisholm became the first African-American candidate to seek a major party's nomination for President of the United States. She was also the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's Presidential nomination. However, discrimination followed her campaign. Shirley Chisholm was blocked from participating in televised primary debates and was only allowed to make one speech after taking legal action. Students, women, and people of color followed her campaign closely.

After her bid for the Presidency, Chisholm continued serving in the House of Representatives until she retired in 1982, 10 years before I began my first term as a Congresswoman.

She once said: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

Today we will honor Chisholm not just with a seat at the table but with the highest honor Congress can bestow.

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

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), who is also the sponsor of this bill.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me take a moment to thank Speaker JOHNSON, Minority Leader JEFFRIES, Majority Leader SCALISE, and Chairman MCHENRY for their leadership.

Of course, I thank our ranking member, MAXINE WATERS, whom I met during the Shirley Chisolm campaign, for her tremendous leadership and her friendship.

I thank Congresswoman CLARKE, Congressman DONALDS, Congressman LAWLER, and Congressman ISSA for their support. I thank everyone, all Democrats and Republicans, for their support. Also, I am deeply grateful to Senators Butler and Warnock and all the Members of the Senate for their leadership on the Senate companion bill.

Let me take a moment to thank my team, the team of our leadership, Congresswoman WATERS, Congressman MCHENRY, and especially Jordan Smith for their support. I especially thank Jordan Smith for her expertise and for her hard work in making sure that she worked with everyone, all staff, as a team to get this bill to the floor. I thank her so much for her hard work.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me really great joy today that the House is voting on our bill to honor my mentor, friend, and the first Member of Congress who brought a new lens and experience which had never been included in this body since the first Congress went into session in 1789. Congresswoman Chisolm made history as the first Black woman to be elected to the United States Congress and the first Black woman to run for the Presidency of the United States.

Now I am the 20th Black woman elected to Congress since 1789. Congresswoman WATERS is the seventh Black woman elected since 1789. Because of Shirley Chisolm, I am. Because of Shirley Chisolm, there are 31 Black women serving in the House of Representatives and one Black woman now serving in the United States Senate. There have been two elected Black women in the United States Senate, one appointed, and that is Senator BUTLER, and that is since 1789.

Throughout her seven terms representing New York's 12th Congressional District, Shirley worked across the aisle to advocate for her constituents and pass bipartisan reforms. She focused on tackling issues of food insecurity and economic justice.

Known as Fighting Shirley, she was a fearless advocate for American families and served as a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

As many of our colleagues know, Shirley was the catalyst for my career in public service. I met her when I was a student at Mills College in Oakland.

Like so many young people today, I was intentionally disconnected from the political system. I did not believe that it worked for me, a young Black woman and a single mother raising two children on her own and on public assistance and food stamps.

However, when I met and talked to Shirley Chisolm, I quickly saw that she represented a new and unique kind of political leadership in Congress. She stood up for people of color, for Black people, for women, for marginalized communities, for low-income people, for people who lived in rural communities and urban communities, for working families, and for everyone. She spoke on issues that I really hadn't heard Members of Congress talk about on a national stage before.

When I told Shirley that I was not registered to vote, she took me to task. She called me little girl until the day she died.

She got me involved in her campaign, and the rest is history. The path she paved had never been tread before. She carved out a new trail for all of us. She flipped the script and left an indelible legacy on American politics, all while holding the door open for the rest of us to step through.

Throughout her life, she remained unbought and unbossed, and as my 26 years in this body comes to an end, this is really personally a full circle moment for me for which I am deeply grateful.

The Congressional Gold Medal serves as the Nation's highest expression of gratitude for distinguished service and achievements. It is critical for the next generation of leaders to see the first Black woman elected to Congress get the recognition that she deserves.

We celebrated what would have been Congresswoman Chisolm's 100th birthday this past Saturday as Congresswoman WATERS mentioned, so it is past time Congress recognized her legendary career and honored her with a Congressional Gold Medal.

Let me mention a couple of things I mentioned last night at the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order. I thank Chairman STEVEN HORSFORD for his leadership in helping us bring this bill to the floor.

First of all, Shirley Chisolm really fought for everyone, and she prided herself on bipartisan cooperation.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentlewoman.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, if I may, I yield 2 additional minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, she prided herself on bipartisan work. Actually, when I introduced the first resolution honoring her, I called her from the Cloakroom. She couldn't understand why there were no Republicans except Connie Morella on the floor speaking on behalf of the resolution.

She was really upset because she said: Has so much changed that the Republicans don't know me? They don't remember I worked with them?

I explained to her that the bill was on suspension, that it was the first night we came in, and that we had bipartisan support. However, she was pretty upset about that because she really wanted Democrats and Republicans to vote for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the first and only time I pulled a bill from suspension was that night. I pulled it from suspension and called for a recorded vote so she could see all of the green buttons that were punched, all of the lights. So I ran back, and I called her.

I said: See, Shirley, Republicans and Democrats remember you. They remember your legacy, and you didn't have one "no" vote on this.

Finally, I will just say, Caribbean-American Heritage Month is June, and, again, Shirley Chisolm inspired me with my work in the Caribbean. Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE is a daughter of the Caribbean and, of course, exemplifies Shirley Chisolm's spirit. President Bush signed my resolution which established June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month to honor the legacy and highlight the good work of Caribbean Americans and to bring closer the ties with America and the Caribbean.

Again, bipartisanship, Shirley Chisolm wanted to get the job done. She encouraged all of us to work together, to fight for what we believed, but to also understand we had to work together to make life better, quite frankly, for everyone.

So Miss C, some of us called her Shirley, some of us called her Miss C, I thank you for paving the way and for being that catalyst for change. This Congressional Gold Medal is for you, and happy 100th heavenly birthday.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), who is also the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, first, let me commend the ranking member, our chairwoman, MAXINE WATERS, for her leadership on this issue and the courtesy of the chairman, Mr. MCHENRY, for working in a bipartisan way on this important issue.

I rise today in support of S. 4243, the Shirley Chisolm Congressional Gold Medal Act.

Representative Shirley Chisolm was an advocate for justice in American politics. In 1968 she broke through barriers as the first Black woman elected to this body, representing New York's 12th District.

She declared herself unbought and unbossed, and in her time in Congress, she introduced over 50 pieces of legislation, fought to end the Vietnam war, and championed civil rights, women's rights, and economic justice.

She was one of the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, but the only woman. Today, the

CBC has 60 members, the largest in our history, with 31 Black women.

It is because of the legacy of progress of Representative Shirley Chisholm that we posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Nevada.

Mr. HORSFORD. Posthumously awarding her the Congressional Gold Medal is a tribute to her achievements and the recognition of her legacy to advance equality and justice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor this remarkable American and vote "yes" on S. 4243.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, Mr. MCHENRY, and the ranking member for bringing this legislation to the floor.

I thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for her tenacity in making sure that we would see this come to fruition.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as one of the many women who stand on the shoulders of Shirley Anita Chisholm and in strong support of S. 4243, the Shirley Chisholm Congressional Gold Medal Act.

We honor the first African-American woman elected to Congress and a trailblazer whose life and work continue to inspire generations of leaders. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was a woman who had the audacity to be a catalyst for change unbought and unbought.

From her candidacy for President of the United States to her first day in the New York State Assembly, Shirley Chisholm paved the way for Black Americans, Caribbean Americans, women, and marginalized communities overlooked in our political system.

She showed us what was possible and, in doing so, raised the standard of what it means to be a woman who is unbought and unbought.

She was a daughter of Brooklyn, my soror, both of us made in the Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and above all, a daughter of progress.

This Congressional Gold Medal serves as a testament and a symbol of her achievements as a political trailblazer and advocate for those who were too often left behind.

□ 1745

It is our responsibility to ensure her legacy is not just remembered, but built upon.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Let us honor Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm for her courage, her vision, and her unmatched contributions to Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus, and our Nation at large.

As she so powerfully said: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

Today, let us solidify her seat and honor her rightful place in history.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. LEE CARTER).

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman WATERS and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for their tremendous leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support S. 4243, the Shirley Chisholm Congressional Gold Medal Act, in honor of the legendary Shirley Anita Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress in 1968.

Her historic election was not just a victory for New York's 12th District, but for all of us, affirming that these Halls belong to everyone, regardless of race, gender, or background. During her seven impactful terms, she championed equity in education, economic opportunity, and social justice, and she advocated for marginalized communities.

Her courage inspired generations, including my late mother, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, who carried forward her fight for justice and equality. There was no place she would have rather been than supporting her sisters in voting on this medal, so I am honored to be able to vote in her honor and memory and support S. 4243, the Shirley Chisholm Congressional Gold Medal Act.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close if the gentleman from North Carolina has no further speakers.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, but I will give my ranking member the final word on this subject.

I close with one story that has an impact on me about Shirley Chisholm. We know the story of George Wallace, segregationist, racist, Governor of Alabama, running for the Presidential nomination.

Shirley Chisholm was running for the same nomination. When George Wallace was shot five times while campaigning and then paralyzed, who showed up at the hospital but Shirley Chisholm?

I think of myself as a charitable person. I think of myself as someone who could rise above. We all think that we have that in us, but imagine that. Imagine that somebody who is campaigning to take your rights away, to ensure that you don't have rights that are duly yours under the Constitution, and Shirley Chisholm was the one who showed up at the hospital.

Talk about the charity and the spirit of that. That is so much bigger and so much greater than what we get to see in our common day.

It is those special moments that give a perspective on who this person was. I didn't have the opportunity to know her, but I do get to pass her portrait

here in the Capitol Building, and her portrait says it all. It absolutely says it all about who she was. I did not know her, but walking by that portrait, it is very clear who she was.

When she says that she was unbought, unbought, it is so clear in that portrait.

When she retired in 1983, she returned to education, but she made an indelible mark on this institution, such that, in just her eight terms in this place, she had a lasting impact, such that we have a generation of lawmakers who look at her as an exemplar of who they hope to be and a symbol of what America can be.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of S. 4243 to honor Shirley Chisholm with the Congressional Gold Medal, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MCHENRY for his generosity. I thank the gentleman for his support. This is one of the last actions my colleague may be taking prior to the closing of this session, and I want the gentleman to know we are very appreciative for the fact that he has taken the time to not only be here, but to share his time in a very generous way to Ms. LEE.

Mr. Speaker, this important bill will award a Congressional Gold Medal in commemoration of Shirley Chisholm, an unbought and unbought advocate for women and people of color.

Today, we will vote to award this high honor to a woman who dared to be a catalyst for change. I thank Representative BARBARA LEE for her work on this important bill, and, of course, again, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me, and I want to respond to Chairman MCHENRY and thank the gentleman for bringing up the story about George Wallace. I have an addendum to the story.

I was working in her campaign during that period, and I was furious that she would go to visit segregationist and racist George Wallace. I called her, and I was about ready to leave the campaign because, to me, that was so inconsistent with who she was.

She took me to task again, and she said: Little girl, we have to remember we all are human beings, first of all. This is the right thing to do. He is paralyzed, and you never know what might happen when I go visit him.

I will tell you what happened when she visited him. I have to say hello and salute Peggy Wallace Kennedy, who is a friend and who lives in Birmingham, Alabama. Peggy, several years ago, told me the story of what happened in that hospital room.

If my colleagues have seen the film "Shirley," that really accurately depicts what happened, what Peggy told

me, but Shirley Chisholm went and visited George Wallace. She chilled me out a little bit. I stayed with the campaign, thank God.

She talked to him, she prayed with him, and she encouraged him to look at his ways, his views, and his horrible treatment of Black people.

Peggy told me that he prayed. She prayed.

Fast-forward to after he got out of the hospital. He went to Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in his wheelchair. Of course, I say too little, too late, but he went down the aisle and apologized to the people of Alabama for what he had done as a segregationist and the Governor of Alabama.

Again, I say too little, too late.

Finally, she carried many bills fighting for domestic workers and fighting for low-income wage workers and fighting for people who were marginalized and didn't have a shot at the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, George Wallace helped her get cosponsors for her bills and helped her become a very effective legislator, and the rest is history.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much for bringing up that story. That was a pivotal point in my life because she taught me a lot, and she taught me to try to look beyond what is. I thank our Speaker also for his leadership and for his assistance in helping us bring this to the floor.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAWLER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4243.

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.

FORGOTTEN HEROES OF THE HOLOCAUST CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 91) to award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 91

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 "Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The following diplomats will be honored posthumously: Per Anger (Sweden), Jose Maria Barreto Bustios (Peru), Lars Berg

(Sweden), Philippe Bernardini (Vatican/Italy), Hiram (Harry) Bingham IV (United States), Friedrich Born (Switzerland), Gilberto Bosques Saldivar (Mexico), Carlos de Liz-Texeira Branquinho (Portugal), Samuel del Campo (Chile), Aracy de Carvalho Guimarães Rosa (Brazil), Jose Arturo Castellanos Contreras (El Salvador), Carl Ivan Danielsson (Sweden), Luis Martins de Souza Dantas (Brazil), Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz (Germany), Harald Feller (Switzerland), Francis (Frank) Foley (United Kingdom), Jean-Edouard Friedrich (Switzerland), Carlos Almeida Afonseca de Sampaio Garrido (Portugal), Raymond Herman Geist (United States), Feng-Shan Ho (Republic of China), Constantin Karadja (Romania), Alexander Kasser (Sandor Kasza) (Sweden), Elow Kihlgren (Sweden), Joseph Willem (Joop) Kolkman (Netherlands), Julius Kuhl (Poland), Aleksander Łados (Poland), Valdemar Langlet (Sweden), Charles (Carl) Lutz (Switzerland), George Mandel-Mantello (El Salvador), Florian Manoliu (Romania), Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero (Ecuador), Salomon Jacob (Sally) Noach (Netherlands), Giorgio (Jorge) Perlasca (Spain/Italy), Ernst Prodolliet (Switzerland), Eduardo Propper de Callejon (Spain), Franjo Puncuch (Yugoslavia/Slovenia), Konstanty Rokicki (Poland), Sebastian de Romero Radigales (Spain), Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (Vatican/Italy), Angelo Rotta (Vatican/Italy), Albert Emile Routier (Turkey/France), Jose Ruiz Santaella (Spain), Stefan Ryniewicz (Poland), Angel Sanz-Briz (Spain), Abdol-Hossein Sardari (Iran), Henryk Slawik (Poland), Robert Smallbones (United Kingdom), Aristides de Sousa Mendes (Portugal), Jan Spisiak (Slovakia), Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara (Japan), Ireanaeus Trespaldos (Spain), Alexander (Sandor) Ujvary (Vatican/Hungary), Selahattin Ulkumen (Turkey), Gennaro Verolino (Vatican/Italy), Vladimir Vochoch (Czech Republic), Ernst Vonrufs (Switzerland), Raoul Wallenberg (Sweden), Guelfo Zamboni (Italy), Peter Zurcher (Switzerland), and Jan Zwartendijk (Netherlands).

(2) On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which started World War II and threw the world into chaos. The Nazi plan of mass murder of the Jewish population was in full motion. As battles were being fought between countries, Jews were being rounded up and sent to concentration camps throughout Europe. This process began a mass exodus of people out of Europe, especially those in the Jewish community.

(3) During the war, members of the Jewish community used every tool and means at their disposal to flee Nazi tyranny. Thousands tried to flee on trains or boats to escape from Europe.

(4) While the armies of countries were fighting each other, a handful of diplomats, from around the world, stepped forward and took heroic actions to save Jews fleeing Europe. This was an incredibly dangerous process. If the Nazis discovered the actions of these diplomats they would be expelled, as a few of them were. Also, while worrying about the Nazis, diplomats had to worry about their careers and livelihoods back home. Many of them had strict orders from their home countries to not aid the Jewish population in any way.

(5) These diplomats used every means at their disposal to help Jews fleeing persecution. One of the most powerful tools the diplomats had to use was the issuing of passports and travel visas contrary to the instruction of the governments of the diplomats. This process alone is responsible for saving hundreds of thousands of Jewish families in Europe. This was not the only tool used as many of the diplomats were connected with the local populations and were

great communicators for Jews trying to travel underground. They were able to set up safehouses and getaways to hide Jews and especially Jewish children from Nazi authorities. In the most dangerous of times, several of these diplomats confronted the Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews and personally put themselves in grave danger.

(6) Every diplomat knew the dangers and knew what they were up against, and still pushed forward to save those in the most danger.

(7) The Congressional Gold Medal authorized under this Act will help remind humanity that when the diplomats were faced with terrible crises, they went beyond the fold, including risking their careers and the lives of themselves and their families, to engage in this humanitarian mission. The diplomats of today and future generations can look towards these heroes and be inspired by their lives of heroism and sacrifice.

(8) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as stating or implying that this group of honorees encompasses everyone who took this type of heroic action during this era. As the title attests, the "Forgotten Heroes" performed these deeds out of righteousness, with no expectation of public acclaim. The sponsors of this Act wish to honor this group of individuals for whose deeds the historical record is currently definitive and well-documented. Given that historical research is ongoing, in the event that robust documentation from professional historians, expert stakeholders, and public input identify others worthy of official recognition, future Congresses retain the right to recognize additional forgotten heroes of the Holocaust pursuant to future legislation.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), in recognition of their brave and vital service of saving Jews during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike a single gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) PRESENTATION OF MEDAL.—The single gold medal presented under subsection (a) shall be presented collectively to the eldest next of kin of each of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), who shall receive the medal as part of a delegation consisting of a senior official representative of the country that each diplomat served and the cochairs of the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Committee.

(d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the 60 diplomats identified in section 2(1), the gold medal shall be given to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with Holocaust remembrance.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover

the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. 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 this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 91, a bill that would posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to the forgotten heroes of the Holocaust and that passed the House in June of this year.

This bill will honor fearless heroes who rescued Jewish citizens who were being hunted by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime.

These diplomats from around the world took quick and heroic action to save Jews attempting to flee Europe. They resisted the anti-Semitic Nazi agenda, risking their lives, safety, and successful careers. They risked their own lives to help innocent Jewish people flee persecution.

Despite some receiving direct orders not to help the Jewish population, these diplomats issued passports and travel visas, set up safe houses and getaways to hide adults and children, and communicated with local communities to help fleeing Jews escape by traveling underground to safety.

Because of these actions of these diplomats, hundreds of thousands of Jewish families in Europe escaped death at the hands of Hitler's Nazi regime.

Today, we celebrate these diplomats and honor their lives and actions with the Congressional Gold Medal. Sadly, anti-Semitism is endemic and an unrelenting scourge on history and our so-

ciety, rearing its ugly head even today, just as it did 80 years ago.

S. 91 honors these diplomats who valiantly defied this systemic hatred by bravely doing what was right to stand up for not only the Jewish community but all of mankind. It is my hope that their courage will continue to inspire Americans today.

I thank Congresswoman SALAZAR for introducing the House version, as well as Senator HAGERTY for making important technical changes and sending this bill back to the House to ensure the final text of the bill is completely accurate.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, as well, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 91, the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act, sponsored by Senator HAGERTY.

With this bill, we are honoring 60 diplomats from around the world in recognition of their brave and vital service of saving Jewish people during World War II.

When Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime were implementing a horrific mass murder of the Jewish population in Germany, a handful of diplomats from around the world stepped forward to assist the Jewish community, risking expulsion if discovered.

Many of these diplomats also had strict orders from their home countries to not aid the Jewish population. Despite threats to their careers and livelihoods, these diplomats used the means at their disposal to help the Jewish community. They issued passports and travel visas, contrary to the instruction of their home countries, saving hundreds of thousands of Jewish families in Europe.

The diplomats also connected with local populations to set up safe houses and getaways to hide people, specifically Jewish children, from Nazi authorities. Every diplomat was aware of the dangers yet continued with their efforts to save the Jewish population.

Several diplomats confronted the Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews, personally putting themselves in immediate danger. The diplomats displayed bravery and heroism throughout the Holocaust and risked their careers and livelihoods to carry out this humanitarian mission.

Today, we will vote to present them with our highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors of this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this important bill will posthumously award a Congressional

Gold Medal to 60 diplomats in recognition of their brave and vital service of saving Jewish people during World War II.

□ 1800

We should all be grateful for and inspired by their sacrifices.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is important that this Congress make a statement and remember those valiant people around the globe, those forgotten heroes of the Holocaust, who did so much to save so many.

Their story still has an impact on us today. One of the running themes of our discussions here this evening is the impact of others' lives and the examples of great men and women in our history that we should remember today.

As a statement against anti-Semitism and for the valiant courage of those who were willing to risk their lives to save others, I think this is a very appropriate statement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 91, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 91.

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.

ROBERTO CLEMENTE COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6751) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6751

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 "Roberto Clemente Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Roberto Clemente Walker was born on August 18, 1934, to Don Melchor Clemente and Luisa Walker in Barrio San Antón, Carolina, Puerto Rico, as the youngest of 7 children.

(2) Clemente excelled in athletics as a youngster and, at the age of 17, was playing for the Santurce Cangrejeros "Crabbers" of the Puerto Rican Baseball League.

(3) In 1954, the Pittsburgh Pirates selected Clemente in the first round of the Major League Baseball Rule 5 draft.

(4) Pirates center fielder Earl Smith wore jersey number 21 until he parted ways with the team in April 1955, and Clemente wore number 13 until then.

(5) In 1955, Clemente made his Major League debut as he went on to play for the Pittsburgh Pirates, starting as a right fielder.

(6) When the team traveled to Richmond, Virginia, for games or Florida for spring training, Clemente encountered Jim Crow laws for the first time when the Black players had to stay at a separate, inferior hotel and were refused the option to dine with their White counterparts.

(7) Clemente was known for being a proud Afro-Latino and protested the discrimination that Latin and Black ball players encountered.

(8) Clemente was known for defending the rights of Black and Brown people, both on the field and in the streets.

(9) After the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968, Clemente and his teammates refused to play until after the funerals and even wrote a public statement showing their respect for Dr. King.

(10) Clemente became a union leader in the incipient Major League Baseball Players Association and defended players' rights to demand better working conditions and benefits.

(11) In every city where the Pirates played, Clemente visited sick children in hospitals.

(12) Clemente established training clinics, providing baseball lessons and fun for boys and girls in Pittsburgh, his home island of Puerto Rico, and throughout Latin America.

(13) In 1958, Clemente enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve after the 1958 season and spent 6 months on active duty at Parris Island, South Carolina, and Camp LeJeune, North Carolina.

(14) Clemente served until 1964 and was inducted into the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.

(15) By the end of his career, Clemente had joined the exclusive 3,000-hit club, was selected to 15 All-Star teams, and won 12 Gold Gloves, 2 World Series, and a National League MVP award.

(16) In Clemente's 18 seasons with Pittsburgh he won 4 batting titles, hit 240 home runs, and posted a lifetime .317 batting average.

(17) In late 1972, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake ravaged Managua, Nicaragua, and killed 5,000 people.

(18) In his philanthropic spirit, Clemente sent shipments of humanitarian aid to the country.

(19) After learning that 3 previous shipments had been diverted by corrupt Somoza Government officials, Clemente decided to accompany one of the aid shipments.

(20) The four-engine DC-7 plane Clemente chartered for a flight on New Year's Eve crashed in the Atlantic Ocean immediately after takeoff from the coast of Isla Verde, Puerto Rico.

(21) On December 31, 1972, Clemente died in the plane crash at the age of 38 years young.

(22) Since 1973, Major League Baseball gives out the Roberto Clemente Award to one player in the league who "best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual's contribution to his team".

(23) In 2002, Major League Baseball declared the first annual Roberto Clemente Day.

(24) In 2021, Major League Baseball announced September 15 would be the permanent date of Roberto Clemente Day to coincide with the beginning of Hispanic Heritage month.

(25) Clemente was the first Latino player to accomplish many feats in Major League Baseball.

(26) Clemente was the first Puerto Rican, and first person of Latino heritage, to win a World Series as a starter, be named league MVP, be named World Series MVP, and be elected to the Hall of Fame.

(27) Clemente was posthumously elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973, being the first National League baseball player to receive the mandatory 5-year waiting period waiver.

(28) Clemente was a legend in life and death, a baseball star, a humanitarian activist, and a symbol of Latin American pride;

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coin:

(1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5 coins, which shall—

- (A) weigh 8.359 grams;
- (B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and
- (C) contain not less than 90 percent gold.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

- (A) weigh 26.73 grams;
- (B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
- (C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

- (A) weigh 11.34 grams;
- (B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and
- (C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The designs of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life of Roberto Clemente including his human rights activism and baseball stardom legacy. At least one obverse design shall bear the image of Roberto Clemente.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

- (A) an inscription of Roberto Clemente;
- (B) a designation of the denomination of the coin;
- (C) an inscription of the year "2027"; and
- (D) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(b) SELECTION.—The designs for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Roberto Clemente Foundation, Roberto Clemente's living family members, and the Commission of the Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins under this Act only during the calendar year beginning on January 1, 2027.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

- (1) the face value of the coins;
- (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include a surcharge of—

- (1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin;
- (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and
- (3) \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be paid to the Roberto Clemente Foundation for application to general expenses associated with the fulfillment of the mission of the Roberto Clemente Foundation including for costs associated with educational, youth sports, and disaster relief historic preservation—

(c) AUDITS.—The Roberto Clemente Foundation, shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that—

(1) minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government; and

(2) no funds, including applicable surcharges, shall be disbursed to any recipient designated in section 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of the coins authorized by this Act (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LaLOTA). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. 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 this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6751, a bill to mint a commemorative coin in recognition of the exemplary life and legacy of Roberto Clemente.

Roberto Clemente has inspired countless Americans through his impressive athletic achievements and unyielding generosity.

Born on August 18, 1934, in Carolina, Puerto Rico, Roberto Clemente was the youngest of seven children. From an early age, he excelled athletically, especially at baseball.

After a brief stint in the minors, Clemente joined the Pittsburgh Pirates for the 1955 season. He would go on to become arguably the greatest Pirate to ever wear the jersey, a 15-time all-star, two-time World Series champion, and the 1966 National League MVP winner.

To underscore just how much Clemente meant to the sport of baseball, he would become the second player in history to have the 5-year waiting period waived before being inducted into the Hall of Fame through a special ballot in 1973.

Roberto Clemente was much more than one of the greatest baseball players of all time. He was a fierce advocate for racial equality.

Clemente insisted the Pirates provide African-American and Latino players with their own bus so they could travel to restaurants. He was also widely known for his philanthropic efforts. He spent much of his time away from the ballpark collecting donations for Latin American countries, visiting children in hospitals, and putting on baseball clinics for kids from Pittsburgh to Puerto Rico.

Clemente's reputation for generosity continued until his tragic death in 1972 while delivering aid to Nicaragua following a devastating earthquake. His untimely passing at the age of 38 was honored by 3 days of official national mourning in his native Puerto Rico, which brought an abrupt stop to Presidential inauguration celebrations.

When celebrations resumed, Puerto Rico's Secretary of State Fernando Chardon gave a befitting tribute: "We have with us today the spirit of a man, Roberto Clemente, who helped teach independentistas, statehooders, and commonwealthers how to play good baseball and become better citizens."

H.R. 6751 will honor Roberto Clemente for his outstanding achievements both on and off the baseball field.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it, as well.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6751, the Roberto Clemente Commemorative Coin Act, sponsored by Representative ESPAILLAT.

This bill honors the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente, who is renowned

not just for being an exceptional baseball player but also for being an Afro-Puerto Rican cultural icon and human rights activist. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill.

When Clemente started his major league debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1955, he encountered Jim Crow laws that forced Black players to stay at separate, inferior hotels and refused them the option to dine with their White teammates.

When he reported to spring training for the first time, Black players had to wait on the bus for their White teammates to bring them food from restaurants after games. Clemente despised the routine and threatened to fight Black players who took the food, and he later requested separate transportation. The Pirates eventually provided a station wagon for the Black players.

In late 1972, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake hit Managua, Nicaragua, killing 5,000 people. In response, Roberto Clemente sent shipments of humanitarian aid to the country. After learning that three previous shipments had been diverted by corrupt government officials, Clemente decided to accompany one of the aid shipments.

During this trip, however, Roberto Clemente tragically died in a plane crash. This commemorative coin would ensure that Clemente's selflessness would never be forgotten.

Roberto Clemente has been recognized for his achievements as a baseball player, a humanitarian activist, and a symbol of Latin American pride. This commemorative coin bill would continue to recognize his life and legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding the time, Chairman MCHENRY for allowing this bill, and, of course, my great friend from New York, Congressman ESPAILLAT, for introducing H.R. 6751 with me. It has been hard work getting this bill to the floor with 296 cosponsors. I think that is a number we should remember. The legacy of Roberto Clemente is so big that 296 Members of Congress cosponsored this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here as Puerto Rico's sole representative in Congress to honor one of the greatest, Roberto Clemente. I co-introduced H.R. 6751, the Roberto Clemente Commemorative Coin Act, with my friend and colleague, Congressman ESPAILLAT. It is important to know that in 1958, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve and then went to Active Duty. Many people are not aware of the legacy of Roberto Clemente defending our Nation.

This bill would require the Department of the Treasury to mint and issue

coins in recognition of the life and legacy of the baseball legend from Puerto Rico, Roberto Clemente Walker. Proceeds from the sale of these coins will support the Roberto Clemente Foundation, which offers a variety of community education, sport, and other programs.

Roberto Clemente, the first-ever Latino to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, was an exemplary figure in all aspects of his life, not just sports. A superstar with assured fame, he never stopped caring and working for those less fortunate.

On the playing field, he was among the pioneers who, even in the face of persistent discrimination, knew how to prove himself and silence critics. He reached championships in two World Series, including in 1971, when he was named the Most Valuable Player. Clemente won 12 Gold Gloves and 4 batting titles, was a 12-time member of the all-star team, and is one of the 33 players in the history of Major League Baseball to be part of the exclusive 3,000 hit club.

During the off-season, he remained engaged with supporting communities in Puerto Rico and in neighboring countries in the Caribbean, using sports as a vehicle to motivate communities and provide opportunities for development to disadvantaged families.

On December 31, 1972, Clemente boarded a flight to Nicaragua to lead relief efforts following an earthquake in that country. Tragically, the flight faulted during takeoff, resulting in a crash that claimed the lives of all on board.

This loss is still felt today. Many of us continue advocating for Major League Baseball to permanently retire the number 21 across the leagues to honor Clemente's legacy.

Also, although the Capitol's Statuary Hall does not currently have statues of heroes from the U.S. territories, if it did, surely Clemente would be the first to be installed for Puerto Rico.

For that reason, I filed H.R. 4065 to specially provide for such recognition to Clemente as I believe his statue must be among those of great Americans in these Halls. I expect that we will approve that bill sometime as well.

Today, we recognize Clemente by supporting this commemorative coin.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Congressman ESPAILLAT for working together with me for many months to get and hit the 296 number. I appreciate all the support from Members of this House to honor Roberto Clemente, which is big for Puerto Rico and, of course, for the Nation.

"I have to say it in Spanish. Roberto Clemente was and is one of the superstars that served Puerto Rico"; "Lo tengo que decir en Español. Roberto Clemente fue y es una de las super estrellas que sirvió a Puerto Rico."

Mr. Speaker, I feel proud to serve as a Member of Congress. In January, I am going to be serving as Governor of

Puerto Rico, so for me, this is a double honor to make this happen. Congressman ESPAILLAT and I expect that the Senate can do something about it.

□ 1815

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), who is also the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I thank, of course, the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, for her leadership in getting 296 Members of the House to sponsor this bill. That is way under Roberto Clemente's batting average, but it is still a great number.

Of course, I also thank our ranking member, MAXINE WATERS, and Chairman PATRICK MCHENRY for their collegiality and support of this measure.

Long before the Latinization of baseball, long before we enjoyed seeing players from many Latin-American and Caribbean nations on the diamond play, there was the great number 21, Roberto Clemente, and that is why today I rise in support of H.R. 6751, the Roberto Clemente Commemorative Coin Act.

Roberto Clemente was a baseball icon and trailblazer, breaking barriers as the first Latin American inducted into the Cooperstown National Baseball Hall of Fame as one of the greatest players of all time. We have heard about the 15 All-Star Games, and we have heard of his MVP winning years. He got his 3,000th hit on his last at bat before he unfortunately passed on a mission to Nicaragua.

Clemente was much more than a baseball star. He used his platform to advocate for civil rights and racial equality as he played throughout the Jim Crow South. In fact, Clemente and many other MLB players protested the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by not playing the first two games of 1968.

He fought for justice not just here in the United States but abroad as well. Clemente's dedication to service extended beyond the baseball diamond. As a proud member of the Marine Corps Reserve, he exemplified discipline, leadership, and pride, earning the rank of Private First Class.

Perhaps most inspiring was his humanitarian work. During his off seasons, Clemente would host free baseball clinics for underprivileged kids, giving aspiring players an opportunity they wouldn't have otherwise. He also delivered aid to numerous Latin American countries, including his hometown in Puerto Rico.

Tragically, he lost his life on New Year's Eve 1972 while on an earthquake relief mission to Nicaragua. It was a selfless act that defined his legacy.

In his honor, Major League Baseball established the Roberto Clemente Award. Given annually, it recognizes a player who best exemplifies baseball's sportsmanship and community involve-

ment. It has been given to many, many baseball greats.

This bill pays tribute to Clemente's unparalleled contributions, making him the first Afro-Latino and Puerto Rican featured on a commemorative coin. Proceeds from the coin will benefit the Roberto Clemente Foundation.

Roberto Clemente was a humanitarian, a civil rights advocate, a baseball legend, a marine. By passing this bill, we honor his life, legacy, and enduring impact on the world.

Let's remember number 21. Let's remember the great one, Roberto Enrique Clemente Walker.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this extraordinary measure.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DELUZIO).

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6751, the Roberto Clemente Commemorative Coin Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent people in western Pennsylvania, and that means representing many Pittsburgh Pirates fans. No man means more to the Pirates than the great Roberto Clemente.

Buccos fans today wear his number with special pride, and we speak his name with reverence. It is joked that he could field the ball in New York and throw a guy out in Pennsylvania. We are serious when we say that Roberto Clemente was one of the greatest to play the game, at bat and in the outfield. He was the best of us, and we will always have a special place for him in our hearts, in the hearts of Pirates fans and so many across our country.

Roberto Clemente's hardworking spirit and care for his neighbors modeled the core values of the good people of western Pennsylvania that became his home.

His tragic death was mourned by so many as he was seeking to serve those in need, but his excellence on and off the field left an impact and a legacy that still continue to this day.

Clemente's record as a humanitarian and activist remains an inspiration to millions across the world. For decades, the Roberto Clemente Foundation has kept his legacy alive through their work to serve kids, veterans, and victims of disasters across the country and around the world.

We can honor his legacy by passing this bill that I am proud to cosponsor.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, throughout my life, I dealt with a lot of identity issues. I was adopted at birth. My mom came here from Cuba in the late 1960s. My dad was born in Kansas but is a musician deeply rooted in Black and Latino music. My biological mother is Lebanese and Puerto Rican, and my biological father is Haitian, so I have got a lot going on.

I never quite knew who I was in terms of my identity, and I dealt with this throughout my whole life. There were times in my life where I despised my Blackness. There were times in my life where I despised my Latino heritage.

I bring up my own story because there are so many times where I felt lost, but sometimes you have got to see someone who looks like you fly to know that you can, too. One of those people for so many Black Latinos and Afro-Latinos is Roberto Clemente. He wasn't just one of the best ever to play the sport, but he walked in this tradition that is deeply rooted in the Black tradition and the Latino tradition of deep solidarity—not solidarity as an empathy but solidarity as a verb.

"Any time you have an opportunity to make a difference in this world and you don't, then you are wasting your time on Earth." That is a call to action for all of us.

I am proud to support this bill. I am proud to support any time that we can uplift Black Latinos in this country who have done so much for this country and so much for this world.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close if the gentlewoman is prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

This bill will direct the U.S. Mint to create a commemorative coin to honor the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente, a baseball player and human rights activist, with proceeds going to the Roberto Clemente Foundation.

He used his platform as a baseball player to push for equal rights in sports and has become a symbol of Afro-Puerto Rican pride. I am proud to cosponsor this bill.

I thank Representative ESPAILLAT for his work on this important bill, and I again urge my colleagues to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6751, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6751.

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.

DISABLED VETERANS HOUSING SUPPORT ACT

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7480) to amend section 102(a)(20) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to require the exclusion of service-connected disability compensation when determining whether a person is a person of

low and moderate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7480

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 “Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act”.

SEC. 2. SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY COMPENSATION.

Section 102(a)(20) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(20)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—When determining whether a person is a person of low and moderate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income under this paragraph, a State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe shall exclude any service-connected disability compensation received by such person from the Department of Veterans Affairs.”.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the Congress a report that—

(1) examines how service-connected disability compensation is treated for the purposes of determining eligibility for all programs administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

(2) identifies any instances where service-connected disability compensation is treated in a manner inconsistent with the amendment made by section 2; and

(3) with respect to each program administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in which service-connected disability compensation is treated inconsistently, provides legislative recommendations relating to how such program could better serve veteran populations, and under-served communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. 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 this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. De La CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 7480, the Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act, and urge my colleagues to join me in passing this critical legislation.

Our Nation’s disabled veterans have made extraordinary sacrifices in service to our great country. It is our duty to ensure they receive the respect and support they have earned, especially when it comes to housing.

This bipartisan bill addresses a glaring oversight. HUD currently allows

multiple different definitions of income to determine eligibility for community development block grant assistance. This inconsistency means a veteran could be disqualified simply because their service-connected disability compensation is counted as income in one definition but excluded in another. This is not just a bureaucratic glitch. It denies veterans vital assistance.

H.R. 7480 fixes this by requiring VA service-connected disability be excluded from income eligibility calculations. It ensures no veteran is penalized for benefits they earned.

This is a commonsense, bipartisan solution. Let us act today to remove these obstacles and honor our veterans with the dignity they deserve.

I thank the bipartisan cosponsors of this legislation, including Congressman BRAD SHERMAN and the multiple veterans associations that have offered their support, including The American Legion.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 7480, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

At a time when our Nation faces an unprecedented affordable housing and homelessness crisis, which House Republicans have done nothing to address over the last 2 years, it is unthinkable to consider reducing support for the very individuals who have risked their lives to defend our freedom.

When this bill came before our committee, we understood that this bill perhaps will lessen the kind of support that very, very poor veterans get. We know that, in fact, those veterans with disabilities, for example, are being penalized in ways because that disability check that they are getting does not fully support them. Any money that they get for their disability should not be taken into consideration for whether or not they are eligible, and so in trying to balance what we do for disability and for the poor veterans, we thought perhaps this wasn’t the right way to do it.

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, do you know what? Given the housing crisis and the needs that veterans have, we certainly have changed our opinion on the thought that perhaps the bill was not the right one. We support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that the incoming Trump administration has endorsed basically what I just described as doing nothing to address the housing and homeless crisis over the last 2 years.

Today’s bipartisan bill, the Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act, represents an important stance by the House of Representatives to oppose efforts to slash housing programs like the Community Development Block Grant program and benefits for U.S. veterans generally.

It has to be very clear that we support the Community Development

Block Grant program, period. We also support the idea that disabled veterans should not be penalized because they are getting disability benefits and that it would be considered having too much money in order to qualify for some housing programs. We join with our friends from across the aisle in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that we are thinking very, very hard about some of the coming actions that will be taken by this new administration as it relates to veterans.

When we see and understand how best to help veterans—those who are getting disability benefits and those who are poor, who are standing in line, who are waiting to get benefits—we don’t want the new administration to take any action against our veterans, against our disabled veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I am really worried about co-president Musk and what he said in an op-ed. He said he plans to slash nearly \$500 billion in government spending where congressional authorization has expired. That figure includes nearly \$120 billion in funding for veterans, including money for VA hospitals, doctors, nurses, medications, and procedures.

Notably, the program we are amending today, the Community Development Block Grant program, also has elapsed authorization. That means it will also be on the chopping block. I hope my Republican colleagues are paying attention. We are paying attention. Passage of this bill would only help veterans if Republicans also block co-president Musk’s efforts to eliminate CDBG entirely.

I strongly oppose co-president Elon Musk’s efforts to harm veterans, to strip affordable housing from families, and to take away Federal grants used to educate our children.

Instead, we should look to see how mega-billionaires like co-president Musk and others pay their fair share in taxes. They profit handsomely, often at the expense of Americans, and they should have to pay a larger portion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I want both sides of the aisle to look closely at everything that has been said about our veterans and any attempts to undermine their ability to have a decent quality of life and to get the support that they expect.

If you look closely, no matter what is being said, let’s join together on both sides of the aisle and support our veterans, no matter what. Let’s tell co-president Elon Musk that, no, he will not, shall not, and must not do anything to harm our veterans when talking about getting rid of all unauthorized programs. We have seen the light, and we hope he will see the light.

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), who is also the

ranking member of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Congress over the years has created Federal programs that help the housing insecure, particularly veterans. Of course, to qualify for these programs, you need to have income under a certain threshold.

However, we have to focus on how to calculate that income level. Particularly, do you include disability benefits in the income of those seeking this housing? It is usually homeless people seeking the housing. I think that you should not, especially when the effect of considering that disability payment is to deny housing to a homeless disabled veteran.

Our Internal Revenue Code already recognizes that disability benefits paid to veterans are not to be considered income. At our urging, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has reached the same conclusion, at least for now.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to have statutory provisions that make it clear that disability benefits paid by the VA should not be included in calculating eligibility for veterans housing.

The reason for that is that we cannot assume that two people with equivalent incomes are living at the same level because someone who is disabled has additional challenges. That is why they are receiving the disability benefits.

Being disabled is expensive. It requires aides. It means that you can't get across town or go even a few miles to take advantage of a store that is offering goods at a lower price. Disability benefits partially compensate for the disability. They should not have the effect of keeping a homeless person or a person close to homelessness out of housing.

That is why our committee passed two bills to deal with this issue. Today, we deal with Congresswoman DE LA CRUZ's bill, which I strongly support and which I hope will pass unanimously here today. I am the chief Democratic cosponsor on that bill. That bill excludes veterans' service-connected disability payments from eligibility under the HUD Community Development Block Grant program.

There is another program that is dealt with by separate legislation, for which Congresswoman DE LA CRUZ serves as the chief cosponsor. That bill, H.R. 8340, is the Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act. That bill, which I am proud to have authored, passed our committee, the Financial Services Committee, unanimously 49-0 and has over 101 cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone here today to vote for the bill that is before us today. I will point out that both that bill and the other bill that I mentioned have a zero score.

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

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I believe both bills I mentioned here have a zero score. Both are overwhelmingly supported by our veterans service organizations, including the VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, U.S. VETS, and Black Veterans Empowerment Council.

We have two bills. Let's pass one today. Let's persuade leadership to give us a few more minutes of floor time so we can pass the other bill next week. We will get them both over to the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to calling Senator SCOTT and Senator BROWN to say these bills deserve to be fast-tracked and passed through the Senate right away.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and am prepared to close.

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

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

Today, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant program helps local communities fund housing and economic development projects that primarily serve low-income and moderate-income households, including many veterans.

Like many civilians, countless veterans are struggling to make ends meet while housing costs continue to rise. It is thanks to Federal housing programs under the Biden-Harris administration that Democrats have successfully reduced homelessness among veterans to its lowest level ever. It is thanks to Federal investments in the housing supply that the Biden-Harris administration has helped build more homes and slowed the rate of housing inflation compared to the previous administration.

Last Congress, Democrats successfully passed four housing bills into law. Meanwhile, as of today, Republicans have passed zero housing bills into law and have passed just one housing bill on the House floor before today, which would hike up mortgage rates and make homeownership more expensive.

Today, the Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act finally represents a bipartisan commitment to the Federal Government's role in housing and supporting our Nation's veterans. Indeed, it is because of our duty to secure the well-being and dignity of those who have served that no one in this Chamber can rest easy if they care about veterans.

Co-president Elon Musk is already eyeing massive cuts to veteran benefits, up to \$120 billion. I hope we will similarly see strong bipartisanship as we oppose those efforts next Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would like to take a moment to say what a proud moment this is. In the

crazy Halls of Congress, we can actually get some commonsense legislation passed off the House floor. I am confident that the Senate will see how important this small change can be in making a big difference specifically with our veterans.

Our veterans give so much to this great country, and I am so proud that we came together. I thank my colleague, Congressman SHERMAN, for working in a bipartisan manner to get this bill done. I know how important his bill is, as well. Ultimately, it is about our veterans and making sure that our veterans are not homeless.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7480, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7480, 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.

CONGRATULATING NWSL CHAMPIONS ORLANDO PRIDE

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recent victory of the 2024 National Women's Soccer League champions, the Orlando Pride.

This incredible team not only secured the NWSL championship but also claimed the NWSL Shield, the first time since 2019 a team has completed both accomplishments.

They are the first professional sports team from Orlando to win a major league trophy, making history for my hometown and my district.

This victory is more than just a trophy. It represents the talent, grit, and passion of this diverse team of amazing women who have brought our central Florida community together in celebration.

Thanks to the Orlando Pride's success, Orlando's reputation as a top sports destination grows even stronger.

I congratulate the team. They have always been the Pride of Orlando. They are now the champions of the Nation.

WORK STILL TO BE DONE IN THE 118TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. 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 the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, as we begin our brief Special Order tonight, just to kind of highlight some of the things going on, House Republicans are working very hard through the end of the 118th Congress to push several pieces of legislation that deliver results for Americans and reflect on our conservative agenda.

This week, we are championing bills that support our small businesses and protect our schools from communist propaganda. Across the country, small businesses are struggling with burdensome red tape and Federal regulations. This week, House Republicans are bringing to the floor Congressman FINSTAD's Prove It Act, which will support our small businesses by enhancing the integrity and transparency of our regulatory processes, reduce red tape, and drive our economy forward.

We have seen this over and over again. The American people decided in November that they wanted to push our economy toward the upward mobility that we need, and the key aspect of this is making sure that we have the proper regulatory reform in place.

This is one excessively burdensome area remaining from the current administration, and we look forward to taking a bill like this and driving it to its fate and getting things accomplished in the coming months.

We are also supporting Congresswoman SALAZAR's Crucial Communism Teaching Act to provide civic education curricula and educational materials for middle and high school students about the dangers of communism and totalitarianism.

I am grateful for my colleagues for joining me this evening to discuss these important measures.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Florida (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Florida's 15th District is home to thousands of small businesses that create jobs, spur economic growth, and contribute to the cultural fabric of our community.

There are few things more inspiring than when I get to meet people in our community who had an idea to start a business or saw a need to be met and worked hard to make it happen. That is the American spirit at work.

For the past 4 years, small businesses across the country have seen firsthand the increase in new and burdensome rules, regulations, and mandates being handed down by the Biden-Harris administration, making it harder for small businesses to thrive.

Congress must do all it can to ensure that Main Street has the tools it needs to succeed and continue to support the American Dream, and that starts with government getting out of the way.

That is why I am proud to support H.R. 7198, the Prove It Act of 2024. Too often, small businesses are overlooked when it comes to analyzing the impact of new government regulations and mandates. This bill will strengthen current requirements for government agencies to consider and account for the impact of proposed regulations on the small business community.

Additionally, this legislation will increase small business owners' engagement in the regulatory process preventing further executive overreach and holding government bureaucrats accountable.

Mr. Speaker, small business owners deserve a seat at the table, and the Prove It Act will do just that.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), to share with us some of the key things we are trying to accomplish here in the waning days of the 118th Congress.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we cover a wide range of topics here, and it is important that we discuss many of them with the public. Something that is an interesting trend these days and is lost in the memory or never even learned about by newer generations is the topic of communism.

What? Yeah. It is something that needs to be understood better because when you see polls out there that 28 percent of Gen Z view communism favorably—which shows a very fundamental misunderstanding of its consequences and what it is about—it is very alarming.

You have 19 percent of Gen Z that believes a dictatorship would be the best political system. With the rhetoric flying these days, the word "fascism" is thrown around so loosely or calling politicians in this country "Nazis," this is all cut from a very similar cloth.

For people to believe that a dictatorship or these types of—it is not even government, it is just flat power over the people. What it really boils down to, these trends are the result of a failure to adequately educate our youth about that history, about how brutal that history is. How did it come on board?

When you think about in Russia, the Bolsheviks, murdering the powers that be back in the teens of the last century in order to gain power, that is being lost on people these days.

Oh, communism sounds good. Even the word "socialism," well that means you are social, right? No. Think of Communism as being rooted in a very dangerous, very centralized government and controlling the people.

For example, here in this country, there are approximately 500 U.S. schools from K-12 that will host what is called the Confucius classrooms funded by the Chinese Communist Party. These programs promote the Communist Party propaganda. They whitewash the atrocities of communism and distort history to undermine American values.

Again, look at the amount of murdering that has gone on in the Russian era of communism, in the Asian areas, South America, and just off the coast of Florida in Cuba.

These programs are a deliberate attempt to influence the minds of young Americans creating a dangerous foothold in our education system and softening the whole idea of what communism really did mean. Teaching the truth about communism is not just about history, it is about safeguarding the future of our own form of government.

Civic education must include an honest account of communism's failures—the failures. Where has it been tried that it has really worked and provided the people with more freedom, more prosperity, more choices, more options? It hasn't worked anywhere.

They become more and more oppressed, poorer, much worse off quality of life, and end up attacking other countries that still do love freedom. By failing to address these truths, we are raising a generation unprepared to defend our freedoms and even our homeland.

This week, House Republicans are considering legislation by our Florida colleague, Congresswoman SALAZAR. It is called the Crucial Communism Teaching Act. The bill directs the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation to develop and provide civic education materials for middle and high school students to understand.

These materials will highlight the devastating consequences of communism, the importance of standing against these totalitarian regimes. It is not just an education as mentioned a minute ago. It is a national security issue and a moral obligation to teach our kids properly. I appreciate Congresswoman SALAZAR making this effort as a Florida Member.

Right next door, prime example, Cuba is just 70, 80, 90 miles or so from Florida. Why do people take boats and they fashion rafts and whatever means they can to escape Cuba and try to come to the shores of the U.S.? It is not because communism is popular and is giving them more choices and more freedom, is it? In so many cases, people are desperately trying to break out.

When Ronald Reagan demanded Mr. Gorbachev to tear down that wall between East Germany and West Germany, there didn't used to be an East and West Germany before that timeline, but on the heels of World War II and the occupation of that.

It required the Berlin Airlift just a couple years after World War II to keep those people sustained because of the Russian bear having taken over that portion of Germany when they completely misread what the treaty at the time was to keep Germany in line after World War II.

Instead, Russia took it as an opportunity to take it over and so many other, what had been free states, free countries in the area, Poland. They imposed all that. It wasn't willful.

Indeed, communism might sneak in, but you have to shoot your way out of it is what people have learned. In the case of this issue with Cuba right next door, 50-plus years of Castro. I am glad my Florida colleague can point this out because her own State has been the recipient of many people escaping communism and trying to have the life that we all deserve as human beings.

If we fail to teach these horrors to these next generations, we will dishonor the millions of victims who suffered under the regimes and the many soldiers that died on the field to try and push back communism.

We had so many suffer, over 50,000 losses in this country to try at some level to beat communism in Vietnam. Why should we waste those lives? Why should we not learn? Why should the next generation not learn? It was a poorly run attempt by the government at the time, but that should not be lost as we honor those Vietnam veterans and welcome them home during a time of strife that they were not always properly welcomed or thanked for something they didn't create.

We owe it to future generations to have them recognize and reject these oppressive ideologies. We, as Members of Congress, have a duty to ensure the truth prevails in American classrooms and in the media, and even with it said here on this House floor so that next generation will understand, and current generations, that sometimes think they want to vote in this sort of thinking into our government, into those who rule us or would rule us.

Mr. Speaker, indeed, our freedom is at stake. We should not take it for granted.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I will close as I reiterate, at the close of the 118th Congress—and what a historic Congress it has been—we are trying to finish this out with doing some of the core things that are necessary.

We are working hard on making sure our defense capabilities are intact. That will be something that we are highlighting for the next coming weeks, ensuring that we have proper funding opportunities ahead as those deadlines loom.

This week, again, two very simple, pragmatic approaches—and these should be wildly bipartisan—to be able to create transparency into our regulatory process and make sure that we are teaching truth to our children of the history of what made our country so great and the enterprise that has been able to drive that upward mobility in our economy.

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

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE KELLY ARMSTRONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. 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 this Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, we are going to have some comments from some friends of Mr. KELLY ARMSTRONG who is leaving us to serve as the Governor of North Dakota. I suppose I will kick it off.

Harry Truman famously said: "You want a friend in Washington? Get a dog." I am a big fan of Mr. Truman, so I assume that he was telling the truth. When I first got to Washington, I assumed that it would be easier for me to find a pit of vipers in Washington than a true friend.

I will be clear: There are plenty of vipers in Washington, but I discovered that there was also KELLY ARMSTRONG.

□ 1900

I did not want to like KELLY ARMSTRONG. It just seemed a little too cute to have the Dakota boys run together, yet somehow, we just clicked. From the very beginning, we have been fast friends.

We were almost inseparable at the start, so much so that people would confuse us. They would think that he was me or that I was him, despite the fact that we don't look anything alike. I am suave and sexy, and Mr. ARMSTRONG is something else, perhaps.

Anyway, there was indeed confusion about who we were. I remember one day at the back of this Chamber where a distracted and confused Mr. ARMSTRONG came in and put in his card. This was our first week in the House, Mr. Speaker. He hit red, a "no" vote, on a Republican motion to recommit. The senior Greg Walden came up and said: Young man, I don't know who you are, but you are accidentally the only Republican in the House who is voting with NANCY PELOSI and the Democrats to kill this Republican motion. If that is how you are going to do business here, you are going to ruin your reputation.

A somewhat chastened Mr. ARMSTRONG changed his vote and said: Mr. Walden, thank you so much for telling me how it is. I certainly hope I have not ruined my reputation. Let me introduce myself. I am DUSTY JOHNSON from South Dakota.

That was my first but certainly not my last exposure to the idea that KELLY ARMSTRONG is laugh-out-loud funny almost all the time.

So many other relationships we have here are work relationships, and work relationships have a tendency to be one-dimensional—that is the gal you grab coffee with, or that is the guy you talk sports with. It is sometimes special when you get a relationship that isn't just a work relationship.

As KELLY prepares to depart for the greener pastures of the Governor's mansion, I want to talk a little bit about what he has meant to me, not just as a D.C. friend or a work friend but as a real friend.

There are four things.

First, KELLY has been my coach. He has made me a better Member because of his counsel more than anybody else here. He has understood my weaknesses, and he has tried to coach me out of them. He has done it almost every week. He said: DUSTY, you don't have to participate in every fight that you are invited to.

Similarly, he said: DUSTY, that is fine, but remember, in a knife fight, everybody gets cut, even you.

He has made me a better person, which is what friends do.

Secondly, he has also been my policy adviser. He is a great policy mind. When we have had complex legal issues, from sentencing reform to understanding what these contempt of Congress votes really mean, he spent a lot of time, Mr. Speaker, in walking me through them. He didn't benefit from that. He did that because he knew that I cared about the votes and that I wanted to be ready to cast the right vote.

Number three, KELLY has been more supportive of me than I could ever ask for. Literally every single thing that I have done in this town has been done because he has been behind me. He has pushed me. He has encouraged me. Do you know how unusual it is in this town to have people who aren't jealous of your success, to have people who want to see you do things rather than have them do things?

Even a few days ago, as Governor-elect ARMSTRONG could have been forgiven for focusing on his State and his future, he called me to say: DUSTY, what can I do to help?

In the last 6 years, there has been no one on the planet who has asked me that question more often than KELLY has: DUSTY, what can I do to help?

Number four, Mr. Speaker, KELLY has been one of the very best operators in Congress, and I have learned from that. He knows how to get things done. He sees around corners. He is a grade-A expert at what he calls the wet work of Congress so that his friends don't have to be.

This House has functioned better because of KELLY ARMSTRONG.

Mr. ARMSTRONG, as you leave, we will still cut deals in your absence, but they will not be as good, and cutting them will not be as much fun.

The common thread running through all four of these thoughts, Mr. Speaker, is selflessness. In a political universe that is dominated, and I mean dominated, by self-centered egomaniacs, it is shocking how much KELLY ARMSTRONG cares about me, how much he cares about us.

Some of our colleagues have the impression that I am the nice one and that he is the mean one, and I don't

know how they have gotten it so wrong. I often say that being in Congress is a very easy job if you don't care. It is a very hard job if you do care.

KELLY ARMSTRONG has more heart for this job and for his friends than anyone—anyone—in this town, and that is why it is so hard to say good-bye.

KELLY, we will miss your insight. We will miss how funny you are. We will miss your profanity. More than anything, we will miss your heart.

Harry Truman never had a true friend in Washington, but that is because he didn't have KELLY ARMSTRONG.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for putting this together. It is always appropriate to take time to honor excellence and honor real achievement, and that is KELLY ARMSTRONG's tenure here in the United States House of Representatives.

There is the old line that there are folks in politics who you wish weren't. Sometimes, I say that those are Democrats. That gets a laugh, typically from Republicans. Then, there are people like KELLY who you are glad chose public service because he has all those qualities that DUSTY just talked about, those qualities that make him not just a good legislator, not just a good Congressman, but a good person and a good friend.

There is also the old line that it never hurts to have smart people in charge. KELLY ARMSTRONG is one sharp guy. He understands politics and policy, and from my perspective, he really understands the law and how our legal system is supposed to work and the rights that we are supposed to protect, those fundamental liberties that the people we get the privilege of serving want us to protect.

When you couple smarts and intelligence with hard work, there was not one single hearing I was ever a part of—and I got to serve with KELLY on two different committees—where he was not prepared for the witness, prepared for the cross-examination, prepared for the direct examination, prepared for the markup. He was always willing to do the work so that he could represent the folks back home like you are supposed to.

We all know that this job is a privilege. It is an honor to have this job. In the history of this country, the greatest country ever, only about 12,000 people have ever had the privilege to serve.

KELLY ARMSTRONG also understood that, that he was here fighting for the folks back in North Dakota—the families, the small business owners, the teachers, the truckers, the people working in the fields, the oil fields, the farm fields, the wheat fields. He was representing the folks back home, and that is why you see so many Members here tonight willing to say thank you for doing that.

That is why the folks back home elected him Governor with like 98 percent of the vote or whatever it was. They know the kind of individual that he is. Those same qualities that DUSTY JOHNSON talked about—and that was so well done—he is going to use those same qualities and those same characteristics that he has to continue to fight for the people in his great State.

It has been truly an honor for me and everyone else who is going to talk not only to have the privilege to serve in the Congress but to have the privilege to serve in the Congress that only 12,000 people in the history of this country have ever had and the privilege to serve with KELLY ARMSTRONG, with our friend.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL).

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, every Member here loves the United States of America. There are three loves that KELLY ARMSTRONG has that sets the man apart.

The first is his love for his family, for his wife, Kjersti, and his children. In this job, as we all know, there is a lot of travel and a lot of time away, but KELLY ARMSTRONG would always take the flights home to North Dakota to make sure that he was there for his kids and his wife. As he leaves us in this capacity of public service and becomes the Governor of North Dakota, he is a little bit closer to the family that he loves.

KELLY ARMSTRONG loves hunting. One time, he showed up with a black eye where the scope caught him. We also had a conversation one time, and it was with the chicken circuits and the amount of time we spend traveling, how do you stay in shape? KELLY ARMSTRONG said: BRYAN, if I ever feel like I am out of shape, I go bighorn sheep hunting. I climb a mountain, and I will come back and be 20 pounds smaller.

KELLY, while you are Governor, if you ever come back and you are a little bigger, we know you are not spending enough time hunting. We do know that when you become Governor of North Dakota, you will be a little closer to good hunting land.

KELLY also loves North Dakota. I had the pleasure of going to visit him in his home State. As we drove across, he pointed out absolutely everything in the State of North Dakota as if he knew every blade of grass, every crop that was being grown, every potential animal that you could hunt on some other farmer's field—and he may have done that—but that man loves the State of North Dakota.

Although it is a loss for this institution, the United States House of Representatives, that he will be leaving us for his wisdom and his counsel and the passion that he puts forward to the job, KELLY ARMSTRONG will be a little bit closer to the State of North Dakota.

KELLY, we thank you for your friendship and your commitment to this country.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our colleague, the gentleman from North Dakota, KELLY ARMSTRONG, and to recognize his significant contributions as a Member of Congress.

KELLY has been a distinguished leader during his time here. He brought to these Halls experience both in business and in the law. His insight and dedication elevated every committee where he served.

Most particularly, it has been my privilege to work with KELLY on the Judiciary Committee and on criminal justice policy. As a former criminal defense attorney, KELLY brings insight and courage to difficult issues related to our justice system and to criminal justice policies. His unwavering commitment to the U.S. Constitution and to ensuring that every American receives its protections and its rights is an insight and a guidance for us all. His voice and his leadership will be dearly missed.

I will miss him most as my friend. Those of us who are blessed to call him a friend see the same dedication, intellect, and wit that KELLY shows as a Member of Congress in his personal friendships.

As a new Member, KELLY was a mentor to me, and to this day, he continues to devote his time to making all of us and this institution better.

Most of all, KELLY loves his family and his community, and it is no surprise that the people of the great State of North Dakota wanted KELLY to serve as their Governor. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to KELLY and to those that he will represent.

I am grateful for his service here in Congress. He leaves behind a proud legacy of achievement and service, and he will be dearly missed.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA).

□ 1915

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, KELLY ARMSTRONG, on his retirement from Congress and thank him for all his years of service to his constituents and to our country and for his being my mentor.

While we aren't neighbors, Iowa and North Dakota share many similarities. Agriculture and energy production are the backbone of our economies, and our constituents are humble and hardworking.

I have enjoyed working with KELLY over the years as we stood up for agriculture, supported domestic energy production, and advanced American values. Now KELLY is beginning a new

chapter in his life as he begins being Governor of North Dakota.

North Dakota families and farmers are fortunate to have a leader who is principled, dedicated, and passionate. While we will miss seeing him around the Capitol, I wish KELLY and his family the very best in the future. North Dakota is in great hands with my friend, KELLY ARMSTRONG.

KELLY will truly be missed, and I congratulate my friend on becoming Governor.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my colleague and dear friend, KELLY ARMSTRONG, for his dedication not only to the people of North Dakota but to the United States of America.

A true friend, reliable, prepared, selfless, wise, a mentor, witty, principled, and a distinguished leader, these are all the words that we have already heard this evening to describe KELLY ARMSTRONG, and as a new Member of Congress this is something that I have witnessed. These are qualities that I have witnessed firsthand.

One that hasn't been mentioned, though, is sarcastic, of which KELLY ARMSTRONG certainly is, and it is one of the qualities that I love most about him.

While serving in Congress, KELLY ARMSTRONG has been a strong voice for rural America, always advocating for the values that make this Nation great: freedom, opportunity, and justice.

His commitment to conservative principles has been admirable and reflects the kind of lawmaker he is and his dedicated service.

His leadership on critical issues from energy independence to protecting our Second Amendment rights have been key in shaping policies that empower families, farmers, and businesses.

Beyond his policy achievements, KELLY has been a trusted partner and principled legislator who is truly a public servant. He understands that leadership is about listening, about collaborating, and about standing firm when it matters most.

KELLY ARMSTRONG's work in Congress has made a lasting difference. It has been an honor to serve alongside him. I am grateful for his service, and I am looking forward to seeing all he will accomplish in his new role as the Governor of North Dakota.

It is bittersweet, as our conference will miss him, but let us wish him and his family nothing but success.

I am honored to be KELLY ARMSTRONG's friend.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

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

It is an honor to be here tonight to pay tribute to a great American and a great Member of this body, KELLY ARMSTRONG.

As we turn the page on a new Congress, a number of new freshmen are going to be coming in bewildered and looking for guidance on what commitments to get on or what leadership roles to take.

When we got here in 2019, DUSTY JOHNSON was in the class, but KELLY ARMSTRONG was also in the class and looked to the Judiciary Committee where he was a natural leader. It was an honor to get to sit next to him during that freshman term on the Judiciary Committee alongside several others. To this day, at the end of our third term, he is the only one left from our class on the Judiciary Committee. I think that is because there was a bit of a trial by fire that we went through there at the beginning.

When we came in in 2019, we came in midway through the first Trump administration. After I had been in the majority for 16 years in the State House, it was kind of a shock to my system to have to come into the minority and be faced with a politically motivated impeachment. The Judiciary Committee was ground zero for that impeachment.

Looking to KELLY ARMSTRONG for leadership and making sure that the Republicans on the Committee stood up for the rule of law and made sure that this politically motivated impeachment was called out for what it was.

In this body there are workhorses and there are show horses. KELLY ARMSTRONG is a workhorse.

It is Christmastime, and the other day the White House Christmas party invitation came across my desk. I remembered where I was when the White House Christmas party in 2019 happened. We were sitting in the Judiciary Committee, and we started getting pictures because our spouses could go but we couldn't go. We were there late in the Judiciary Committee into the evening, and we started getting pictures of our spouses, who were enjoying the Christmas party without us, alongside Melania and the President.

However, KELLY ARMSTRONG always put the people of North Dakota first, he always put his country first, and he will continue to serve the people of North Dakota as the next Governor. He will do a fantastic job. We will miss him, and it has been an honor to serve with him.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. I always try to leave a little something special in the tank to close, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the exceptional gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid farewell to a dear friend and a colleague who has been with me from the very beginning.

In the spring or summer of 2020, I received a call from a number I did not recognize, from an area code I had never seen. I answered the phone, and on the other end was a gentleman by the name of KELLY ARMSTRONG.

He told me he had been watching my race, that he was very impressed, that he heard about me because of connections through the oil and gas industry, and that he wanted to support me.

Why, I didn't know, and to this day I still wonder. That began an incredible friendship. For the last 4½ or 5 years, he has been an incredible mentor, a wonderful friend, and the best strategist in Congress.

He makes us laugh, and that is something that money can't buy.

It was mentioned earlier that this is a lonely place. It is one of those institutions that you really don't understand it unless you are here. It is hard. There are hard days, and you need those people that you can look at, smile at, and recognize that they get it. They understand what you are going through.

Then they can pop off some sarcastic comment and make you smile.

That is why we love KELLY. KELLY has given me hope when I didn't think there was much there. He has sat across the table from an amazing group of people and negotiated deals that no one thought could get done, and he has provided a path for many of us. His guidance and his wisdom will be incredibly missed in this institution.

Here is what I know: I know that come a few days from now, that Kjersti, Anna, and Eli will get to see your face a lot more. Although we may not be, I am so happy for them because I know that is what he and they would want. As has been said many times over: the people of North Dakota have won, but so has this institution and those of us here tonight.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG).

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I spent 10 years of my life in courtrooms, and there is one thing I learned pretty quick when you are doing a closing argument: everything before you has been said and has been said better than you could ever say. First of all, if I said any of those things it would really sound arrogant.

I love every single thing about this place, everything, all the bad stuff, all the good stuff, and everything about the wild and crazy can't get home on a Friday because of votes held open for 3½ hours.

I am going to miss every single thing, but what I am going to miss the most are the people whom I have gotten to know.

I always say I hang out with BEN CLINE and DUSTY JOHNSON because they never swear, so I get their quota of swearwords. Bryan, Stephanie, Laurel, and Erin, you can't do this job without having good counsel, good company, and good friends.

I am really, really excited about the next chapter. I am so humbled and proud that the citizens of North Dakota have sent me to Congress three different times, and I am very, very humbled and proud that they elected

me Governor. I just want everybody in here to know that this has been the greatest privilege of my life to be the lone voice of North Dakota in the United States House of Representatives.

Contrary to popular belief, I am still going to give you all sarcastic comments, and when you have a vote held open for 3½ hours and you can't make your flight home, you are going to get really funny memes from me, and I am going to miss you all very, very much.

This meant the absolute world to me.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-6270. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the annual report to Congress on the Department's efforts to reduce barriers to food access, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 6925(b)(6); Public Law 115-334, Sec. 12614(a); (132 Stat. 5014); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-6271. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a statement with respect to a transaction involving exports to Guyana, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-6272. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2023 Report to Congress on Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Activities — Community Economic Development and Rural Community Development Programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-6273. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Progress Report to Congress on the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and National Cord Blood Inventory Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 274k(a)(6); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 379 (as amended by Public Law 109-129, Sec. 3(a)); (119 Stat. 2554); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6274. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Report to Congress on Community Crisis Response Partnerships, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 290bb-37(d)(1); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title V, Sec. 520F (as amended by Public Law 117-328, div. FF, title I, Sec. 1122(a)); (136 Stat. 5651); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6275. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection

Agency, transmitting the report titled, "Opportunities for Innovative Uses of Plastic Waste Report to Congress", pursuant to Public Law 116-224, Sec. 131; (134 Stat. 1084); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6276. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May, 22, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-6277. A letter from the Assistant to the President, Director, Office of Administration, Director, White House Office of Management and Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the accounting of transactions from the Unanticipated Needs Account for fiscal year 2024, pursuant to 3 U.S.C. 108(b); Public Law 95-570, Sec. 2(a); (92 Stat. 2449); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6278. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, President's Pay Agent, transmitting a detailed report justifying the reasons for the extension of locality-based comparability payments to non-General Schedule categories of positions that are in more than one executive agency, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5304(h)(2)(C); Public Law 89-554, Sec. 5304(h) (as added by Public Law 102-378, Sec. 2(26)(E)(ii)); (106 Stat. 1349); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6279. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's FY 2024 Annual Report, including: Annual Performance Report, Financial Statements and Notes, Report of Independent Auditor, and other documentation in conformance with OMB Circulars A-11 and A-136, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1308(a); Public Law 93-406, Sec. 4008 (as amended by Public Law 109-280, Sec. 412); (120 Stat. 936) and 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 Accountability.

EC-6280. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress covering the 6-month period, which ended on September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6281. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's semiannual report of the Office of Inspector General for April 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6282. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's FY 2024 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 Accountability.

EC-6283. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual reports to Congress from the Treasury Inspector General and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration covering the reporting period of April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6284. A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2024 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 Accountability.

EC-6285. A letter from the Director, Congressional, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2024 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 Accountability.

EC-6286. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2024 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 Accountability.

EC-6287. A letter from the Chairman and General Counsel, National Labor Relation Board, transmitting the Board's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6288. A letter from the Chair, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2024 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 Accountability.

EC-6289. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's FY 2024 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 Accountability.

EC-6290. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's FY 2024 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 Accountability.

EC-6291. A letter from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Semiannual Inspector General Report for the period April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-6292. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2024 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 Accountability.

EC-6293. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2024 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 Accountability.

EC-6294. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2024 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 Accountability.

EC-6295. A letter from the Chair, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2024 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 Accountability.

EC-6296. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the fiscal year 2023 Delayed-Notice Search Warrant Report, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3103a(d)(2); Public Law 90-351, Sec. 1401(a) (added by Public Law 109-177, Sec. 114(c)); (120 Stat. 211); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6297. A letter from the Assistant Secretary For Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled: "Annual Report to Congress on the Medicare and Medicaid Integrity Programs for Fiscal Year 2024", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395ddd(i)(2); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1893(i)(2) (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 6402(j)(1)(B)); (124 Stat. 762) and 42 U.S.C. 1396u-6(e)(5); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, Sec. 1936(e)(5) (as added by Public Law 109-171, Sec. 6034(a)(2)); (120 Stat. 76); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-6298. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled, "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2022"; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

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. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 7440. A bill to promote innovation in financial services, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-792). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3556. A bill to amend the Federal financial laws to increase financial regulatory accountability and transparency, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-793 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6862. A bill to amend the FAST Act to include certain mineral production activities as a covered project, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-794). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 8692. A bill to require that the Amtrak Board of Directors comply with the open meetings requirements of section 552b of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-795). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2672. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for the authority to reimburse local governments or electric cooperatives for interest expenses, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-796). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 5623. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide substance use and alcohol use disorder services, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-797). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Rules discharged from further consideration H.R. 3556.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 3556. Referral to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability extended for a period ending not later than December 19, 2024.

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. OBERNOLTE (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mr. LIEU):

H.R. 10281. A bill to promote United States leadership in technical standards by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of State to take certain actions to encourage and enable United States participation in developing standards and specifications for artificial intelligence and other critical and emerging technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. BUCSHON, Ms. SCHRIER, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 10282. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Living Organ Donation Reimbursement Program; 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 Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 10283. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to require regulated entities to provide information necessary for the Offices of Women and Minority Inclusion to carry out their duties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. CRANE, and Mr. MILLS):

H.R. 10284. A bill to transfer certain responsibilities of the United States Secret Service to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 10285. A bill to amend chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, to modify the accumulation of annual leave for use in succeeding years for administrative law judges; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:

H.R. 10286. A bill to establish the Constitutional Government Review Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. GOMEZ (for himself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. CHERFILUS-

MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. DELUZZO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. TLAB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 10287. A bill to provide women with increased access to preventive and life-saving cancer screening; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 10288. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to prohibit health care providers and facilities from imposing certain facility fees for telehealth; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 10289. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 by requiring a distribution analysis of a bill or resolution under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and 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 Ms. MACE:

H.R. 10290. A bill to prohibit an entity from receiving Federal funds if such entity permits an individual to access or use a single-sex facility on the property of such entity that does not correspond to the biological sex of such person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. MAGAZINER (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SOTO, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK):

H.R. 10291. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for certain fall prevention items under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Budget, 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 Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 10292. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to produce distribution maps for certain species of whales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 10293. A bill to extend certain authorities under the Defense Production Act of 1950; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 10294. A bill to establish a pilot program for the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to evaluate the effectiveness of insuring mortgages made to finance improvements to convert basement spaces into

safely habitable dwelling units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 10295. A bill to require Federal law enforcement and prison officials to obtain or provide immediate medical attention to individuals in custody who display medical distress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 10296. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make expiring ABLE provisions permanent, improve accessibility and education for families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' 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 Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 10297. A bill to advance research, promote awareness and education, and improve health care, with respect to thyroid disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 10298. A bill making appropriations for the salaries and expenses of certain U.S. Bureau of Prison employees working during a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CROW (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BACON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. STRONG, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WITTMAN):

H. Res. 1606. A resolution honoring the 5th anniversary of the United States Space Force; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mrs. MCIVER):

H. Res. 1607. A resolution recognizing the significant global impact and legacy of Peter Westbrook in the sport of fencing in the United States and the work that he has done to improve the lives of underserved and vulnerable youth; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 10281.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Technology standards development and assistance

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 10282.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Health

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 10283.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Financial Services

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 10284.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this bill is to transfer certain responsibilities of the United States Secret Service to the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 10285.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To amend Chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, to modify the accumulation of annual leave for use in succeeding years for administrative law judges.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill aims to modify the limits on accumulation of annual leave for administrative law judges by adding an administrative law judge position under section 3105.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:

H.R. 10286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

to create a government review commission to assess the constitutionality of federal agencies.

By Mr. GOMEZ:

H.R. 10287.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Healthcare

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 10288.

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 Office thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to prohibit health care providers and facilities from imposing certain facility fees for telehealth.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 10289.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Judiciary

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 10290.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit an entity from receiving Federal funds if such entity permits an individual to access or use a single-sex facility on the property of such entity that does not correspond to the biological sex of such person

By Mr. MAGAZINER:

H.R. 10291.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for certain fall prevention items under the Medicare program.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 10292.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reduce collisions between whales and ships.

By Mr. McHENRY:

H.R. 10293.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill extends the authorities of the Defense Production Act for an additional year through September 30, 2026.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 10294.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish a pilot program for the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to evaluate the effectiveness of insuring mortgages made to finance improvements to convert basement spaces into safely habitable dwelling units, and for other purposes.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 10295.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art 1 Sec 8 Claus 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill requires law enforcement to provide medical attention to people in custody experiencing medical distress.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 10296.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make expiring ABLE provisions permanent, improve accessibility and education for families and for other purposes.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 10297.

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.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Thyroid Disease

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 10298.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or any Department or Office thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To make appropriations for the salaries and expenses of certain U.S. Bureau of Prison employees working during a Federal Government shutdown.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 595: Ms. BALINT, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. AMO, Mrs. SYKES, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 791: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 800: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 827: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 913: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 1065: Ms. PETERSEN and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1235: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. OMAR, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SYKES, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1492: Mr. MILLS.

H.R. 1507: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1511: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 2407: Mrs. McIVER.

H.R. 2753: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2892: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 3074: Ms. BONAMICI and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 3086: Ms. VAN DUYN.

H.R. 3186: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 3481: Mr. CLYBURN.

H.R. 3504: Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 3610: Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 3633: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3654: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 3777: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 3882: Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 4006: Mr. EZELL and Mr. RULLI.

H.R. 4079: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 4137: Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 4263: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 4336: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 4422: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 5499: Ms. MALOY.

H.R. 5589: Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 5934: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 6153: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 6330: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 6359: Mr. NEHLS.

H.R. 7012: Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 7127: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. AMO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. SYKES, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 7142: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 7174: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 7195: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.

H.R. 7212: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 7429: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 7585: Ms. McCLELLAN and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 7623: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 7634: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 7731: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 7825: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 8147: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CRANE, and Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 8331: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 8545: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 8617: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. CAREY.

H.R. 8702: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 8756: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 8796: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 8836: Mr. BENTZ.

H.R. 8843: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 8974: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 8977: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 9060: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine and Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 9096: Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 9113: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 9168: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 9197: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 9218: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 9233: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 9238: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 9263: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 9274: Mr. BERGMAN and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 9298: Mr. MOYLAN and Mr. ELLZEY.

H.R. 9335: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 9515: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 9602: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 9625: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 9647: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 9745: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 9794: Ms. CHU and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 9912: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 9950: Ms. DE LA CRUZ and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 10044: Ms. McCLELLAN and Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 10045: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 10084: Mrs. LEE CARTER.

H.R. 10109: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 10124: Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 10174: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 10181: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 10186: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 10210: Mr. HOYER and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 10215: Mr. MOULTON, Ms. CHU, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 10219: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 10230: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 10239: Ms. McCLELLAN.

H.R. 10254: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 10257: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 10260: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 10265: Ms. TENNEY.

H.J. Res. 72: Mr. BERA.

H. Res. 280: Ms. DELBENE.

H. Res. 1331: Mr. BOWMAN.

H. Res. 1464: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H. Res. 1494: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 1551: Mr. NICKEL, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. BOST.

H. Res. 1562: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H. Res. 1601: Mr. THANEDAR.



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No. 179

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, You inhabit all ages and all worlds. Dwell among our Senators today. Tune their hearts to Your purposes, and open their lips to speak Your wisdom.

Lord, infuse them with Your Spirit so that their work will make a positive impact on our Nation and world. Banish their anxieties as You provide them with a faith strong enough to face whatever challenges they must confront. Give them openness of mind in order that they might perceive Your will more clearly, sincerity of heart that they might love You more profoundly, and clarity of purpose that they might serve You more devotedly.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 4, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anthony J. Brindisi, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic whip.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Biden-Harris administration will go down in history as arguably the most productive and consequential administration in the last 75 years. They couldn't have done it without a good partnership in Congress.

Today, I want to thank five Democratic Senators who played key roles in the historic achievements of this Congress and many others. They include chairs of four committees and one subcommittee, and they will all be leaving

when they finish up their work this month.

I have more words of thanks for other departing colleagues and will deliver those soon.

Collectively, these five Senators have given nearly 135 years of service to the U.S. Senate. They represent not only a good deal of this body's institutional memory but a large share of its heart and its conscience as well.

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

Senator BEN CARDIN. He has served for 58 years in State and Federal office. Through it all, BEN CARDIN has been a pillar of decency, modesty, civility, and good-faith bipartisanship.

As a longtime member and now chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, BEN CARDIN has worked to place America's most fundamental values, including human rights, at the center of our foreign policy.

In 2009, I traveled with BEN CARDIN to Bosnia, Lithuania, and Belarus. Together, we saw the tremendous esteem in which he is held globally. He is a true statesman.

In 2012, working with Senator John McCain, BEN CARDIN authored perhaps his most important achievement—the Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act. In 2016, Congress expanded the reach of that accountability by passing the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act. Following America's lead, more than two dozen other nations have since passed their own Magnitsky sanctions laws.

Recently, the Netherlands honored Senator BEN CARDIN for his leadership with its Anne Frank Award for Human Dignity and Tolerance. In accepting that honor, BEN said:

We need to keep hope alive that with patience and persistence, we can create a world that is safe and peaceful and prosperous.

BEN CARDIN's work in this Senate shows us how we can create just such a world.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS R. CARPER

TOM CARPER. Mr. President, it was late on a Friday afternoon in the 1990s

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



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when a staffer handed a letter to Delaware's then-Governor TOM CARPER. The letter from a girl named Melissa read: "I am writing to the governors of all 50 states to ask the same question: What is the secret to happiness?"

"Dear Melissa," the Governor replied, "serve others. Sincerely, Tom." That was it. For then-Governor, now-Senator TOM CARPER, that simple selfless bit of advice—"serve others"—could sum up his entire political career and his life. He is moderate, bipartisan, and relentless.

As chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, TOM CARPER helped lead the fight to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, the most significant investment ever—ever—to tackle the climate crisis. The law also helped lower healthcare costs and energy costs and strengthen America's energy security—what a combination.

TOM CARPER was a key author of the largest long-term infrastructure investment in the history of the United States, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

As the last Vietnam veteran serving in the U.S. Senate—think about that for a moment: the last Vietnam veteran serving in the U.S. Senate—Senator TOM CARPER was a key force in passing many laws, including the Agent Orange Act of 2009; the PACT Act, to provide healthcare for veterans sick by exposure to burn pits and other toxic hazards; and a measure I authored with him that allows the VA to provide modest compensation for family members serving as caregivers for severely injured veterans.

TOM CARPER has also encouraged a generation of young people to enter public service and run for office. Next month, one of those people, one of those public servants who got her start as an intern in a congressional office that TOM CARPER handled, will take his place in this body. LISA BLUNT ROCH-ESTER will be the first woman and the first person of color Delawareans have ever sent to the U.S. Senate.

Thanks, TOM, for showing her and countless others the importance and dignity of public service.

TRIBUTE TO JOE MANCHIN III

JOE MANCHIN. As chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee since 2021, Senator JOE MANCHIN has been a decisive force on America's energy and environment agenda. He was a key player in passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. Independent analyses project that law will reduce U.S. carbon emissions by 40 percent by the year 2030 compared with 2005—if we give it a chance to work.

JOE MANCHIN was elected to the Senate in 2010 to fill the legendary vacancy created by the death of Robert C. Byrd. While he arrived here following the footsteps of a legend, he leaves behind some pretty big footprints himself.

TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE STABENOW

DEBBIE STABENOW. In the year 2000, Senator DEBBIE STABENOW became the first woman ever elected to the Senate

from the State of Michigan, but, as she says, it doesn't matter if you are first unless there is a second and a third.

Her leadership and example have undoubtedly persuaded more women to run for and win public office, including in the Senate. America is better for it even if we still have a long way to go.

As a longtime member and now chair of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, she wrote much of the bipartisan 2014 farm bill and coauthored the 2018 farm bill. There is no other Senator on the floor of this body who has the competence, skill, and track record of DEBBIE STABENOW in the field of agriculture, forestry, and nutrition. She is simply the expert and has taught herself an arcane body of law to a degree that most of us just don't even comprehend.

Eight months ago, she unveiled the foundation for a strong, new farm bill containing hundreds of bipartisan provisions. More than ever before, these farm bills that DEBBIE has helped to write meet the needs of farmers in rural communities, while also protecting low-income seniors, moms with kids, and people with disabilities in need of affordable groceries.

In addition, Senator STABENOW has been a leader in protecting one of our greatest natural resources—and I know this one as well—the Great Lakes, including her pivotal role last year in advancing the Brandon Road Interbasin Project, a project with a long name but with a simple purpose: stop the invasion of the carp into the Great Lakes, which could be devastating to the future of those great bodies of water.

I know her Oldsmobile dealer father would be proud of the way she fought to save the U.S. auto industry when others were ready to give up on it. DEBBIE never gave up on the auto industry. She became our most forceful champion of that provision.

I am sorry that DEBBIE, just a few days ago, lost her mother, who was an extraordinary woman herself. But her mother, I am sure, was deeply proud of the time that DEBBIE spent her entire career prodding government to work for everyone, not just those who are well-connected.

I am proud to call DEBBIE my friend and colleague.

TRIBUTE TO LAPHONZA R. BUTLER

Finally, I want to acknowledge Senator LAPHONZA BUTLER. She was appointed just over a year ago to finish the term of the late Senator Dianne Feinstein. She took Senator Feinstein's seat on the Senate Judiciary Committee. I was honored to chair that committee and work with her every time we met.

Thoughtful, collegial, hard-working—you could always find her ready to proceed forward for as much time as it may take. She sought to advance the ideals of our Nation and give voice to Americans facing critical challenges, from access to reproductive health care to voter suppression.

She is one of the youngest Senators, the third Black woman and 12th Black

person to serve in this Chamber and the only Black person ever to chair the Constitution subcommittee. She has brought an important new voice to our debates. We are grateful for her new perspectives and her distinguished service.

As I said, Mr. President, I will have more to say about other departing Senators. For now, I want to say to these Senators: It has been an honor to serve with you, to work with you for the good of our Nation and the good of the world.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, the Senate will continue working to confirm more of President Biden's well-qualified judicial nominees.

On Monday, I filed cloture on five more district court judges. We will continue the process of confirming those judges later this morning. We will begin with votes on two district court judges for the Northern District of New York, Anthony Brindisi and Elizabeth Coombe.

Anthony Brindisi, I know well. He is a proud son of Utica, a former Member of Congress. I worked closely with him on many issues for Upstate New York, particularly his hometown of Utica, where my dad was raised, so I have a particular affinity to him.

Anthony Brindisi is a proud son of Utica. He is also an exceptionally qualified attorney whose legal acumen and deep care for the Mohawk Valley and all of Central New York will make him an excellent addition to the Northern District.

Beth Coombe has also been a trailblazing prosecutor for her entire career in Albany and Syracuse, the first woman to become Federal criminal chief for the Northern District. I am proud to see her ascend to the Federal bench.

After we vote on these judges, we will then vote to advance Sarah Davenport to be a district court judge for the District of New Mexico, and we will keep moving forward with the remaining judges as soon as possible.

Democrats have made confirming President Biden's well-qualified judges a top priority the last few years. It will remain a priority until our very last day in the majority.

TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE STABENOW

Mr. President, finally, let me close on a bittersweet but deeply grateful note.

Later this afternoon, Senators will gather in the Chamber to hear the farewell remarks of a beloved colleague, our dear friend—my dear friend—DEBBIE STABENOW of Michigan. She will leave the Senate at the end of this year after 24 remarkable years in this Chamber and many, many more in public service.

But today, I don't want to start my tribute by listing off DEBBIE's myriad

accomplishments—although, they are great—nor do I want to focus on how much all of us in the Democratic caucus love to work with her—though, we certainly do.

And, you know, as leader, you can't do everything yourself, and I don't try. And you give jobs to different people. When you give DEBBIE STABENOW a job, she gets the job done. Every time I call DEBBIE—it is so frequent—and I ask her to do this or do that, I know it will get done and get done well because of her phenomenal dedication and ability and energy and drive. And she does it all with a smile on her face. She is just great.

But let me begin by focusing a couple of blocks down the street from DEBBIE's alma mater, Michigan State University, and an old bar called the Coral Gables. There as a college student, DEBBIE was a regular working, of all things, as a folk singer. Yes, DEBBIE sang part time to earn a little money on the side back in college. And many years later, once in the Senate, her love of folk music led her to achieve a lifelong goal of singing with Peter, Paul, and Mary, all for raising money for anti-bullying causes.

She was in a little singing group. I forgot the name of the fellow. It was DEBBIE and—I don't remember—DEBBIE and Dan or something like that. I hope she mentions it on the floor when she speaks.

Why do I mention this? Simple, for DEBBIE STABENOW, an elected leader with very few peers in this Chamber, the first woman to represent Michigan in the U.S. Senate, politics by itself has never been the end goal.

For DEBBIE, the end goal has always been her community and about building support for worthy causes, about being a constant presence in her hometown on campus in Lansing or all over the State, the kind of person who loved getting to know everyone on a first-name basis. That has always been DEBBIE at her core. Add to that a thirst for fairness, a love of complex problems, a knack in persistence for winning, and you get the senior Senator from Michigan.

Saying good-bye is heart-wrenching. Saying thank you is hardly sufficient. After two decades, there is no policy issue left that DEBBIE hasn't shaped or progressed in some meaningful way. She has authored hundreds of bills that have become law. Her work has been ahead of the curve.

Look no further than her legacy on closing the gap for mental health policy. She so cared about people's mental health. She knew that the Federal Government had to step up to the plate. It was a decade-long campaign for her, but she never gave up. It didn't matter if it was a Democratic President, Republican President, Democratic majority leader, Republican majority leader. She kept at it, kept at it, kept at it.

And when the time came ripe to add significant dollars to mental health on several different occasions, she did,

most recently on our major gun bill in 2022 where over \$14 billion was added for mental health. That wouldn't have happened without DEBBIE STABENOW. She does amazing work. Amazing work.

Of course, her true love will always be the place she calls home. It will always be the people of Michigan, from the rural farmers she has relentlessly championed through the farm bill. I never forget her devotion to the cherry farmers and reminding us that Michigan is the biggest sweet cherry State in the country. I reminded her New York is the biggest sour cherry State in the country.

Anyway, she has always fiercely protected the farmers of Michigan to the Great Lakes to the small town and working class and middle class families just trying to afford health care and prescription drugs.

When the auto industry needed saving in a moment of crisis, DEBBIE came to their rescue.

When hungry kids and hungry families needed someone to fight for their needs in the highest echelons of government, DEBBIE was their voice. There were a lot of people on the Ag Committee who didn't want to feed children, hungry children, and give them what they needed. DEBBIE knew that they needed certain things as well for their row crops. She always was able to weave together a coalition that would pass the Ag bill, help hungry children, and help the farmers.

And when our caucus needed good leaders and team players to guide us, organize us, and help us achieve our goals, DEBBIE stepped up to the plate. Just 4 years in her time into the Senate, she became the third-ranking Democrat in the caucus when she was named caucus secretary by the late Harry Reid. And for many years, she has been an expert and skillful force as chairman of the DPCC—our Democratic Policy and Communications Committee—organizing weekly lunches, providing messaging and strategy resources and organizing our caucus's yearly retreat.

At all of our Tuesday lunches, DEBBIE would get up and go over our strategy—every Tuesday—and everybody listened, and everybody followed. She would publish a list of who has helped us, giving them credit and then expanding the list of who else would help us, because they weren't on the list the previous week.

And, of course, I want to thank DEBBIE for her many, many years as leader of the Ag Committee and on the farm bill. It is a cause she dedicated herself. Together we worked on getting help for our specialty crops, our fruits and vegetables, which Michigan and New York have so much produce from. She was a champion of this legislation—all ag legislation—and I commend her for recent work in releasing a strong bill.

So to lose DEBBIE—I begged her to stay when she told me a year and a half ago that she wasn't going to run. Al-

though, true to her commitment, DEBBIE said: Don't worry, we will have a great new Senator to take my place, and I will make sure she wins. And she did, and now we have ELISSA SLOTKIN coming, who was a protege of DEBBIE's. When she makes a commitment, there it is, it gets done.

Finally, what is incredible about DEBBIE's legacy is that things could have turned out very, very differently. In fact, DEBBIE's preference growing up was to serve in a different capacity, perhaps criminal justice, perhaps social work, which she studied in college. Political life may not have been in the cards at all were it not for an incident that occurred in graduate school. Because while she was studying at Michigan State—she is a Spartan—a local county commissioner announced he was shutting down the only nursing home in town that served low-income seniors.

The decision lit a fire within DEBBIE, a deep anger at the utter callousness of the decision. What this official did was simply unfair, it was mean-spirited. So DEBBIE, then just 24 years old with no political experience, decided to run against him. The incumbent wasn't exactly respectful about a younger woman challenging his seat. But then she won. She won in a landslide. And, of course, her goal was not to win the election but to save the nursing home. And she did. And along the way, DEBBIE discovered she loved running for office because she loved people. She just has that friendly, all-embracing look, and she would meet people. She would shake hands. She would get to know the entire town on a first-name basis and, most of all, listening to what her neighbors were thinking as she met them.

So from then on, DEBBIE never looked back. Thank God for that, too, because now that time has come for us to say goodbye. DEBBIE's mom, who instilled in her a belief in political activism, just passed away but made sure she mailed her absentee ballot while she was sick. One of her last acts was to make sure she voted. That is where DEBBIE got it all. She always talks glowingly about her mom. And her mom knows, we all know, that DEBBIE STABENOW leaves our country a better, stronger, healthier place than the day she chose to save the nursing home.

So, DEBBIE, thank you, thank you, thank you. We will miss you. I certainly will miss you. You are one of my best friends and one of my best members of the team. But we are happy for you and your family, and we know you are going to continue to do great things for our country and for Michigan in the years to come.

DEBBIE, Godspeed. Godspeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the past 4 years have been marked by increasing instability on the world stage. Over the course of the Biden administration, we

have seen an unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia, China flexing its power in the Indo-Pacific and beyond and increasingly threatening the Philippines and Taiwan, Iran continuing to foment terror in the Middle East, the worst terror attack in Israel's history, and the list goes on. And while the Biden administration cannot be held solely responsible for all of these events, the lack of clear American leadership under President Biden has undoubtedly contributed to the unrest that we have seen internationally.

The President often seems incapable of staking out a firm policy position. Again and again, he seems to want to have things both ways, whether he is ordering attacks on Iran-backed terrorists while simultaneously declaring his unwillingness to escalate or drawing redlines for Israel while proclaiming U.S. support or take the war in Ukraine, where President Biden has advocated for the United States providing defense assistance while simultaneously slow-walking approval for critical combat resources, which has unquestionably contributed to the present situation.

I don't know whether the President is trying to keep all his interest groups happy or is simply afraid to fully commit, but his indecisiveness telegraphs weakness to our enemies and allies alike, just as his disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan did or his policy toward Iran.

The Biden administration began relations with Iran on a note of appeasement with an attempt to reinstate the Obama administration's flawed nuclear deal and then followed that up by unfreezing \$6 billion in Iranian assets as part of a deal to free American prisoners. Thankfully, the administration ultimately refroze those funds in the wake of Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack, but unfreezing them in the first place was a serious mistake, as were things like the Biden administration's decision to restart funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, or UNRWA, despite long-held suspicions—since confirmed—that there were UNRWA staffers with ties to Islamist militant groups.

These types of decisions convey a message to our adversaries: a lack of firm resolve and a willingness to compromise and accommodate. And in the face of this kind of message, it is little wonder that terrorists throughout the Middle East have been emboldened and have been attacking not just our ally Israel but American assets and American soldiers in the region.

And I have to wonder whether bodies like the International Criminal Court, which recently attempted to put Israeli leaders in the same class as Hamas terrorists by unlawfully issuing warrants for their arrest, have also been emboldened by the Biden administration's waffling.

As China flexes its muscle, Iran continues its proxy war on Israel, and North Korean soldiers join Russia's

war on Ukraine, it is time for a return to clear American leadership on the world stage, and that doesn't mean an America that intervenes in every conflict or dictates terms to everyone. We neither can nor should attempt to become the world's policeman. But it does mean an America that speaks clearly and doesn't equivocate, that condemns evil and doesn't accommodate, and an America that projects and can deliver strength, the kind of strength that will make our adversaries think twice before tangling with us or our allies.

President Trump has made an excellent choice for Secretary of State with our colleague MARCO RUBIO. He is one of our strongest and clearest voices on national security. And between him and President Trump and other future members of the Trump administration, America's adversaries should be on notice. I think there has already been something of a shift in the air, and I am hopeful that in the weeks to come we will finally see movement on freeing the remaining Americans and other hostages who were captured by Hamas in its October 7, 2023, attack. It is incredible that these individuals are facing their second—second winter—in Gaza. And President Trump's statement Monday about his commitment to freeing these hostages immediately should be a warning to Hamas that the United States will no longer tolerate the captivity of her citizens.

The last few years have shown us what a world without clear American leadership looks like. I am confident that the next 4 years will show us what the world looks like with it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for just a few minutes, I would like to call our colleagues' attention to a rather rarified milestone in Washington and in our national political discourse—50 years of columns from George Will of the Washington Post.

Perhaps in some other biography of some other figure approaching George's intellectual stature, the eye might be drawn to the doctorate in political science. Among the credentials of some impressive journalists, you might notice above all a Pulitzer Prize. But in the story of George Will, the most remarkable thing is the consistent, unrelenting rhythm.

Twice a week for half a century, he has commanded a place in the most consequential conversations; twice a

week, inviting and sometimes insisting that the most powerful city in the most powerful Nation on Earth actually consider a well-reasoned argument.

Of course, George Will's columns are usually a great deal more than airtight, logical cases; they are full of historical trivia, sharp wit, delicious sarcasm, and more often than not, allusions to or outright lessons in America's pastime.

Like Buckley and Reagan, George Will quite evidently enjoys his vocation as a happy warrior. He clearly relishes every chance to gently remind readers that the answers to the biggest questions of the day so often lie in the wisdom and traditions of the past.

In his own reflections on 50 years at the Post, George remarked that the great luxury of a columnist is assuming that the mental pantries of one's readers are well stocked with baseline knowledge. Well, the mental pantries of George's loyal readers, in fact, overflow—in no small part thanks to his consistent deposits of earnest produce.

As always, we look forward to reading what he has to say next.

ISRAEL

Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, it has been a week since Israel and Hezbollah agreed to a cease-fire. War is hell, and I hope sincerely that this marks a durable end to the immediate conflict. But hope is not a strategy, and I know better than to expect honest dealings from hardened terrorists. It would be naive enough a year and a half ago to believe that Iran and its proxies had suddenly decided to accept Israel's right to exist. But in light of the horrors of October 7 and the sustained campaign of terror since then, it is more likely that Iran and its proxies mean to alleviate the pressure of Israel's successful operations and give Hezbollah—the A-team of international terrorism and the vanguard of Iran's axis of anti-Semitic violence—simply a chance to catch its breath.

In the weeks and months to come, the strength of this cease-fire will be tested repeatedly. Will it prevent Iran from resupplying and regenerating Hezbollah's capacity to wage terror? Will it enable Lebanon's political leaders to chart a new path out of Hezbollah's stranglehold of their country? Will it allow residents of northern Israel to feel safe enough to return home?

It is important to remember why Israel faced this terror in the first place: Despite chapter 7 U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding compliance, the cease-fire agreement that ended hostilities in 2006 was never enforced.

Even with Lebanese Armed Forces and U.N. peacekeepers on the ground, Hezbollah rearmed and Iranian influence reached deeper into Lebanon. Such a tragic farce must not be allowed to repeat itself.

This cease-fire is not a solution. If regional powers want peace, they need to act.

First, Israel's neighbors must decide whether they want to be peaceful and sovereign countries or vassals of Iran and legitimate targets at war. This applies to Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon's fractured governments.

The United States, for its part, must ensure Israel has the freedom to maneuver to target and destroy Iran's military and logistical lifelines, and America should move quickly to restore Israel's munitions stockpiles. As I expect the incoming administration already knows, this means removing restrictions on the sale of needed weapons like 2,000-pound smart bombs.

But there is a broader, more fundamental lesson I hope we will take away from Israel's stunningly successful campaign against Hezbollah. It is about the credibility of threats. It was Israel's bold and decisive operations, not the overly cautious calls for restraint from Washington, that made a cessation of hostilities possible. The Jewish State has left Iran with no reason to doubt Israel's capacity and its willingness to protect its citizens and restore its sovereignty by force.

America ought to apply this lesson to our own approach to the Iran-backed groups that continue to attack American forces across the region—and to Ukraine as well. Too many in Washington still believe that the path to peace lies in restraining our friends.

The evidence of coordination between our adversaries—China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea—is incontrovertible. It is high time that America's support for our friends carried real weight.

TRIBUTE TO MITT ROMNEY

Mr. President, on one final matter, at the end of the year, the Senate will bid farewell to a number of distinguished colleagues who are starting well-deserved next chapters. In the coming weeks, I will single out a few of them for particular praise.

It seems fitting to begin with someone whose retirement is a departure not just from the Senate but from a long and honorable career on the national political stage.

On the bingo cards of American politics, the Governor of Massachusetts-Senator from Utah combination isn't known to hit very often, but MITT ROMNEY's repeated successes in public office are a testament to the transcendent appeal of his character.

As it turns out, uncompromising honesty, earnest humility, and evident devotion to faith and family are as compelling in Cedar City as they are in Concord. Of course, a certain telegenic quality—dare I say a Presidential aura—doesn't hurt either.

By the time our friend assumed the title of "junior Senator from Utah," his approach to life in the public eye combined the polished instincts of a professional who had played to win at the highest level and the independence and self-assurance that come only from unshakable convictions.

For MITT, the Senate was not a waiting room or a stepping stone; it was

the capstone to a life in public service. With the wisdom to discern where to devote his attention, he has managed to cram more into 6 years than many colleagues fit into 12 or 18. He made himself a linchpin for bipartisan negotiations and wound up at the center of the effort that delivered major infrastructure legislation. He poured himself into worthy fights on behalf of his constituents, navigating everything from Tribal politics to State Department bureaucracy with characteristic diplomacy. He called the Senate's attention more closely to the state of America's competition with China and the worthy demands of American global leadership. He has met moments of enormous gravity with careful contemplation and the utmost grace.

The past 6 years will not be remembered as the Senate's quietest. Observers might have wondered what more a distinguished public servant like MITT ROMNEY had to prove in coming to Washington and putting up with the demands of this body. But that would be a misunderstanding of the way our friend has ordered his life. It wasn't about what he had left to prove but what he had left to give.

With that outlook, MITT has been able to put even the most consequential business of public life in perspective. He reminds young visitors to the Capitol that the true currency of life is the people you love and spend your time with.

He is quick to explain that his life isn't defined by the outcome of elections and that his deepest meaning comes from his faith and his relationship with his family. It doesn't take much to recognize how earnestly he means that. For one thing, we know that joining the Senate was, at best, a distant second on the list of MITT's most significant events of the year 2019, behind celebrating 50 years of marriage to his sweetheart Ann. When you factor in the birthdays of 25 grandchildren and counting, even the most significant career milestone is bound to fall off the list.

Frankly, if I were on MITT's Senate staff, I wouldn't worry too much about lining up my next job. A full-time grandpa to a brood as big as the Romneys is bound to need some extra hands for scheduling and advance work.

MITT and Ann's partnership is one for the history books. It is a reminder that when you spend your life with the right people, success in business or politics is just icing on the cake, and when you ground yourself in firm beliefs, the winds of politics are easier to weather.

As a particular moving hymn in MITT's church instructs, "Do what is right; let the consequence follow. Battle for freedom in spirit and might; and with stout hearts look ye forth till tomorrow. God will protect you; then do what is right."

So, MITT, I want to thank you for devoting yourself to service and letting the consequence follow. May God protect you and your family as you write the next chapter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Utah.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to first thank the leader for those generous comments and to mark for my colleagues the departure soon from my service here in the Senate.

During my life, I have rarely been truly alone—maybe taking tests at school or running cross country or on my uncle's tractor, cultivating corn. But I am impressed with people who have achieved great things largely on their own: Washington commanding the Continental Army, Lincoln guiding the Civil War, Edison in his laboratory. Not me. I have consistently been surrounded by others—usually smarter, often more experienced, always becoming friends.

In business, I chose partners with skills that exceeded mine, the proof of which has been their stunning success after I left. As Governor, my team helped craft the health plan that insured nearly every citizen in Massachusetts. My wingman, Bob White, counseled me in business, the Olympics, and politics. My counselor, Beth Myers, advised and managed multiple campaigns and administrations. Spencer Zwick financed and helped guide almost every one of my endeavors. My Senate chiefs of staff, Matt Waldrip and Liz Johnson, built and brilliantly led an exceptional team and, with our policy directors, Chris Barkley and Stephen Newton, crafted and negotiated more legislation that became law than could possibly have been expected for a freshman Senator.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of my excellent current and former staff members be printed in the RECORD.

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

Scott Albrecht, Jennifer Andelin, Victoria Anderson, Matt Anderson, Audrey Arbogast, Chris Barkley, Kelsey Berg, Chandler Beutler, Alex Christiansen, Jessica Christopher, Clay Crozier, Maggie Frankel, Angalene Gallaway, Adam Gardiner, Sharon Garn, Celeste Gold, Mande Grant, Miriam Harmer, Scott Hatfield, Kevin Henwood, Emma Huish, Liz Johnson, Audra Kinney, Brianna Manzelli, Chris Marroletti, Dilan Maxfield, Trent McFadyen, Barry McLerran, Stephen Morris, Arielle Mueller, Tanne Murdock, Stephen Newton, Arjun Nijhawan, Samantha Onofry, Linda Patino, Jessica Pavel, Mollie Petersen, Elijah Philpot, Travis Porter, John Poulson, Megan Reiss, Scott Richardson, Meg Roberts, David Roberts, Jane Sandberg, Spencer Seal, Meagan Shepherd, Zack Shepherd, Derek Shumway, Grace Simmons, Cade Slaughter, Brennan Stokes, Sarah Stone, Kylie Tanner, Maurice Tolbert, Kathleen Traficant, Alex Vargo, Matt Waldrip, Henry Walton, Paige Waltz, Isabel Williams, Kent Wilson, Kyle Wilson, Emily Wilson, Emily Wiscombe, Alex Yost, and Elizabeth Young.

Mr. ROMNEY. So my life's work has been a group affair. At its center, is my wife Ann. She is my most trusted adviser, my indefatigable ally, the love of

my life for 54 married years. Our five sons are just as loyal and are the source of profound pride, joy, and 25 grandchildren.

During my first months in the Senate, I was mostly on my own and, thus, mostly unproductive, and then LISA MURKOWSKI invited five Democrats to join with five Republicans at her home for a takeout dinner. With COVID then active, we were spaced far apart, with windows open despite the winter cold. Our conjecture on how to bridge the impasse between the President and Congress on COVID relief led us over the next several weeks to dig in, negotiate, draft, and eventually see our work become the basis of law. I was fortunate to also be a part of what this team worked on that followed: the bipartisan infrastructure law, the Electoral Count Reform Act, gun safety legislation, and marriage legislation that included religious protections.

Our group was Rob Portman, KYRSTEN SINEMA, SUSAN COLLINS, JOE MANCHIN, MARK WARNER, JON TESTER, BILL CASSIDY, JEANNE SHAHEEN, and LISA MURKOWSKI. We had each come to Washington to enact law that would help people, and that is just what we did. We accomplished together what we could have never done alone.

So I will leave this Chamber with a sense of achievement, but in truth, I will also leave with the recognition that I did not achieve everything I had hoped. Among other things, the scourge of partisan politics has frustrated repeated efforts to stabilize our national debt. Without the burden of the interest on that debt, we would be able to spend three times as much as we do on military procurement—three times as many aircraft, three times as many ships, three times as many drones, spacecraft, and cyber defenses. Alternatively, we could spend double the amount we spend on Social Security benefits every month. Our national credit card is almost maxed out, and America risks becoming debt poor.

My biggest surprise in the Senate has been how much I enjoy the other Senators on both sides of the aisle. The truth is that while I may not miss the Senate itself terribly much—the 10-minute votes that last an hour, the unknowable schedule of votes, the myriad meaningless votes, and the absurd passion about inconsequential votes—I will very much miss you, my fellow Senators, for among you are some brilliant, some entertaining, some kind and generous, and all patriotic. It is an honor to have been able to serve with you.

It has also been an honor to represent the people of Utah, the State of my family heritage. What sets Utah apart is not just its beauty and vibrant economy, it is the admirable character of its people.

Now, it is customary to end remarks with these words: God bless America. That has never seemed jarring or out of place to me because Americans have always been fundamentally good. From

our earliest days, we have rushed to help neighbors in need, as de Tocqueville noted. We welcomed the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. We have respected different faiths as our first President confirmed to Muslims and Jews. “United we stand” is a fitting refrain. As the leader of the free world, our sons and daughters have fought time and again for liberty, and our treasure has buoyed freedom fighters around the globe. Like all people, we have made mistakes, some grievous, but often our mistakes have come from misguided understanding. God has blessed America because America is good.

There are some today who would tear at our unity, who would replace love with hate, who deride our foundation of virtues, and who debase the values upon which the blessings of Heaven depend.

I have been in public service for 25 years. I have learned that politics alone cannot measure up to the challenges we face. Our country’s character is a reflection not just of its elected officials but also of its people. I leave Washington to return to be one among them and hope to be a voice of unity and virtue, for it is only if the American people merit His benevolence that God will continue to bless America.

May He do so is my prayer.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak of my dear friend who is departing too early.

I am going to wait until he gets done with all of the congratulatory that he deserves.

I rise again to congratulate my dear friend MITT ROMNEY, whom I have gotten to know very well and became a very close friend to. His wife Ann and their family and Gayle and I have become very close to each other and enjoyed our company.

I have followed MITT’s career from afar for a long time. I watched the success that he had as he came up through the business ranks very successfully. I watched that. I observed the Olympics, which was going to be embarrassing to the United States of America if someone didn’t step forward and take care of the mess that it had gotten itself into, and lo and behold, MITT ROMNEY did that. I was so thankful as an American and also admiring of his skills to pull this all together because I know it is a difficult task working with that Olympic Committee. I watched his Presidential campaigns, which I thought were absolutely electrifying, and I enjoyed it because I could see in his heart that public service was what it was all about.

But my first encounter with MITT was as a former Governor. We were both Governors together at the same time. I was coming in in 2004, and he was going out in 2006. He did this unbelievable thing about giving healthcare to everybody in his State, and it was

just absolutely something phenomenal. So I called. Governors have a certain bond. It doesn’t matter who you are or where you are from or if you have never met before in person. There is a bond.

I said: MITT, tell me about this healthcare plan you have.

And he said: JOE, I was able to do this, this, and this—because he mentioned some of the good people who were smart and able to put it together. But I know one thing: Anybody who sits in that position, when you have good people around, someone has to assemble all of that material and put it in force, and MITT was able to do that.

And I told him. I said: MITT, I don’t have the economy that you have in Massachusetts, and I would love to do something for my State.

I don’t know if you remember this or not.

He said: JOE, there might be a way to work through your public employees’ insurance agency and let the small businesses buy in for group.

And we were able to do something that had never been done before that helped an awful lot of small businesses and people who had no insurance to get insurance because of MITT. I remember that vividly.

Then he comes to the Senate, and that is when my personal relationship began. I had admired him from afar for a long time, and we just clicked.

But I have got to say this: He was involved from day one. On day one, he hit the ground running, and MITT brought so much institutional knowledge and so much, basically, support that he could bring to any conversation. He could bring you the contents; he could bring you the graphs; he could bring you everything that you wanted and even a lot more that you didn’t want. He just engulfed us with all of this.

And I am thinking—one day, when we were working with the bipartisan infrastructure bill—MITT, I don’t know if you recall—you kept telling us what wouldn’t work because you had better facts than we had, and you were right, but we were trying to take your facts and work with them and put them in the situation we were in—back and forth, back and forth, back and forth.

And here was MITT. He comes in, and he says: Here is why. Here is what you should do. Here is why. Here is what needs to be done.

And he would explain everything to us, and I am thinking: We are never going to get through this. We are just not going to get through this.

One day, we just made the final decision: We are going to do this.

He comes in, and he says: I like it.

I am thinking: What the heck did we just go through? He just beat the living crap out of us for about 30 days, showing us how—giving us a roadmap of how to do something and thinking that he wasn’t going to agree with it. And, you know, his basic comment was this: This is better than what we have got. We are moving the ball forward.

That, to me, is the clarity of purpose. The clarity of what he came for is to move the ball forward and to make it better, to try to make a more perfect Union. We knew we couldn't be perfect.

And Rob was in there, working it back and forth, and everybody was moving. When we finally got to the end, MITT says: This is good. Could it be better? Sure, but it is good. Let's go.

That was the signal we needed, and it moved from there.

MITT, being a freshman 6 years, I have been here longer—maybe I should have left 6 years ago—but I am just telling you that you have made my life so much better in the Senate. I enjoyed it—my relationship, of course, on both sides of the aisle, working together, and bringing people together. But it has been just an absolute pleasure and joy having you as a Member of the U.S. Senate, the most deliberative body in the world, the strongest body in the world, and the body that is supposed to make common sense out of things that sometimes don't make reason. This body is much better off, and this country is much better off because of your service here, and it is going to be missed.

Most importantly, I am a better person. I know that Gayle and I are much more enriched because of your and Ann's friendship, and we appreciate that more than you know.

I wish you only the best in the future. I wish you the best as far as what you are going to do, and I hope you don't change your phone number because we still need your advice no matter where we may go.

God bless, my friend. Enjoy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, it is with a combination of pride and sadness that I rise to pay tribute to a truly extraordinary Senator and a good friend, Senator MITT ROMNEY.

I rise to praise his intelligence, his imagination, and most of all his integrity. That is what has marked and characterized his service throughout his life but particularly here in the Senate. It is a day of sadness because I can't imagine the Senate without MITT ROMNEY.

As a Senator and as a Governor, as a Presidential candidate, as the founder of a successful business, as the savior of the 2002 Winter Olympics, and as a pillar of his faith, MITT ROMNEY has brought intelligence, knowledge, experience, and, once again, integrity to every task he has undertaken. He meets every challenge with determination and a talent for bringing opposing sides together to forge solutions. He is always focused on getting to yes, on using common sense, and on achieving a result.

I have had the pleasure of teaming up with MITT on so many important issues, many of which he has mentioned. He was among the group of 10 Senators who negotiated the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of

2021. From transportation to broadband, the most significant investment in infrastructure since the interstate highway system in the 1950s is bringing lasting benefits to our Nation.

MITT was also key in crafting the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act—landmark, commonsense gun safety legislation that helps to protect America's children, keep our schools safer, and reduce the threat of violence across our country, while preserving the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners.

MITT's unshakable belief that the American people must have faith in our elections and that they are free and fair was evident in his countless contributions to the Electoral Count Reform Act, which ensures an orderly transition of Presidential power.

Perhaps most impressive, his support for the Respect for Marriage Act demonstrated his fundamental fairness by helping to ensure that millions of loving couples in same-sex marriages will continue to enjoy the freedoms, rights, and responsibilities afforded to all other marriages, while strongly protecting religious liberty. And I give MITT so much credit for forging the religious liberty protections that, combined with the protections for same-sex marriages, enabled the enactment of the Respect for Marriage Act. He was the one who drafted the religious liberty provisions that were so key.

There are other areas where MITT has been a key player and ahead of his time. From identifying the threat posed by Russia more than a decade ago to pushing Congress and the administration to develop a strategy to better counter the challenge presented by China, MITT has worked extensively on American foreign policy and national security. He has been a champion for Ukraine and a strong supporter of supplying aid to that brave country in its time of peril.

Most of all, MITT has reminded us over and over again of our \$36 trillion national debt and the need to put our trust funds on solid ground. In fact, I think that a great post-Senate responsibility that MITT could take on is a commission to look at all of those trust funds. He has proposed legislation to do just that. I can't think of a better person to head that commission.

MITT announced his decision to step down from the Senate with these words:

While I'm not running for reelection, I'm not retiring from the fight.

As he and his wonderful wife Ann move on to this next phase of their lives, I am sure that this outstanding leader will continue to fight for the core values that have made America great.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BOOKER. Did I miss that? The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. TILLIS. We look so much alike.

Mr. BOOKER. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. TILLIS. Yes.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise to object. I will not let this man go quietly into the night. I would ask for unanimous consent to force him to stay in the Senate, but like all of my unanimous consent requests over the last 10 years, none of them have ever passed.

Mr. ROMNEY. I object to that.

Mr. BOOKER. Case in point.

I didn't necessarily expect to speak, but I found myself sitting there getting sad and angry that we are losing MITT ROMNEY, first of all, because we have—obviously, to the naked eye—so much in common: I am Black, and MITT ROMNEY is Black adjacent. MITT ROMNEY is a man of great personal net worth, and I am a man of great personal net girth.

The reality is, the more I served with MITT ROMNEY, the more I found myself hoping to have more in common with him. I have watched somebody from this seat for years now give a master's class in what I believe America needs most. I ran for President because of this drive and this feeling that our Nation was becoming too tribalistic. I watched time and time again from this seat a person who put aside the desires for partisan adoration for a deeper conviction to stand up for our Nation. I watched a man not confuse tribal celebrity with leadership significance. I watched time and time again and saw it with my own eyes him being harassed in airports and being scorned for taking principled stands that he saw as the best way to try to hold our country together.

I disagree with him, even though I see him now from one of his colleagues getting great approbation for a moment I remember when I was a mayor watching him run for President where he was asked what the great national security threat is, and he said Russia. At the time, many people made fun of him, and I now have been in classified briefings with him and other Senators where his wisdom in perceiving a threat was not only appreciated, but I literally saw in a classified briefing people applaud the insight of the man.

But I disagree with him now. I disagree with him because, to me, the greatest threat to America, despite other comments that have been made here, including from one of my esteemed colleagues yesterday who said it was our national debt, I think the greatest threat to America is our inability to come together as a country, because when Americans are united, there is nothing we can't do. We can beat the Nazis. We can send someone to the Moon. But, indeed, the greatest calling of our country right now is to put more indivisible back into this one Nation under God.

I have sat here for years now, and I have watched, perhaps, someone show with clarity of purpose that I have got to be what his faith and mine call for: Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed are the people who stand in the breach. Blessed are the people who heal, who try to weave together the torn threads

of our great Nation back into a mighty whole.

This body is lesser, is lesser with this loss. When I heard the news that he wasn't running again, I wasn't happy for him and his family. And I know his values start with that core of faith and family, but I do worry about this body. I do worry about our Nation. The one thing that gives me hope is the light that he has shined into this place will endure. And perhaps many of us, as he departs, will try our best, despite the forces that pull us apart, to pick up the work that he has left behind to do more to affirm a principle that he clearly has kept centered in his eyes, as is in the center of the aisles of this great institution, which is those words from a dead language: "e pluribus unum."

MITT ROMNEY, thank you for being my friend. Thank you for being someone who has inspired me to be better. And thank you for being a great American patriot.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, my folks were wondering why I am sitting so close to MITT ROMNEY. He and I are seat mates. These are our assigned seats.

I told MITT that I had not prepared a single comment, but I did want to come down and say a few things about him.

I hope that we use this opportunity and remember it over the next 2 years. Here is a question we can all ask or we can all talk about and thank him for the incredible work that he has done. And to his staff, the problems he has caused for you by being so honest, so forthright, and so direct. Right?

How many times, MITT—you can't answer it because I think it is against the rules—but how many times have your staff gone: Boss, we wish sometimes you just weren't so forthright and honest?

But that is who this guy is. We have been battle buddies in a lot of the bipartisan efforts that have gone along. He is the reason why some of them passed, quite honestly. Without his support and the support of a handful of others, stuff that has enduring generational value would have never happened.

I would ask everybody here who is thanking MITT ROMNEY for his role model behavior in the times he has been in the Senate and the times that I have known him—the first time I met him was the December before his election, when I was a fairly newly minted legislator—and there is no reason why he would have known me or remembered that meeting. But I have been impressed with him since that moment in Charlotte, NC, when he was running for President—let us go forward and hopefully ask ourselves, as we come together as a nation, as we solve problems that can only be solved by people on both sides of the aisle coming together and taking the heat that comes

along with that, let's ask ourselves over the next 2 or 4 years what would MITT ROMNEY do and let that be a guiding post for those of us who are going to be here who may be put into those situations to do right by this country.

We are going to have one less person in MITT here, but I believe it is in all of us to emulate what MITT has done. I hope that that is a part of the legacy that we will honor as he is gone.

Finally, if you don't know about MITT—I am going to miss him for those reasons. Those are all legitimate reasons to miss MITT, but I am going to miss his fast wit and his ability to just call things quickly. Having a seat mate like that when you are in the middle of vote-arama is gold, folks. Nobody is going to know that except for the conversations we have had back here in the middle of the night.

He is a good man, a good father, a great grandfather.

I know I am not supposed to do this either, but by show of hands, who shares DNA with MITT ROMNEY up there in the Gallery? Yes. Well, congratulations to all of you and the dozens of other family members who have to be hugely proud of MITT ROMNEY. I am.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, we have a vote coming up real quick, so I am going to be very, very, very brief.

First of all, MITT, you have been an incredible U.S. Senator. We are losing some good ones this time around, but you are at the top of the list.

My father was born and raised in Utah, the State that you represent. My father and mother were both really good Democrats. But I am going to tell you that they would have loved MITT ROMNEY. The reason they would have loved MITT ROMNEY is because MITT ROMNEY is a realist, not an idealist; somebody who looks at issues and tries to solve them, tries to get to yes, not to get to no, without giving up his principles.

Your time here in the U.S. Senate, the gift that the good Lord gave to me to work with you and eight other folks besides us on that infrastructure bill, is something that I will never forget in this body. And you stood up time and time again and talked realism to all of us.

As you go out, just know that there is not a soul in here that doesn't know you are a man of faith, and I appreciate that because you exhibit that faith. You don't preach. You walk the walk.

I just want to say, as others have said before, because it is true, the U.S. Senate will be diminished because of your absence. And I appreciate the opportunity to get to know you and work with you and get some stuff done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 842, Anthony J. Brindisi, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Ben Ray Lujan, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Jeff Merkley, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Anthony J. Brindisi, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 309 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Helmy	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeben	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Sinema Vance

(Mr. HEINRICH assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 48.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

NDAAs

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I rise today to highlight some of the major victories that were included in the Senate's version of the NDAA—the military budget—that passed out of the Senate Armed Services Committee almost 6 months ago.

The Senate's version of this year's NDAA includes some excellent provisions, including a 4.5-percent pay raise for America's military servicemembers. This is a pay raise for the boots on the ground, not the top brass at the Pentagon. We secured powerful, new security initiatives in the Indo-Pacific. We secured provisions that advance our counter unmanned aircraft systems technologies.

Among the Senate's NDAA victories, I also count my amendments, which will help focus the Pentagon on its stated mission of deterring war and ensuring our Nation's security. One of these amendments includes slashing all funding for the woke diversity, equity, and inclusion policies at the DOD. Another amendment prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars for any costs associated with funding gender transition surgeries.

We need a military that is 100-percent focused on protecting our country and enhancing our national security, not implementing a woke agenda. Our military is not a social experiment. It should be a lethal fighting force, feared by our enemies and made up of our best and brightest in this country, which is why I applaud the work of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Ranking Member WICKER's leadership for putting together this excellent piece of legislation. The Senate's version of the NDAA received bipartisan support in committee, getting 22 of the 25 votes. You seldom see Republicans and Democrats come together like this.

So I ask: Why has Senator SCHUMER not brought this to the floor for the past 6 months? Why has the Senator from New York put a stop to good-faith efforts on setting our military up for success in the future? If Senator SCHUMER really cared about our military, he would have brought the NDAA up for a vote almost 6 months ago, but instead, we have been prioritizing liberal judges for the final weeks he has left as majority leader. Senate Democrats are more interested in burning taxpayer dollars on an unwinnable war in Ukraine than passing our military's budget.

Sadly, we have seen this time and time again: leadership that would rather cater to the woke administration than ensure our military is a lethal fighting force. But putting a woke agenda over our national security is nothing new to this administration. No institutions, not even our great military, are safe from being taken over by the Biden regime's radical woke policies.

Immediately after taking the White House, President Biden began to weaponize the DOD, using it as another tool in the administration's arsenal to further its progressive agenda. One of the Biden administration's first moves was to mandate the divisive diversity, equity, and inclusion training at the DOD—picking up right where Barack Obama left off 4 years earlier.

On day 1, the Biden administration announced that the military would begin conducting training to “have knowledge of systemic and institutional racism and bias against underserved communities.” This hateful ideology has no place in the United States, let alone the U.S. military.

This is supposed to be the No. 1 fighting force in the world. It is dangerous and insulting to waste our troops' valuable time on political indoctrination such as this. We need a lethal killing machine to deter aggression from our adversaries. I want our military focused on protecting Americans and our national security in an increasingly dangerous world, not on all of these woke DEI initiatives. There is no place for it, and Americans want to fund the military to achieve this objective. That is what our taxpayers pay money for, which is why on November 5, nearly 77 million Americans joined me in taking a stand to say: Enough of this nonsense.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Madam President, the American people gave President Trump a mandate to get Washington working for the people again. We chose President Trump because he isn't interested in the same ol', same ol' in this town—a breath of fresh air, no more business as usual. President Trump is returning to the White House and has nominated Pete Hegseth to serve as Secretary of Defense.

I just met with Pete on Monday. I have known him for a long time. He is the man we need leading our military. Pete is smart. He is battle-tested, and he is prepared to lead. Pete has actually had a real job in the military—on the battlefield—not pushing papers in some stuffy room in the Pentagon.

Just this morning, Pete posted on X that he is in this for the warfighters and not for the warmongers—an excellent quote.

That is exactly why the military-industrial complex is losing its mind. If confirmed, Pete will focus on rebuilding peace through strength, putting America first, and prioritizing America's military readiness. He will focus on lethality and maintaining our competitive edge, not to mention getting our recruitment problems straightened out—and, boy, do we have problems.

With military recruitment tanking, what better way to inspire young men and women to join the most lethal fighting force in the world than by nominating a decorated veteran who served in two wars and is closer to their age. Pete is someone who relates to them and looks like them. Who is

more likely to inspire confidence in 18- to 21-year-olds in the military—old, out-of-touch, and arrogant military higher-ups or a younger guy who has been on the battlefield, shoulder to shoulder in the mud with the infantry? I am willing to bet young people would rather sign up to follow the fellow who is the second man on this list.

We need a drill sergeant, someone who has been in the trenches. That man is Pete Hegseth. This is perfectly in line with President Trump's effort to get the Federal Government's house in order. Pete will prioritize building an effective, streamlined Pentagon that can actually pass an audit, which they haven't done in 7 years. He will target waste, fraud, abuse, and refocus the DOD's workforce on its core mission.

And this can't come soon enough. Under this administration, Russia has invaded Ukraine. Iran-backed Hamas brutally attacked Israel. Syria faces a revolution, and China is threatening to invade Taiwan and spread its influence across Africa and South America.

We live in a dangerous world. America can't afford this outdated type of leadership at the DOD to continue any longer. It could result in even more devastating consequences, especially as the outgoing administration has the United States teetering—teetering—on the brink of World War III.

I look forward to beginning a new chapter in January of next year. We will finally turn the page on one of the most criminally bad administrations in the history of our country. More importantly, we will be entering into a new era, a new golden age of America; but in the meantime, I will continue to demand that Senator SCHUMER prioritize our troops and national security over partisan judges and funding foreign wars.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

REMEMBERING JEANNE LUCKEY

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I rise today with a deep sense of respect, admiration, and sadness to honor the remarkable life of Jeanne Luckey. Her legacy of service, strength, and compassion will leave a lasting impact on Mississippi, our Nation, and beyond.

A proud daughter of Biloxi, MS, Jeanne was a woman of extraordinary character—dedicated to her family, her community, and her country. She was a tireless leader and key figure in Mississippi's Republican Party, serving in the roles such as president of the Mississippi Federation of Republican Women, as the cochair of the State Republican Party, and as the Republican National Committeewoman. Her voice and influence over the decades shaped the party at the State and national levels, and her work touched the lives of countless individuals across our State.

She faced extraordinary challenges with unmatched grace. Even after a car

accident left her in a wheelchair just days after Hurricane Katrina reshaped the coast of Mississippi, Jeanne didn't stop. She kept working. She continued her work with an unwavering commitment to the values she held dear, always finding a way to move forward.

Jeanne's influence went far beyond politics. Jeanne cared deeply about education and the people of Mississippi. As a member of the board of trustees for the Institutions of Higher Learning, she worked tirelessly to make Mississippi's universities stronger and more inclusive, especially for those with disabilities. Always focused on serving others, her contributions will be felt for generations.

What truly defined Jeanne was her strength of character. She was a woman who made others better. Her husband always said it best:

She made me a better person than I otherwise would have been.

Those of us who had the privilege of knowing her can attest to that. Her wisdom, her kindness, and her ability to bring people together left a permanent mark on everyone she met.

Jeanne leaves behind a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire those whose lives she has touched. My heart goes out to her husband Alwyn, to their two daughters Laurel and Taylor, and to her grandchildren Cornelius and Toxie Ray.

Mississippi has lost an amazing woman and a true leader, but Jeanne's spirit, her passion for life, and her commitment to making our State and country a better place will endure.

TRIBUTE TO TIM WOLVERTON

Madam President, today, I am pleased to commend and bid farewell to my longtime legislative director, Tim Wolverton, who has loyally served the Senate and the great State of Mississippi for more than 15 years. Tim has not only been a trusted member of my staff but a dear friend.

Born and raised in Starkville, MS, Tim attended Mississippi State University where he began his political career, winning an election to serve as student body president.

Apparently, Tim enjoyed being an elected official so much that he decided to move to the one place in the country where elected officials are everywhere: Washington, DC. It was here that Tim interned for one of his home State Senators, the late, great Senator Thad Cochran. If Tim hadn't caught the bug before that summer, he definitely had it now. A year later, Tim moved to the Nation's Capital to begin his professional career by accepting a job in Senator Cochran's office right after graduating with a degree in communications and a minor in leadership studies.

Tim started his career as many of our aides do—fresh out of college, wide-eyed, and ready to make a difference. Under the leadership of Senator Cochran, Tim quickly rose through the ranks and grew from the eager, young staffer into an effective legislative aide and a valuable member of Senator

Cochran's office. Throughout that time, Tim continued his studies, completing a program from the Air Command and Staff College and earning his master's from the U.S. Naval War College.

When Senator Cochran's career was coming to an end and I was appointed to the difficult task of carrying forward his legacy and representing all the people of Mississippi, I made the smart choice of asking Tim Wolverton to stay on as my legislative director, and I am forever grateful that he said yes. Even now, 7 years later, I couldn't imagine having anyone else guiding the legislative priorities of my office with as much skill, dedication, and integrity as Tim Wolverton. His steady hand and deep understanding of the legislative process have been instrumental in advancing the policies that matter most to Mississippi and to our Nation.

Tim approached every challenge with the same unwavering commitment to help create a better Mississippi, whether it was working to secure disaster recovery funds for storm-ravaged areas of the State, advancing military installations to provide well-paying jobs and security for my constituents, or championing infrastructure projects to expand economic opportunity. His ability to navigate complex issues, deliver meaningful results, and do so with humility and grace speaks volumes about his character.

Beyond Tim's many professional accomplishments, he has been a volunteer in his community and a mentor to younger staff members in the office. Although this is just one of the many examples of Tim's generosity, he coached a boys basketball team from their third grade all the way to their senior year. Tim dedicates his time and energy for the betterment of others.

In the office, Tim is no different. He always keeps his door open to staff, listens, gives good advice, and passes on his many years' worth of knowledge and experience to others. They say a true leader's legacy is not measured by their achievements but by the achievements of those who he prepared to lead after he is gone. By any measure, Tim Wolverton stands out among the best.

While his coworkers and I regret to see Tim move on, we are equally excited about the opportunities that await him. The skills he has honed, the relationships he has built, and the impact he has made will undoubtedly serve him—and whoever is fortunate enough to work with him next—extraordinarily well.

To Tim, thank you for your years of dedicated service. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Mississippi and to the United States. Most importantly, thank you for your good counsel and your friendship, which have undoubtedly helped me serve Mississippi and our Nation in the best way possible over the past 7 years. Now, I wish you every success in all of your future endeavors.

I yield the floor.

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, if the 118th Congress were a baseball game, we would be nearing the bottom of the ninth. As every Senator is well aware, our to-do list for the next 2 weeks is long.

There are very important issues we need to resolve before the last vote of the year. We need to keep the government open. We need to extend the farm bill and vote on the NDAA. And critically for Vermont and for so many States around the Nation, we must pass the comprehensive disaster aid package.

Legislating is a team sport. If we work together and find common ground, we can send a bill to the President's desk before the end of Congress and deliver for those communities that desperately, desperately need action from the U.S. Senate.

Despite our differences, whether they are political or geographic, communities from Montpelier, VT, to Mankato, MN; from Houston, TX, to Asheville, NC, to Maui, HI, are all asking for Congress to help with the devastation that has happened in those communities.

For months, bipartisan Members of Congress from States that have been affected by floods, fires, hurricanes, and tornadoes have approached our colleagues in the time of our need. We have asked publicly and privately for the assistance and financial support that our homeowners need, our farmers need, and businesses, towns, and local governments urgently need, because when it comes to these extreme weather events, we all know that if it is not us now, it may be us tomorrow, because there but for the grace of God, go I, when the extreme weather events decide to descend upon any community.

I found in the conversations I have had with my colleagues—Republican and Democrat—about Vermont's recovery needs, there is an unspoken acknowledgement that they are not in the Vermont situation or in the Asheville, NC, situation, but it could change.

The climate change that we are experiencing all around the country requires that, No. 1, we be ready to respond; two, we be more resilient and prepared; and, three, that we have better funded responses to recovery so that it can be faster, locally driven, and more efficient.

In July of 2023, Vermont experienced torrential rains and severe storms. For a week, the rain didn't stop. That rain quickly led to catastrophic flooding and landslides. Many homes, many of our farms and businesses and communities were absolutely destroyed, and the damage to infrastructure was fierce. Roads, rail lines, dams, bridges, wastewater plants, the capital city's post office, which after 14 months finally reopened, those were destroyed.

Nine States around Vermont came to our aid, and we are grateful. They sent

personnel. They sent resources. But a year after that flood, in July—to the same date in July—we had another round of flooding, and many of those same homes and businesses and farms were impacted.

The last time Congress passed a comprehensive disaster aid package was December of 2022. Since then, we have had more than 50 climate disasters around our country that each caused more than \$1 billion in damages—a total of \$155 billion in damages and rising. We know that that number is only going to grow when we have the final losses from Hurricane Milton and Hurricane Helene, and they are continuing to be calculated. This is an environmental and an economic disaster.

These disasters have impacted communities from Vermont to North Carolina, to Minnesota, to Texas and Hawaii, and more than 40 States and Territories total.

As we all know, extreme weather does not discriminate based on State lines or political preferences. In a crisis, we are all neighbors in need.

Since Congress last passed a comprehensive disaster aid bill—this is just to give a sense of how repetitive this is and how what had been an outlier event is now becoming a common event in different places around our country—these are disasters that have happened: Flooding in North Dakota between April and May of 2023. Flooding near West Point and the Hudson Valley area of New York in 2023. Hurricane Helene caused damage across Georgia and South Carolina in September of 2024. Flooding in 2023 in Central California, with enormous damage in the Central Valley. Hurricane Milton slammed Florida in October of 2024. Southeastern Iowa saw devastating tornadoes in 2024. Tornadoes and severe storms hit Nebraska in April and June of this year. And 110 tornadoes ripped across Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Illinois, and Kentucky in May, killing 16. And more than 40 tornadoes caused damage across Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee in March of 2023.

These events are all too common, and they are going to accelerate, not diminish. So we do need to fund FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund, and we need to do that for the benefit of all Americans. We need to provide those farmers and producers and ranchers with dedicated recovery assistance to help them with their losses so they can farm and ranch again. We need to get our communities the flexible funding—and I emphasize "flexible" and locally driven funding—that they need through programs like the community development block grant disaster recovery funding, something that Senator SCHATZ from Hawaii has been leading on.

We need to rebuild our infrastructure. We have to reimburse our States, whose budgets have been hammered, and reimburse our communities that have spent big to get folks back on safe roads. We need to fix our wastewater

and drinking water systems for the health and well-being of our citizens. And we have to help those small businesses.

That aid has to come sooner rather than later. The delay has already been really brutal on their ability to keep the lights on. The longer we wait to help disaster victims, the more disaster victims we will have. The list of needs will only grow. Delay hurts. It doesn't help.

That is why I am asking my colleagues in the Senate and in the House to act now and act quickly for Vermont and for every State hit by a disaster since we last passed a disaster bill so many storms ago. We cannot wait.

As I said, we have common ground in our common crisis. We must send a disaster bill to President Biden's desk.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, today, I rise to really talk about a source of great concern for me and, I think, the American people, and that is the dangerous world that President Biden and his administration are leaving behind. We see a world engulfed in the flames of war in Europe and the Middle East and teetering on the brink in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait. Our adversaries are testing us as Americans—our resolve—in ways that we haven't seen in decades. That instability puts us, I believe—the American people—at risk.

We see that, I believe, President Biden has been a weak Commander in Chief who has sort of slept through this whole global order and led us into some chaos. Joe Biden may be temporarily tasked with steering the ship of state through these crises, but Joe Biden did not inherit this world; he has created it.

Joe Biden's foreign policy? Well, he really doesn't have one that is consistent that I can see, aside from some flip-flops, some half-measures, and weak conciliations in place of strong deterrence—strong deterrence; whereas, as we look at the incoming President, President-elect Donald Trump, we see someone who has led and will lead with strength, someone who defeated the ISIS caliphate, who paved the way to peace in the Middle East with the Abraham Accords, exerted a maximum-pressure campaign on Iran, and got tough on China. And he is still talking in the same voice that he had, 4 years now later.

President Biden's weakness has fueled violence and aggression the globe hasn't experienced in decades.

On January 20, President-elect Trump is set to take the oath of office and once again assume the mantle of Commander in Chief. The task ahead of him and for all of us is monumental. Joe Biden is leaving us a messy world here, and it is up to the incoming administration and this Congress to be able to clean it up.

Let's look at China. Over the last 4 years, China has aggressively expanded its military capabilities, including a massive increase in conventional and nuclear weapons. In 2020, the Defense Intelligence Agency assessed that China had about 200 nuclear weapons, which would reach about 400 by the year 2030. Those were the projections. Now, 4 years later, what do we see? The same Agency counts about 500 nuclear weapons in China and predicts that it will be more than 1,000 by 2030.

Chinese military spending has surged, with 2024 being the third year in a row where its military saw a growth of more than 7 percent. At the same time, President Biden's Department of Defense requested four consecutive military budgets that actually cut defense if you look at it in light of inflation. While China continues to build the biggest navy in the world, Biden's defense budget called for us to shrink our Navy from 296 ships in 2024 to 294 ships in 2030. China knows these investments have consequences. President Xi knows that our failure to invest weakens America's ability to protect and to project power abroad.

During its unprecedented buildup, China increased its assertiveness in the South China Sea and escalated its incursions into Taiwan's airspace. China's cyber capabilities are also emboldened. We see this regularly. Attacks like Volt Typhoon or Salt Typhoon reveal a brazen attempt, an intention to burrow deep into our critical infrastructure and threaten the American people. Yet the Biden administration has appeared more focused on seeking meetings and chasing down diplomacy with China.

China recognizes hard power, and rebuilding ours will be a day-one project for the Trump administration.

Let's pivot to the Middle East and our adversary Iran, which has also seized on the openings from President Biden's leadership. Under Joe Biden, Iran has been able to supercharge its support for terrorist proxy groups by increasing its lucrative oil exports without consequence. Under Biden's watch, Iran has used these billions of dollars to arm Hezbollah, to ship advanced weapons like ballistic missiles to the Houthis, who are attacking our American ships. And we see these attacks orchestrated across the region. Let me repeat: Iran-sponsored attacks on our own American forces. Our troops have faced hundreds of assaults on the ground and on the sea. Iran-backed aggression has killed U.S. servicemembers in Jordan and in the Red Sea. And let's not forget that there are still American hostages remaining held in Gaza, thanks to Iran's support of Hamas.

All this should be completely unacceptable.

What is more, Iran is closer to a nuclear weapon today than it was under President Trump. In 2020, Iran's so-called breakout time to produce enough fuel for a nuclear weapon was 3 months. Now it is under a week.

When Israel was thrust into war for its survival—not of its own choosing—Joe Biden publicly questioned Israel's actions. He delayed critical arms shipments and damaged one of our most vital alliances. President Biden should know that U.S. support for Israel is a valuable deterrent. This undermining of the U.S.-Israel relationship would never take place under President Trump. He understood that peace through strength and our alliance with Israel is unshakeable; it is not a conditional agreement.

Finally, as we stand here today, there is still a large-scale ground war in Europe perpetrated by Russia and Vladimir Putin. When Donald Trump assumes office, the war will be entering its third year, with an appalling toll in lives and suffering. More than 1 million Ukrainians and Russians have been either killed or wounded.

Most recently, Putin has ramped up arms production, used a new ballistic missile capability, and deployed—incredibly, in my view—North Korean troops for his offensive maneuvers.

Donald Trump represents the off-ramp that the world needs, because looking to current American leadership, it is no wonder this conflict has escalated. This bloody war—especially with Iran and North Korea as Russian partners—is a stark reminder of what happens when America is perceived as weak.

President Biden's foreign policy missteps, such as lifting sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline, emboldened Vladimir Putin. And his suggestion that a "minor incursion" into Ukraine would receive a muted response—well, that certainly did not deter this catastrophic invasion.

Then the Biden administration failed to push the whole of Europe to invest adequately in its own military and industrial capacity.

For those of us who support military assistance for Ukraine, this administration has made it unnecessarily difficult for them to actually win this war. By slow-walking payments and stalling authorities—many of which they eventually agreed to, sometimes years later—the Biden administration failed to give full support to a sovereign nation who was unlawfully invaded.

Donald Trump understands that Nord Stream 2 was a threat, and he sanctioned it. Donald Trump understood and understands that sticks work as well as carrots to boost Europe's defense spending and munitions production. He used that leverage, and we saw their investments go up.

President Trump and his Cabinet will get to work on day one to push our NATO allies to meet their commitments and bring peace to the European continent where they live.

The bottom line is this: There is a mess, and there is a mess to be cleaned up by the incoming President. America may not be at war, but this instability certainly threatens our national peace

and prosperity. I would go even further and say that it really weighs heavily on the American public.

To put it simply, failing to deter conflict makes it more likely that some of our young Americans, young West Virginians, will one day have to fight, and that again underscores the philosophy and the underpinnings that weakness can be very dangerous. My State of West Virginia is very proud that our West Virginians disproportionately, throughout our history, have answered the call to serve, but their service is not something that we take for granted.

I believe that President Trump and his team are ready to get back to the peace-through-strength philosophy. They will restore our deterrence—the deterrence that ensures we don't have to send our men and women into harm's way. Deterrence is much cheaper in many, many ways—many different ways—than war. The good news is, we don't have to wait long because January is coming, and that will be the time when we get to work.

Congress must take up the NDAA immediately—it has been floundering; the leader has refused to bring it up for at least 6 months—so that we can then put our critical national defense policies in place as this next administration takes office—something that we should have done, as I said, many months earlier.

As for the Executive, I am confident President-elect Trump has the record and resolve to clean up the mess, and I look forward to working with my colleagues and the President to secure our country's rightful, respected, and pre-eminent role on the world stage.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, if you conduct a quick survey of global events over the past 4 years, it is impossible—impossible—to argue that the world is more secure today than it was when the Biden administration began.

Events began to spiral downward in the summer of 2021 when the Taliban retook control of Afghanistan. The Biden administration's botched withdrawal cost the lives of 13—13—brave, patriotic American servicemembers. It left American citizens behind, and it left Afghans desperately clinging to the sides of aircraft departing Kabul.

We shouldn't forget this. It conveyed a message of American weakness to the world, a message that was heard loud and clear in places like Moscow, Tehran, and Beijing.

Just 6 months after the debacle in Afghanistan, Russian tanks rolled across the Ukrainian border. Vladimir Putin launched the largest conflict in Europe since World War II. The United States has stood with the Ukrainian people rhetorically. We provided some critical assistance to ensure Ukraine did not lose against the Russian onslaught.

But I have to say, it has not put Ukrainians in a position to win. The Biden administration has too often slow-walked deliveries of weapons or they have imposed other restrictions on the Ukrainian forces. This foot-dragging, this obstructionism, this bureaucratic lethargy, this timidity has undermined our ability to convincingly deter Putin's ambitions or deter a broadening conflict.

So here we are today. The war drags on with no strategy and no defined end goal for American support of Ukraine. Of course, the American people are understandably exasperated by this development. Meanwhile, additional conflicts developed in other regions, as if that wasn't enough.

Determined to revive the Iran nuclear deal, the Biden administration repeated the mistakes of the Obama years. They loosened sanctions on the Iranian regime, and the results predictably have been nothing short of disastrous.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas, the Iran-backed terror group controlling Gaza, carried out the worst attacks against the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Iran-backed Hezbollah has attacked Israel from the north and forced the evacuation of Israeli civilians.

And in recent months, President Biden has sadly undone much of the good will he initially created when he stood with Israel after October 7. In the process, President Biden has caved to misguided or hostile voices from within his own administration who demand that Israel defend itself with one arm tied behind its back.

For 4 years, the Biden team has failed to formulate a strategy for restoring deterrence and stopping Iran's campaign of terror and chaos, leaving our ally Israel and the entire Middle East less safe and rolling back the diplomatic progress of the Abraham Accords of the Trump years.

Across the Pacific, the Chinese Communist Party continues to build up its military, threaten Taiwan, wage economic warfare against our businesses and our supply chains, pursue economic coercion against American partners and allies, and undermine security and stability in the broader Indo-Pacific.

Other than that, things are placid.

We saw these developments play out most visibly when China launched a surveillance balloon over North America last year. It traveled over the United States. Here again, President Biden failed to provide answers to the American people about that situation or to restore deterrence so that the Chinese Communist Party understands it cannot spy on our schools, on our military bases, on our homes, on our farms, on the American people. Today, our strategic competition with China continues on as it must, with the CCP's global power and influence largely unchecked over the past 4 years.

Whether it be in Afghanistan, the Middle East, or the Indo-Pacific, the

world that President Biden is leaving behind—there are no two ways about it; let's not be mealy-mouthed—it is a world full of chaos. A band of malevolent nations—China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, Venezuela, and others—that band is redrawing borders, threatening neighbors, stealing intellectual property, sowing chaos, and threatening the global stability. Unchecked, their aggression emboldens other foes of freedom, and it triggers evermore destabilizing conflicts.

So what is to be done? I know there is a natural tendency to withdraw from the world, to give up on our leadership responsibilities, to give up even on what I would characterize as our own security interests. And, understandably, right now there is a natural impulse to withdraw, certainly, from our global leadership role. It all just seems so daunting right now.

We have domestic problems, of course, but we cannot ignore the costs of such a divestment, costs which are manifesting themselves at this very moment. Abandoning our allies and partners will empower and embolden authoritarian powers, such as China, Russia and Iran and others around the world.

Leadership comes with a price. It also comes with rewards, as we have learned throughout our history.

I look forward to working with President Trump and the many talented members of his incoming administration to reverse years—years—of disastrous policies, to restore deterrence against tyrants everywhere. We must be smart. We must be economizing in our global engagement, and I believe President Trump and the team he is building understand that.

We must continue to rebuild our defense industrial base across the country. Restoring our military readiness from artillery and submarines to semiconductors is critical—not promoting war but instead deterring conflict and furthering America's global interests, many as they are.

We must continue to persuade our allies to increase real investment in their own defense. The American people can do a lot, but we can't do it all. Our partnerships with European and Indo-Pacific nations must remain firm, but our allies also must understand that we can't bear the burden of defending the entire globe alone. We need to use our diplomatic leverage, maintain a strong military, and stand with our allies and partners.

A final piece is economic innovation here at home, something I have been working a lot on in my capacity as the U.S. Senator for Indiana. At a time of technological transformation, the United States cannot just be resilient; no, we must continue to lead. All of these pieces are critical to American foreign policy as we move forward. It is time to turn the page on the last 4 years, time to restore deterrence, and time to get back to peace through strength.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, I have always said that keeping people safe is one of the most fundamental roles the government plays: keeping people safe.

For 4 years, the Biden-Harris administration has failed at this most fundamental mandate the government has. About a month ago, the American people delivered a message that they were no longer going to stand for a government that was failing to keep them safe. The Biden-Harris appeasement-first foreign policy strategy has made America weaker and less safe. The world that the Biden administration is leaving is a more dangerous place today than it was 4 years ago when they took over.

Weakness and appeasement have defined the current administration, starting with their disastrous pullout of Afghanistan. That pullout in Afghanistan cost American lives, including a Nebraskan, Marine Cpl Daegan Page. We also left behind Americans, unbelievably, and we also left behind our Afghan security partners—abandoned them—in addition to the billions of dollars of American equipment, through this poorly executed debacle.

Since then, we have seen foreign policy fumbles and flip-flops that have left our allies questioning our commitment and, worse yet, has the bad guys—Russia, China, Iran, North Korea—questioning our resolve.

The most disturbing example of this is Iran. Under the Trump administration, they knew that the way to deal with a dictator—like we had in Ali Khamenei in Iran—is through strength and imposing sanctions.

The sanctions the Trump administration imposed took Iran's foreign reserves down from \$122.5 billion to less than \$14 billion dollars. And what did that mean? Well, that meant that they couldn't fund the terrorism around the world that they have been doing for the last 4 years.

When you cut off their money supply, they couldn't give it to Hamas or Hezbollah, and so those terrorist organizations were going broke. They didn't have the resources to be able to fund that terrorist group. And then came along Joe Biden.

Joe Biden and his administration relaxed the sanctions on Iran through a naive policy that, somehow, if we just give them enough money, they are going to be nice to us. But that is not the way it works with dictators.

It enabled Iran to generate \$100 billion in oil money, and that has consequences. It was because of this appeasement-first policy and giving money to Iran that Hamas had the ability to attack our ally Israel on October 7; and how Hezbollah has since attacked Israel, as well; how the Houthis have been able to shoot at ships in the Red Sea. Iranian proxies—like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis—have been emboldened by

Biden's appeasement-first policy. This is what is causing the chaos we are seeing right now in the Middle East.

And while these attacks may seem far away, we must remember that Iran not only chants "Death to Israel"; they chant "Death to America."

Over 40 Americans were killed on October 7. Three American servicemembers were killed by Iranian proxy drone attacks in January. The Houthis continue to shoot at American ships in the Red Sea. Islamic terrorists have crossed our open border. And for crying out loud, Iran is trying to kill President Trump. And what has the Biden administration done? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. There has been no price for Iran to pay for all of this.

Our adversaries, they see this and understand the weakness. The Chinese Communist Party has been emboldened. They have repeatedly violated our sovereignty. Spy balloons have been allowed to travel across our country, spying on our sensitive military installations. We have seen the espionage operations set up in New York City. And fentanyl has been killing Americans across our country. And while it may be coming across the southern border, the precursors are being made in China.

We have also seen what Vladimir Putin has done when Russia invaded Ukraine.

Our freedoms, our way of life depend on peace. And how do we maintain peace? We maintain peace through strength. That is what the American people chose a month ago when they elected President Donald Trump.

Under President Trump's first administration, we saw the dismantling of the ISIS caliphate and historic peace deals in the Middle East—the Middle East's first peace agreement in 26 years. And, by the way, that should have been cause for a Nobel Prize to be awarded to President Trump, but the Nobel Prize committee didn't see it that way. They couldn't bring themselves to acknowledge the great work that President Trump did.

By returning President Trump to the White House, the American people are sending a clear message: There is a new sheriff in town.

The Biden-Harris age of appeasement is ending. The resurgence of American strength is about to begin, and I am excited to see what the future holds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Wyoming.

NDA

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I spent Thanksgiving in the Middle East with 400 members of our Wyoming National Guard. These heroes come from, actually, 40 different hometowns all across the Cowboy State—small towns, our larger towns, east, west, north, south. I spend every Thanksgiving with deployed Wyoming troops. I go to thank them—to thank them for all they are doing to keep all of us safe and free.

Most Americans celebrate Thanksgiving surrounded by their loved ones.

These soldiers spent Thanksgiving not with family and neighbors but in the neighborhood of America's enemies.

Our enemies today are much more dangerous, aggressive, menacing, and powerful than they were just 4 years ago. For the past 4 years, Americans have seen the current administration surrender, squander, and sell out our Nation's strategic advantages.

This administration stopped enforcing sanctions on Iranian oil sales that allowed Iran to sell discounted oil to China. Iran got richer and more menacing as a result of all the money they got, and China got more powerful by being able to buy cheap energy.

Well, the Wyoming soldiers that I had a chance to visit, they are strong, they are tough, and they are brave. The thing that is so interesting, though, is I believe they are being failed by a Congress that hasn't done its job. It is incumbent upon Congress to make sure that all of these soldiers, each and every one of them, is fully equipped to protect our freedoms.

The Senate should have passed the bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act months ago. It increases troop pay, modernizes our military. It also refocuses our forces on specific military hard power, instead of this politically correct woke policy that the military has been working under for the past several years.

Right now, high prices are crushing military families. Prices are 20 percent higher right now than they were 4 years ago. And, as a result, one in seven servicemembers today—today—relies on food stamps or food banks just to support their families. This, of course, has a direct impact on our problems in terms of trying to recruit more and more members into our military. The pay raise means that a stronger military and a stronger America will be there on the world stage.

Now, as for military modernization, we need to overcome 4 years of weakness. The current administration has failed to keep us safe. It allowed 10 million illegal immigrants to cross over our southern border. It allowed a Chinese spy balloon to fly across America. It led a deadly and disastrous retreat from Afghanistan. And it slashed away America's hard power.

Under the Democrats, America became a nation in retreat. Well, the National Defense Authorization Act reverses that. It equips our military. It equips them to meet the challenges of a dangerous world. So why hasn't the Senate—this body right here that is here today in session—why hasn't it yet passed the National Defense Authorization Act? Well, the problem isn't the product; it is the process.

In the final weeks of their majority, the Democrats in the Senate have prioritized voting to confirm radical judges rather than protecting our Nation's security. As one Democrat Senator said last month, Democrats are "hell-bent," he said, on getting liberal judges confirmed.

Why can't Democrats show that same level of passion for supporting our troops? Democrats' dithering and delaying—it is downright dangerous. It sends a terrible message that America's deterrence isn't credible.

And as a result of the November elections, that is about to change. The Senate is going to change. The American people voted for change. They voted to return to a nation that is safe and strong.

In less than 60 days, America will once again have a President and a Senate majority that prioritizes making America safe and strong again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

ALASKAN ENERGY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, my colleagues have been down on the Senate floor for the last hour talking about the world that the Biden-Harris administration left us in terms of national security, and it is a really important topic. It is a much more dangerous world, and it also impacts not just what is going on globally but at home as well, particularly in a State like mine where the Biden-Harris administration has literally been at war with Alaska because we have a lot of resources.

Now, you are thinking, Well, why would that happen? So when you are governing, as this administration demonstrated to the American people and Alaskans, you make choices. You make choices. President Biden's choices involved: Do you support hard-working Alaskans, particularly in the energy sector or do you support anti-American dictators, particularly when it relates to America's energy?

And the choices, unfortunately, in the last 4 years is, when this administration was thinking about, Hey, where do I get my energy—Americans need energy. Our allies need energy, particularly after the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. We told all our allies: Hey, get off Russian oil and gas. OK. Where should we get it? Well, we should get it from places like Alaska, hard-working Alaskans, not from dictators like in Venezuela or Iran.

But the choice that this President made almost every time was about selecting dictators over Americans, over Alaskans, when it comes to energy.

Now, this is particularly true as it relates to the policy the Biden-Harris administration undertook with regard to Iran. Think about what they inherited. The Trump administration's Iran policy was very effective. What was it? No. 1, maximum pressure on the Iranian energy sector.

When President Trump took office, under the Trump administration's sanctions, Iran's oil exports were reduced in 2020 to about 200,000 barrels a day from 2.7 million barrels a day. This was crushing them. Their foreign reserves, Iranian foreign reserves, went to about \$4 billion in foreign reserves by the end of the Trump administra-

tion. That is not a lot at all. This was working.

The Trump administration's policies in the Middle East, particularly as it relates to Iran, also involved taking out the world's No. 1 terrorist, Soleimani.

By the way, a lot of people now commend President Trump for that. I remember the classified hearing we had here in the Senate right after that happened. So many of my Senate Democrat colleagues were criticizing Mike Pompeo and others for killing General Soleimani, which was a huge gift to countries around the world because he was the No. 1 terrorist in the world.

And, of course, the Trump administration launched the Abraham Accords. The Presiding Officer and I went to a number of the Abraham Accord countries together prior to the October 7 attacks, where the opportunities for peace had been growing prior to the October 7 attacks.

So that was the Trump administration's policies with regard to Iran and energy. What did they do when the Biden administration came in? They made choices, and the choices were to appease Iran. The choices were to lift sanctions on the Iranian oil and gas sector. When they lifted these sanctions over the last 4 years, this has dramatically enriched Iran. They almost have \$100 billion in oil revenues now—again, choosing dictators over Americans and Alaskans.

And, of course, Iran, what did they use this money for? To train and equip and supply the Houthis, Hezbollah, and Hamas.

So what happened domestically? I will tell you what happened domestically. In my State, the great State of Alaska, that has got minerals and oil and gas for our Nation, for our allies, for Alaskans in huge abundance, the Biden-Harris administration came in, and they said: We are going to shut down Alaska. We are going to lock up Alaska. We are going to prefer energy from our adversaries than from our own country, and that is what they did. Sixty-eight Executive orders and Executive actions in the last 4 years—68—exclusively focused on shutting down my State.

I don't think there has ever been a Federal Government that focused on one State to crush them more than the Biden administration did to the great State of Alaska.

So as I mentioned, this is all about choices. I wrote an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal a couple month ago saying the Biden-Harris administration sanctions Alaska more than it sanctions Iran. It sanctions hard-working Alaskans more than it sanctions the terrorists in Iran. That is fact. That is what has happened when you have an administration that goes on bended knee all over the world—Venezuela, Iran, Saudi Arabia—begging for oil when you are shutting it down in our own country, particularly in my State.

So this is what we got—4 years of this—sanctioning a State, sanctioning

my constituents when the President goes on bended knee to Venezuela, to Iran, and won't sanction them at all. Does that make sense? No. But that is the world that we watched and dealt with over the last 4 years. I am quite confident that the incoming Trump administration is not going to do that anymore.

Stand by, Iran. Maximum sanctions are coming back your way. Maximum pressure is coming back your way. And I am also very confident that the Trump administration, with a Republican Senate and a Republican House, is going to help the State of Alaska, which has more critical minerals and oil and gas than almost anyplace in the world, to once again produce for the benefit of Alaskans, for the benefit of Americans, and the benefit of our allies.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF ANTHONY J. BRINDISI

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Anthony Brindisi to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

Born in New Hartford, NY, Judge Brindisi received his B.A. from Siena College and his J.D. from Albany Law School. After law school, he joined Brindisi, Murad & Brindisi Pearlman, LLP as an associate in Utica. He was a partner at the law firm from 2008 to 2014 and again from 2021 to 2022. He also served as of counsel from 2014 to 2018. As a practicing attorney, he handled primarily civil litigation matters and specialized in personal injury cases.

From 2011 to 2019, Judge Brindisi represented district 119, which includes the Utica and Rome region, in the New York State Assembly. He served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 2019 to 2021, representing New York's 22nd Congressional District.

Since 2022, Judge Brindisi has served as a judge on the New York State Court of Claims in Utica. In this role, he hears civil claims from an eight-county region across central and northern New York. Judge Brindisi has also served as an acting supreme court justice in Oneida County since the beginning of 2024. Over the course of his judicial career, he has presided over 37 cases that have gone to verdict or judgment.

Judge Brindisi has deep ties to the Northern District of New York. He enjoys the strong support of both of his home State Senators, Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and the American Bar Association unanimously rated him as "qualified" to serve on the district court.

Judge Brindisi's background as a litigator, public servant, and State court judge ensures that he will be an asset to the district court. I am proud to support his nomination, and I ask my colleagues to join me.

VOTE ON BRINDISI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brindisi nomination?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 310 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Helmy	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Sinema

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby

move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 843, Elizabeth C. Coombe, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Ben Ray Lujan, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Elizabeth C. Coombe, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 311 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Helmy	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Sinema

(Ms. BALDWIN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth C.

Coombe, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Coombe nomination be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, if cloture is invoked on the Davenport nomination, the confirmation vote occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader on Thursday, December 5; further, that during Thursday's session of the Senate, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate vote on the Johnson and Neary cloture motions in the order in which cloture was filed; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of the above nominations, all postcloture time be considered expired, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader no earlier than Monday, December 9; further, that the mandatory quorum calls for the above cloture motions be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE STABENOW

Mr. SCHUMER. So, Madam President, one of our dearest and greatest Senators is giving her farewell speech. I look forward to hearing it.

Debbie, we love you. You have been a great Senator. We will miss you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first of all, I have to say, wouldn't you know I would get laryngitis, and for somebody who is in elected office, we know that that is not a good thing, so please bear with me; and I want to thank Chuck so much for his comments this morning and for being a dear friend.

Today is bittersweet for me, standing here on the floor of the U.S. Senate, making my last speech—my last major speech.

So many of my staff from Michigan have traveled to be here as well as staff members who have worked for me in DC over the years. I am truly overwhelmed that over 100 Michigan and DC staff are here in the Galleries and on the floor, and family and friends who were not able to fly in today are watching on C-SPAN.

As we come back from Thanksgiving, I am filled with so much gratitude and respect as I think back over my years in public service. I am thinking about the incredible number of people who have supported me and contributed in so many ways to my success—from my

family, my staff, my colleagues, and, of course, the people of Michigan who have put their trust in me for over 50 years—I started when I was 5—

(Laughter.)

—from Ingham County commissioner to State legislator to U.S. Senator.

Michigan, you will always be in my heart. Today is about recognizing all of you.

As some of you know, I lost my mom just a week ago. I suspect she is tuning in from Heaven's version of C-SPAN right now, watching me, listening, just as she has always been watching and supporting me my whole life. Mom not only lived a long life—98 years of age—but a rich and meaningful one. Her hard work, her kindness, her strength, and her loyalty were a true gift to me, to my brothers, to my children, to my whole family.

There are always unsung heroes in every story, and I want to start with mine, and that is my family: my son Todd; my daughter Michelle; my daughter-in-law Sara; my son-in-law Scott; and my five incredibly talented and amazing grandchildren. They are the most talented grandchildren we have ever seen: Ari, Willow, Avery, Everett, and Violet.

My mom and my kids have all appeared in many campaign ads over the years. Even my brothers, Lynn and Lee, starred in an acclaimed closing ad that caused me to beat an incumbent Republican to first be elected to the U.S. House.

When my kids were young, they, too, broke down barriers. Todd was born when I was a county commissioner. Michelle was born when I was a State representative. It was a first in Michigan for a legislator to be pregnant and have a baby while in office. I remember a very pregnant me opening baby shower gifts in one of our statehouse committee rooms. Most of my male colleagues didn't know what to buy for a baby shower so I got a lot of stuffed animals.

My family members have marched in countless parades, attended thousands of events with me, and planned birthday parties and holidays around the legislative calendar. They have sacrificed their time and, in many cases, their personal privacy. Through thick and thin, they have always been there for me, and I am incredibly grateful.

I love you all so much.

My family story has inspired my work as an elected official.

I grew up in Clare, MI, where my mom was the director of nursing at our small rural hospital. This sparked my lifelong interest in healthcare. As a 24-year-old grad student at Michigan State University, I led an effort to save Ingham County's medical care facility from closure. It was the only nursing home that served low-income seniors at the time. I had never been involved in politics before, but I knew it was wrong to close that facility. We stopped the Ingham County Board of Commissioners from closing this crit-

ical service, and I was encouraged to run for county commissioner because I lived in the district of the commissioner who tried to close the nursing home. I ran against him. He called me "that young broad" and the young broad beat him and, as they say, the rest is "herstory."

Healthcare remained a top priority for me from those early days to today. Today, I am proud and grateful that more people in America have access to home healthcare, to hospice services, and to lower prescription drug pricing, in part, because of my work. Medicare, Medicaid, and community health centers provide stronger foundations for care for millions of Americans.

I was a new member of the Senate's Finance Committee when President Obama made healthcare reform his top priority. I was excited to be involved in every part of passing the Affordable Care Act, making sure that maternity care and mental health services and addiction treatment were all part of the new law. I spent a tremendous amount of time focusing on the affordability of the new healthcare system and was successful in bringing down the amount that individuals would have to pay for coverage. I considered it a badge of honor during the final vote in committee when then-Chairman Baucus turned to me and said: "Here we have Senator Affordability."

My first viral moment as an elected official on social media happened during the debate on the Affordable Care Act, and my great friend AMY KLOBUCHAR has often told this story. When Senator Kyl from Arizona argued against including maternity care as basic coverage by stating that he did not need maternity care, I told him: "Yes, but I bet your mom did." The public outcry that happened after that helped ensure to this day that maternity care is part of the Affordable Care Act.

There has been no healthcare issue more profoundly influenced by my own family's life and experience than the issue of mental health. My father had a bipolar disorder that went undiagnosed for many years, like for so many people. Our lives were changed when the drug lithium became available, and my dad had the support he needed to manage his disease and move forward with his life. I saw what happened when someone did not get the help they needed, and I saw what happened when they did.

This experience fueled my passion to reduce the stigma of mental health and mental illness, and as I have often said, we need to treat healthcare above the neck the same as healthcare below the neck. I worked on this issue in the early days of my career, chairing the Mental Health Committee in the Michigan House of Representatives. Later, I was honored to team up with Senator Roy Blunt for a 10-year effort to transform how we fund mental health and addiction services. This has been my passion and my most meaningful achievement.

On the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's signing of the Community Mental Health bill—the last bill he signed before his death—Senator Blunt and I introduced and spoke here on the Senate floor about our new legislation, the Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act.

President Kennedy envisioned a world where people wouldn't be housed in asylums, as they were called at the time, but would get the treatment and the care they needed in their communities. The first part of his vision was implemented over the past 50 years—mental hospitals were closed—but the second half of it, that of creating comprehensive community care, never happened. Senator Blunt and I worked intensely over the past 10 years to make the second half of President Kennedy's vision a reality by creating comprehensive community behavioral health clinics, or CCBHCs, where clinics are funded as healthcare, not just through grants that stop and start.

Now, because of our bipartisan efforts culminating in full funding in the Safer Communities Act, we are in the midst of creating comprehensive community-based care across the country, and I thank you, all of you, for your help—so many people here—for your leadership and help in making that happen. We now have more than 500 community behavioral health clinics providing care across the country, with more being created every day. Millions of people now have the dignity of receiving mental healthcare and addiction treatment in their communities instead of sitting in an emergency room or in a jail or sleeping on the street.

The goal, of course, is to have every community in every State provide these critical healthcare services. I intend to continue to do everything I can to support your efforts to make sure this transformation is completed.

I am forever grateful to the people of Michigan for the trust they have shown in me over these years. I have lived in Michigan my whole life, and I have viewed the work in DC as a commute to work, a long-distance commute to work—not as long as from the west coast but a commute to work. I see everything through the eyes of Michiganders and our beautiful State.

Our Great Lakes and our water are part of our Michigan DNA. Protecting our water has been my passion—from passing my very first bill in the Senate, which bans oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes, to authoring the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This landmark initiative has helped transform the health of our lakes and watersheds and will continue to do so in the future.

Looking through the lens of Michigan again, I have understood that we don't have a strong economy unless somebody makes something and somebody grows something. For this reason, I have been a member of the Agriculture Committee at every level of

government where I have served, both State and Federal, and I have been deeply involved in efforts to protect and expand American manufacturing, including the new clean energy revolution occurring in our country.

It has been my privilege to put my stamp on our Nation's farm and food policy. I have frequently said that you can see Michigan on every page of the farm bills I have written. As the author of the specialty crop title in the farm bill, I am grateful that the full diversity of farms, small and large, are now reflected in our funding and our agriculture policies. I am so pleased that families across our country have access to healthy, locally grown foods through farmers' markets and urban agriculture and that our children can count on permanent funding for summer meals and other critical food assistance.

I like to say that I suit up every day to fight for Michigan, and there is no truer statement than my work on behalf of Michigan workers and Michigan manufacturing. I am so proud to have championed the auto rescue in 2009, to have changed tax incentives to invest and make things in America, and toughened our laws to support American manufacturing. I know we have the best workers in the world, and I know also that Michigan—Michigan manufacturing—is well positioned to prosper in the future.

I want to take a moment, of course, to thank all of you—all of my great, great colleagues on both sides of the aisle, both past and present. So many of you have been wonderful partners in getting things done, and I am so grateful for your friendship.

I am especially grateful for my Michigan partners: first, the amazing Carl Levin and, now, my dear friend GARY PETERS. I like to say we are the one-two punch for Michigan.

As we all know, to be effective, it is not necessary to agree with someone on everything. In fact, I don't agree with anybody on everything. It is only necessary to agree on one thing, one problem that needs to be solved, and then agree on the way to solve the one thing. Then we look for another colleague across the aisle to work with on one thing. That is how positive change happens.

We all realize, with all the incredible demands on our time and the constant additions and changes to our schedules, it is hard to find time to get to know each other on a personal level.

Over the years, I have been so grateful for the bipartisan women Senators' dinners and the international travel that we have. It is so important. And playing Christmas carols on the piano at the Senate Prayer Breakfast is something I have thoroughly enjoyed. Exchanging stories about our families, our faith, our personal challenges has made a real difference.

It has been a great honor for me to serve as a Member of the Senate Democratic leadership since 2005.

I want to recognize Democratic leaders Tom Daschle and our dear Harry Reid, who were so supportive of me.

I want to thank my great friend Senator CHUCK SCHUMER and his extraordinary team—extraordinary team. CHUCK loves the U.S. Senate, and he loves our country with every bone in his body. I am so appreciative of his leadership and tireless work and friendship.

When I announced my retirement nearly 2 years ago, I said I was ready to pass the torch to a new generation of leaders. I couldn't be prouder to pass the torch to Michigan's new Senator-elect, ELISSA SLOTKIN. I know she will have the heart and the talent for this job and will do great things for our State and our country.

I thought long and hard about how to express my gratitude to the smartest, hard-working staff that I could ever have imagined. Truly, my success comes from their amazing efforts. Over 500 bright, talented professional staff have worked for me over the past 50 years—that is unbelievable—many of them for decades, and that doesn't include countless volunteers and interns.

Interns are everywhere. There are staff everywhere.

I want you to know how moved I am that so many of you took time to be here today or are tuning in on C-SPAN. You are much more than employees; you are family. I have watched many of you get married—several times, thanks to our office—and watched your children grow up as well. You are truly my dear friends.

You have raised the bar for the kind of service that people of Michigan should expect from their elected officials. You have been there for me personally through the best of times and through the rough patches as well. You have cared and persisted, and, together, we have achieved so much, whether it is policy changes or helping literally millions of Michiganders cut through the bureaucracy and solve a personal problem. I salute each and every one of you, and I thank you for your service to Michigan and our Nation.

I am passing the torch to you because I know you will continue to care about people and public service and do great things. I could not have done this without you.

As I close out, I want to acknowledge the important moment that we are in as a country. We all know there is great division promoted by so many who want to gain their own power at America's expense. Yet we have so much in common. We all love our children and want the same things for them to be successful. We all want safe communities and a chance to be rewarded for our hard work. We can heal the divide and work together if we just look for that one thing that we can agree on to make our lives better and get it done. And then we can look again for that one thing.

If we don't let the haters divide us, we can rebuild trust with one another

and be the America we want to be. This is my hope and my prayer for all of us.

As I begin this next chapter of my life, my heart is truly filled with gratitude.

To my family, my colleagues, my staff, to the great people of Michigan, thank you, one and all, from the bottom of my heart. It has been an honor to serve you.

Mr. BOOKER. Hear! Hear!

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise today to honor my friend, my colleague, the senior Senator from the great State of Michigan, DEBBIE STABENOW.

Throughout her entire career, Senator STABENOW has been an absolutely tireless advocate for our State and an unrelenting fighter for every single person living in Michigan. As a result, she is an absolutely beloved public servant in my State.

DEBBIE's career in public service has been defined by her trailblazing accomplishments. It was 50 years ago this November—as DEBBIE mentioned, she was merely 5—but she was in graduate school at Michigan State University. I don't know how you did all of that, DEBBIE. But as she was a graduate student at Michigan State, she was first elected to serve on the Ingham County Commission. She went on to become both the first and the youngest woman to chair that commission.

DEBBIE's career then took her to the Michigan Legislature, where she became the first woman to preside over the Michigan State House. After successful stints in the Michigan State Senate and U.S. House, she was elected to serve in the U.S. Senate in 2000. She made history once again, as the first woman to represent Michigan in the Senate.

As soon as she arrived, DEBBIE hit the ground running. I think it is safe to say she never stopped running. She has always fought to make meaningful, positive change for our State, as well as for our entire country.

The very first piece of legislation that she passed into law as a U.S. Senator banned oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes. Her commitment to protecting and preserving the Great Lakes didn't stop there. In 2010, Senator STABENOW authored the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. It is a landmark program that has literally transformed the health of the Great Lakes by helping to combat against invasive species, strengthen our wildlife habitats, and protect the entire Great Lakes watershed.

For nearly a decade now, she has served as the cochair of the Great Lakes Task Force, delivering countless wins to ensure the lasting health of the Great Lakes for generations to come. I have been honored to work with her in those efforts.

DEBBIE, of course, has also proudly served as chair of the Agriculture, Nu-

trition, and Forestry Committee, a position that she has used to literally reimagine agriculture's role in American society. Under her leadership on that committee, she has not only made important progress on some of the issues most important to farmers across Michigan and the country; she has also used her post to address some of the most pressing issues of our time, from childhood hunger to climate change.

Throughout the years, Senator STABENOW has led our Michigan delegation through immense challenges. In the face of the Flint water crisis, DEBBIE worked tirelessly to advocate for the people of Flint. Her drive and her determination guided our delegation as we fought for Congress to pass the funding needed to kick-start the Federal response to that tragic situation.

DEBBIE was also the driving force behind the rescue of the U.S. automotive industry in 2008, helping our Michigan economy get on the road to long-term stability.

DEBBIE knows that Michigan's workers are the best in the world, and her tireless efforts to create and protect thousands of good-paying jobs—union jobs—for Michiganders have bolstered the manufacturing renaissance that we are witnessing today all across our State.

As an original author of the Affordable Care Act, DEBBIE helped make healthcare more affordable for Michigan families and helped pass major reforms to bring down the cost of prescription drugs for everyone.

In particular, DEBBIE has long fought to ensure that our mental health receives the same focus and care that our physical health gets. Her efforts to expand access to mental health services not only ensure that people in Michigan and across the United States get the care they need, but her leadership has literally changed—and truly changed—how our Nation delivers mental health and addiction services. It is going to be a legacy that will live for generations to come.

On a personal level, Senator STABENOW has been an absolutely invaluable mentor to me. When I joined her in representing Michigan in the Senate, she set an example for me of what leadership really means.

Early on, DEBBIE instilled in me the most important idea that should guide our efforts as elected officials: to always work in a bipartisan way to get things done for the people that we care about.

DEBBIE is kind, but she is also demanding and persistent at times, especially when it comes to fighting for people in Michigan. She will not take no for an answer when it comes to building consensus on the things that matter most to the folks that she so proudly represents. I think most of us in this Chamber have experienced that firsthand. If DEBBIE is pushing for an issue—something she cares about, something she knows is going to help people—and she gets you on the phone,

you will not get off that phone without saying: Absolutely, DEBBIE, I will support you in that effort because it is important.

Anyone who has had the privilege of working with Senator STABENOW knows that her enthusiasm and her optimism are contagious. The energy that she brings to work every day can motivate you and keep you working forward even when that going is very tough.

But perhaps most importantly, DEBBIE STABENOW has served as a role model for countless young women. She has opened doors and inspired the next generation of public servants in Michigan and beyond, including the newly elected Senator from Michigan, ELISSA SLOTKIN, who is in the Chamber with us here today.

So as we bid farewell to her in the Senate, her legacy, I know, will live on for generations of elected officials, as well as amazing staff, that she has set an example for.

A diehard Michigander, a dedicated public servant, a caring mother, and an absolutely delightful colleague, DEBBIE STABENOW has been a fearless leader for Michigan in the Senate, and there is absolutely no doubt that our State and our Nation are stronger because of her committed service.

DEBBIE, it has been an honor. It has been an honor to serve alongside you. As you mentioned, we are the one-two punch for Michigan. It has been the privilege of my life. And I am extremely proud of everything that you have accomplished, and I look forward to seeing great things ahead for you and wish you Godspeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, as we saw Senator PETERS' emotion about our dear friend, I saw that emotion well up in the eyes of so many of her staff, even before she started to speak, and I think that is because of the love that DEBBIE has engendered for so many years with this staff. And it is such a tribute to you, DEBBIE, that they came from all over the place to see you—from the past, from the present, from Michigan. So that is a lasting legacy.

Another legacy I was thinking about is that incredible portrait in the Agriculture room—and I see Senator SMITH, who sits in that room with me—of you surrounded by fruits and vegetables, as you should be. And it is the first portrait of any chair of the Agriculture Committee that is surrounded by fruits and vegetables, and that is a tribute to you because you got that done for America.

I think about the persistence that GARY just spoke to, that persistence always with a smile, always with lipstick, always focused on getting things done. And that is something that I think, when a lot of us wake up and things are down, to remember that smile and how persistent you were to get those things done is something that will inspire all of us.

And, as you mentioned, with ELISSA SLOTKIN, this incredible new leader coming to the Senate, you made sure that your legacy carried on with her election. So we thank you for that.

I have had the great privilege of watching you stand up firsthand in those Agriculture rooms and hearing rooms to stand up for nutrition like no one really has ever done before in a leadership position in that committee; how you have stood up for our farmers, yes, but also for the people that rely on getting that affordable food; your standing up for the autoworkers, I think, in the wayback zone, when you stood up at that horrible time for the industry and you were there for them; the investing in mental healthcare.

You mentioned one of my favorite stories, and that story is, yes, rather hilarious because DEBBIE, I want you to picture, was one of the few, if not the only, women in the room, one of two—as the Presiding Officer knows, DEBBIE will be one phone call away to correct us on what we have to say; at any time, we know whom to call—one of two women in that room. And as the male Senator was saying, “I don’t know; I wouldn’t need those benefits,” it was DEBBIE who said, “I bet your mother did.”

And the point of that story was actually more than just the moment and that she got those benefits in; it was also that she was one of the first women in such a leadership role.

There are a few here today, including Senator MURRAY. We think back to Senator Mikulski and others. But DEBBIE carried on that mantle, and she did it so well in leadership in the Senate and through her work chairing the committee.

But we all know that her work didn’t end in this place. She also led on agriculture and other issues worldwide. I will never forget that she led the first all-women’s trip to Africa, and we made stops in Senegal and Ethiopia and Tanzania.

And in my closing story here, if you remember, Senator STABENOW, the woman in Ethiopia, the farmer. She had a little plot of—she was raising teff, and she was alone. Her husband had died, and she was raising a number of kids by herself. And she had become a leader on sanitation for the area, and she had this little graph up on the wall, provided by one of our foundations, that showed her hut in the middle with a star on it.

And we were all asking these Senator-like questions about her crops and about her challenges of the walking 2 hours to fill the water every single day. And finally someone asked: What is your biggest challenge?

And here is this woman in this little hut with only one solar panel, walking 2 hours every day, and she says: Challenges? And she points to this chart of her hut and says: I have no challenges. I am a leader.

DEBBIE STABENOW is a leader, and she has gotten through a lot in the early

days of women getting elected to these jobs. To be able to get here in the first place and then to be able to rise to where she is has been an incredible tribute to her perseverance, to her incredible staff, and to the people of Michigan.

We thank you, DEBBIE. We know you are only going to be a phone call away. And for those of us on the Ag Committee, all we have to do is look up and see your smiling face among those fruits and vegetables. Thank you for your service.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO TERESA PLACHETKA

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, there is one more thing that I would like to do. And I want to thank so many people for their kind words—so many “kinds” today. I am so grateful for that. But I have one more really important thing that I want to do before I relinquish the microphone this afternoon, and that is to honor a true public servant, my longtime State director and dearest friend, Teresa Plachetka.

I am going to start with a bold statement. And, by the way, Teresa has been with me for 42 years—42, not 24—42 years. And I want to start by making a bold statement: There is no one who has done more for the people of the State of Michigan and for Team Stabenow than Teresa Plachetka.

The first time I met Teresa, I was in my first term in the Michigan State House. She was my first graduate student intern. She graduated, and I hired her as my first policy staffer in 1982 for the State house mental health committee. She has been at my side ever since for every decision, big and small, for 42 years.

I just gave my farewell speech on the floor, and it is so fitting that Teresa is here because what a journey this has been. We all have policy experts and communications experts and experts to run our campaigns and experts in technology, but I am not sure anyone else has all of those skills in one person. I got her. She is truly one of a kind.

I have been trying to think of the right words or the right stories to sum up our time together but realized: How can you possibly summarize almost 42 years of history and friendship? Maybe we can start with a variation on a very simple phrase: Did you talk to Teresa? Go talk to Teresa. Or what does Teresa think? Or have we asked Teresa?

These are familiar phrases in my office and have been for decades, not just from the team but from me. Whether it is taking the temperature on an issue in Michigan, getting the history of what we have done in the past, or just checking in, the team and I have always known we needed to get her gut check on everything we did. That is how vital she is and has been for us. I can’t think of any issue during our time together where she didn’t have critical input.

Because of that, the Stabenow team, me, and the State of Michigan have been the beneficiaries of her knowledge, her creativity, and her gut instincts for decades—solving problems, making people’s lives better every day.

Since these jobs are often so intense and incredibly stressful and time consuming, as we know, you might be asking yourself: How on Earth has Teresa been so successful for all this time?

Where do I begin?

Well, first, she is a brilliant political strategist who stays calm under pressure. During my first Senate campaign, almost no one believed we could win. In fact, pretty much everyone thought I should have stayed in the House and waited my turn, but not Teresa. We were down 9 points heading into Labor Day, but we had a strategy, and Teresa never wavered in her belief that we could win. And we stuck to it, and we knew it was a winning strategy, and we won.

In every tough situation—the auto rescue, the Flint water crisis, September 11, COVID, multiple elections—Teresa kept calm under pressure and helped us pick the right strategy to be effective and get things done.

Multiple staffers over the years have said she has taught them how to approach a tough situation. Like I said before, during all of these moments, the most asked question was always: What does Teresa think? And how would Teresa handle this?

That is how she has kept us all focused on the task at hand.

That extended no further than the communications coming out of our office each and every day. I know that there are a few staff—the press staffers right now—that are here or watching from home that remember and may be twitching at the thought of Teresa’s red edits on their draft releases.

But Teresa had a phrase which went, “People assume your only priorities are the ones you are currently talking about.” That phrase has been burned into the memory of just about every team member we have had over the years. It sounds simple, but sticking to it is so very hard at a time when so much is happening in our State and our country. It is also what has kept us all focused on message. And, most importantly, it has reminded us that in the end, for us, it is all about Michigan.

Teresa made certain that Michigan was at the heart of everything we did, and that started with our State team—from scheduling multiday tours across the State to ensuring every constituent case, piece of mail, or phone call was responded to with respect. Teresa ran the State operation like a Swiss—or we would say Shinola—watch.

Our regional managers were literally everywhere. In fact, there wasn’t a time when I would walk through an airport where someone wouldn’t come up to me and thank our team for attending an event, answering their email, or helping them get something

done. I wish Teresa could have been there for all of those thank-yous because she was the one that made it all work.

So what is her secret sauce? Well, as we know, it is all about systems. Teresa is known for being incredibly organized and developing the systems that have made the office run. If she sees a problem or something that can be done better, she works with the team to find a better way to accomplish the goal. It could be something small, such as changing the days of staff calls so the week and information flow work better, to organizing huge, effective appropriations processes every single year.

If there is a system in our office that works well, it was Teresa that created it and made it work. If it didn't work well, then that staffer probably didn't check with Teresa.

During the pandemic, she regularly solicited feedback on what was working and what was not. She also took time to stop and ask important questions like: What did we learn from how we worked during the pandemic, and how should the office adapt going forward? Instead of just working in the same way we had before the pandemic, Teresa made sure our office adapted.

Some of these systems are so infamous that when staff have transitioned to new jobs, the No. 1 thing we hear is that these places don't have nearly the level of efficient organizing and that Teresa would be mortified by the lack of systems.

Teresa also knew then in order for all of this to work, we had to be a team. Teresa genuinely cares about the people she works with. Over the last few weeks, as I have been thinking about this speech, our team couldn't say enough about how Teresa supports them both professionally and personally. The best part of it all, despite all she has accomplished, Teresa doesn't take herself too seriously. Her sense of humor and levity helps keep things going.

She always made it a priority that the DC and State staff were connected as one team, making sure DC staff came to Michigan often and got to know their counterparts and were not afraid to pick up the phone, talk through an issue, and work together.

One of her tools for keeping us all together was our infamous staff retreats in Michigan. Teresa spent hours making sure every detail was just right; that we had a goal and a purpose for getting together, as well as having some fun.

Whether it was one of our staple boat cruises to ensure we experienced our Great Lakes to a few acting sessions where the very best DEBBIE STABENOW impression was made—while I was gone, by the way—Teresa organized all of it.

A common discussion in our office is what everyone's favorite staff retreat was over the years and swapping stories from gatherings. While they are

difficult and a pain to organize, especially as the team got larger and larger, I know she loved showing everyone what "Pure Michigan" really means. Whether it is our food, our water, our wine, our beer, or a freezing cold boat cruise, Teresa always lit up when the team was back in Michigan.

So let me just say—as you can see, I could go on and on about Teresa, but I want to end by saying the biggest thank you possible. I know her wonderful husband Geoff, her kids, Zach and Rachel, and grandkids, Oliver, Ellie, and Valerie, are watching from Michigan and are incredibly proud of her. I know our team is here, too, watching from the Gallery and watching from home and they, too, are so incredibly proud to have served with Teresa.

Maybe the word I am thinking of right now that sums it up is "legacy." Teresa's legacy for our staff and for the State of Michigan will be felt for many, many years to come. Together, we experienced more than either of us probably thought was ever possible, forgotten more amazing stories than we would like to admit—and we will keep some of the stories between just us. It has truly been a lifetime of memories and friendship.

Teresa, I can't thank you enough for being by my side through this amazing journey and for being with me these final days in the U.S. Senate. We said we would run through the tape together, and I am really grateful we have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to speak for up to 4 minutes and Senator KENNEDY be permitted to speak for up to 30 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

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

LEONARD PELTIER

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, as President Biden considers candidates for clemency in the final weeks of his term, the Native American activist Leonard Peltier is among those who deserve grace and mercy.

Peltier was arrested in 1975 for his alleged involvement in the murder of two FBI agents in a shootout on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. But the process that led to his conviction had major issues and inaccuracies from the start.

For example, one witness whose statements were used at trial said she was told to lie and say that she was in a relationship with Peltier and that she had witnessed him shoot the agents. She later recanted that statement saying:

I was forced into this, and I feel very awful. I just wish that Leonard Peltier would get out of prison.

In another instance, according to reporting, a juror who, on day two of the trial, professed her prejudice against Native Americans was allowed to remain on the panel.

If that wasn't enough, take it from the very U.S. attorney who tried the

case. The prosecutor who tried the case, James Reynolds, said Peltier had served his sentence on "the basis of minimal evidence, a result that I strongly doubt would be upheld in any court today." In the same letter, Reynolds urged President Biden to commute Peltier's sentence, writing:

I write today from a position rare for a former prosecutor. To beseech you to commute the sentence of a man who I helped put behind bars. With time, and the benefit of hindsight, I have realized that the prosecution and continued incarceration of Mr. Peltier was and is unjust. We were not able to prove that Mr. Peltier personally committed any offense on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Peltier is now 80 years old and has been in prison for 50 years. He is in declining health, experiencing vision loss and other illnesses. And in spite of all that, earlier this year, Federal officials denied his request for compassionate release and parole.

And so even if you believe that he did, in fact, commit the crime, surely now, the time is now to let him spend whatever remaining days he has at home to die with his family. He has done his time. He is of old age and in poor health. This is what clemency is for. This is what mercy is for. He poses little threat to society.

If there was ever a case that merited compassionate release, Leonard Peltier's is it. This is exactly what this awesome Presidential power is for—to right a historic wrong. And if not that, then just to show mercy and let an old man die with his family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to use a prop during my remarks.

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

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

Mr. KENNEDY. I am going to try not to use my full time, Madam President.

It has become in vogue in Washington to talk about government waste, and I am glad. I think that is a good thing. It has become in vogue to talk about inefficiencies and reducing spending, and I think that is a good thing.

I remember when I first got here back in 2017, one of my early Appropriations Committee meetings. I was green as a gourd. We had just passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. I thought to myself, you know, we are going to run some deficits for a while because we just cut taxes.

And there was an item in the budget for, I think, a 3- or 4-percent automatic pay raise for our Federal employees. They get it every year. I am not saying they don't deserve it. A lot of people deserve more money. I never heard anybody around this place stand up and say: I have a bad idea, and I need money for it. It is always a great idea. So I am not begrudging Federal employees.

But I told my colleagues: You know, if we are going to run deficits, maybe we ought to skip the pay raise this year. And I made a motion.

I remember some of my colleagues looked at me like I had a sexually transmitted disease or something. I mean, I made this motion, and I didn't think it was that big a deal. I got—I don't know how many members on the Appropriations Committee there are—35, 40. I got two votes. Everybody else suddenly had an important message on their phone.

So I learned a good lesson. I like to say my mother didn't raise a fool, and if she did, it was one of my brothers. But I was a fool then. But I am glad things have changed, and I hope we follow through.

Now, government waste takes many forms. But I will tell you one form. It is the purest form. It is when the Federal Government has taxpayer money and it doesn't belong to the Federal Government, but the Federal Government refuses to give it back. And that is the case we have in the Department of Treasury.

I don't want to be too hard on my friends at Treasury because they have come around. It has taken 8 years, but they have come around. The Department of Treasury is holding 95 million—not 950,000—95 million unredeemed and fully matured savings bonds.

I will explain what that means in a second.

The value is \$38 billion. Now, there are only 335 million Americans. So this is probably not realistic, but if one unredeemed bond—if you assess one unredeemed bond to one individual American, that is 30 percent of our country.

What is a matured, unredeemed savings bond? A savings bond, as you probably know, is just a loan to the government. That is all it is. You want to invest your money, and you want to help the government. Say you want to—in World War II, we sold a lot of bonds to help pay for World War II. You say, give money to the government, and over a long period of time—usually 20 or 30 years, sometimes 10 to 15—at the end, you will get back money, plus interest.

It is not like a regular bond where you get quarterly interest payments. You give your money to the Federal Government. The Federal Government takes your name and address. You get a piece of paper. And at the end of however long of a bond you buy—say, 20 years—you get back your principal, plus interest.

A good example is—there are all types of savings bonds, and I don't want to get too far down in the weeds. But let's take an EE U.S. savings bond. Suppose I buy one. I go to the Federal Government, I give the Federal Government \$200. They take my name; they take my address; they give me a sheet of paper. They used to give you an actual bond. They don't do that

anymore. I say, great, I just invested 200 bucks. In 20 years, I can go back to the Federal Government, and they will give me 400 bucks—my original 200 bucks, plus the interest. It is a great deal. It used to be parents would buy savings bonds for their children. And during World War II, the government financed part of the war selling savings bonds.

There is just one problem with this scenario. I have known this for a long time. The Federal Government has 95 million—\$38 billion worth of savings bonds over at Treasury. They have the names, and they have the addresses of all of these people. And the people who are owed that money, many of them are dead. But when those bonds matured, they didn't come get their money. You say: Well, that is OK. If you gave them \$200, it will just keep earning interest. No, it won't. It becomes interest-free. If I buy a 20-year bond, at the end of 20 years, if I don't come get my principal and my interest, I don't get any extra interest.

For a long time, the Department of Treasury has had the names of these 95 million people or their heirs, and it totals \$38 billion.

So, naive as I was, I went to the Department of Treasury and said: We need to give this money back to people. What is the problem? You have got names. You have got addresses.

After a while, you didn't have to be Einstein's cousin to figure out they weren't going to cooperate.

Now, finally, I got—I want to give him full credit—I got Secretary Mnuchin's attention. I mean, I understand Steve was busy. It wasn't a priority. But he directed his people to cooperate with me, and some of them did, and some of them didn't.

Then President Trump got defeated, and Secretary Yellen came in. Secretary Yellen—she tried to help, but multiple people opposed my idea.

So I finally just went and passed a bill. I passed the Unclaimed Savings Bond Act—and I want to thank President Biden for signing it—directing Treasury to give people's money back. I mean, how hard can this be?

Well, after I passed the law, I went to see the folks over there, and they said: Well, there is a problem we didn't tell you about. All of these records, these names and addresses, are in storage, and they have to be digitized. They are just a mess, OK. They have to be digitized.

I said: OK.

I went and got money put in the budget to digitize the records, and we have done that. About 97 percent of them have been digitized.

Then Treasury said: You know, it is not really our job to go look for people. We can put up a toll-free number.

I said: Here is what we will do. I want you to cooperate with the States. Every State has an unclaimed property program.

What is unclaimed property? When a business or government—supposed to

be the case—has your money and they can't find you, they can't keep it. If you go rent an apartment, for example, and put down a \$1,000 deposit and you move, that apartment owner is not supposed to keep your \$1,000. That apartment owner is supposed to turn it over to the State treasurer and the—all State treasurers do a wonderful job. They put your name on a website, and people can go and look it up and see if they have money.

Every State has an unclaimed property program. I mean, it is old bank accounts; it is stocks; it is bonds; it is mutual funds; it is royalties, royalty payments; it is health insurance proceeds; it is old tax refunds. Every treasurer—you can go to their website and put in your name or a friend's name and check to see if they have money.

When I was State treasurer, I had a program—it is a long story—when I was State treasurer and even before then, when I was a State tax collector, we returned about \$400 million to people in Louisiana.

So there is an infrastructure set up. Treasury doesn't have to do a thing—not a damn thing. Again, I want to give Secretary Mnuchin and Secretary Yellen full credit because they have been great, but it has been hard to get some of their people up off their ice-cold, lazy butts. But we passed the law, we got the records digitized, and my purpose of being here today is to try to tell folks after 8 years, we are—this summer, in about 6 months, we are going to take all those digital records, names and addresses, and they are going to be sent to the State treasurer in every State. The State treasurers are anxious to put names and addresses on their websites. They already publicized their programs. They are going to encourage their people to go to their State's website, and if they have an unredeemed, matured savings bond or, more likely, their mom or dad did or even their grandmother and they can prove that they are the child or the grandchild, as the case may be, they can get the money. They can get the money.

I know some folks at Treasury are upset about me. They loved having \$38 billion of taxpayer money sitting there on the books that they can use. But it is not right. You can call it waste if you want to. You can call it inefficiency if you want to. I don't care what you call it—it is not right.

So, this summer, I will be back to tell you when we turn the program on, but we are going to send 95 million names out to every State treasury in the Union, and they are going to start giving this money back. I hope all people have to do is go to a website and check their name, and the treasurer will take it from there.

I want to thank Secretary Yellen and I want to thank Secretary Mnuchin for working with me on this. I want to thank President Biden, and I want to thank President Trump. I want to

thank the people at Treasury who cooperated. I am sorry those who made it so difficult did, but we finally got it done.

So thank you. I think I did that quicker than 30 minutes.

With that, I either yield to Senator DURBIN—well, he doesn't want to speak.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH CHERYL COOMBE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Elizabeth Cheryl Coombe to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

Born in Ridgewood, NJ, Ms. Coombe earned her A.B. from Hamilton College in 1989 and her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1992.

After graduating from law school, she clerked for the Honorable Diana E. Murphy on the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota.

Ms. Coombe began her public service career as a staff attorney at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission from 1994 to 1996. There, she focused on the investigation of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., and of abusive market making activities in the Nasdaq Market.

From 1996 to 1997, she worked as a trial attorney in the Civil Division, Commercial Litigation Branch, National Courts Section at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Then, between 1998 and 2003, Ms. Coombe served as an assistant U.S. attorney (AUSA) in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

Since 2003, Ms. Coombe has held several roles of increasing responsibility in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York, including as: AUSA; team leader and Plattsburg office supervisor; deputy criminal chief; criminal chief; and most recently as first assistant U.S. attorney. In her current role, she oversees all criminal, civil, and appellate litigation conducted by more than 50 attorneys throughout the district.

Throughout her 30-year public service career, Ms. Coombe has tried approximately 19 cases before a jury and 20 bench trials.

The American Bar Association rated Ms. Coombe as "well qualified," and her nomination is strongly supported by her home State Senators, Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

With more than 20 years of experience serving as a Federal prosecutor in the Northern District of New York, Ms. Coombe is well-positioned to continue her service to the district on the Federal bench.

I am proud to support her nomination.

VOTE ON COOMBE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Coombe nomination?

Mr. BROWN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 312 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Helmy	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeben	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Cramer	Sinema	Vance
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The nomination was confirmed.

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

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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 844, Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Ben Ray Lujan, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Jeff Merkley, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Chris-

topher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio Mr. VANCE and the Senator from Missouri Mr. WICKER.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 313 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Helmy	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Butler	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Tester
Casey	Lujan	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeben	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Manchin	Stabenow	Wicker
Sinema	Vance	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF
ACT OF 2023

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5863 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5863) to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters.

There being no objection, the committee is discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read a third time.

Mr. PADILLA. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read a third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 5863) was passed.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I thank you for that.

For the folks watching at home, we just passed a significant disaster tax bill, which is critical to helping disaster survivors across the country, and it includes bipartisan legislation that I introduced, along with Senator WYDEN and Senator CASSIDY.

Our Protect Innocent Victims of Taxation After Fire Act would make sure that individuals, families, and entire communities who have suffered from utility-caused wildfires can receive the full compensation to rebuild their lives without fear that their settlement payments will be subject to taxes.

In my home State of California, over 70,000 people have been impacted by the destruction of the Butte fire, the North Bay fire, and the Camp fire in recent years.

Now, if you can imagine when you are wading through the ashes of your former home and thinking about how you can possibly begin to rebuild, the last thing you should have to worry about is that the government is going to tax the payment from your legal settlement that already fails to cover the full cost of your losses in the first place.

Disaster settlement funds aren't income. It is not an asset. It is compensation for what a family has lost. It is meant to be an opportunity to begin to rebuild your life—an opportunity that should not be diminished because our Tax Code is outdated.

And it is not just for my constituents—my constituents looking to rebuild—utility-caused fires are becoming increasingly common across the Western United States. This bill we just passed would make sure that all recent and future wildfire victims throughout the country have access to their full settlements. That includes those in Oregon and Hawaii who have either reached settlements or are still working through the process with the utilities that caused devastating wildfires.

This measure is a commonsense, bipartisan solution to protect Americans at the most difficult time in their lives.

I want to take a moment to thank Senator CASSIDY and Senator WYDEN for their partnership, as well as my California colleagues in the House, Representatives MIKE THOMPSON and DOUG LAMALFA, for their leadership on the issue in that Chamber. I look forward to seeing the President sign this bill into law as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, while he is on the floor, let me thank Senator PADILLA for our partnership, these many months, and also to Senator CASSIDY. And we Westerners have really strong views about this because the fires of the West today are not your grandfather's fires. They are bigger. They are hotter. They are more powerful. They are leaping over rivers. And the families that my colleague and I are talking about feel like they have been hit by a wrecking ball.

And after getting clobbered, they are saying to themselves, why can't I get a fair shake from the government? Why are they hitting me again, even though I don't have any income—as my colleague has said so well. These are people who have truly been visited by a disaster. Their homes and their businesses are burned. Their possessions and livelihood are gone.

And finally, the Federal Government is showing some common sense. That is what my friend from California has spelled out. Our effort is going to lift a big tax burden off these victims of wildfires and other natural disasters. We are getting rid of a totally unfair tax on legal fees associated with settlements after disasters. And by the way, we are fixing something that went haywire in the Republican's 2017 tax bill.

Now, we have been pushing our colleagues in a bipartisan way for months to do a bill that addresses this and other issues. I see in the Chair another very valuable member of the Finance Committee, our friend from New Hampshire Senator HASSAN. And she and I and others had a bill that got 357 votes in the House of Representatives that included this important legislation that Senator PADILLA and Senator CASSIDY and I have worked on.

I told my colleague that we had our 1,100th townhall meeting where the vic-

tims came and said: Ron, will it ever get done?

And I said: You bet it is going to get done. It is going to get done in the lameduck session.

They said: Why hasn't it happened earlier?

And the reality is, it should have happened earlier because you don't get 357 votes very often over there in the House of Representatives. It doesn't happen by osmosis. It is because my colleagues here are working in a bipartisan way and wanted to get this done.

So, we wanted, frankly, to do more. We wanted to do it earlier. But I say to my colleagues that we are going to keep going on the things from that package that got 357 votes in the House, like research and development expensing, which our friend from New Hampshire has championed, and ending double taxation between the U.S. and Taiwan.

But tonight, is an evening when Senator PADILLA and I have said, finally, after all this waiting, we are going to see relief for these people who have been clobbered by these huge infernos—because that is the only way to describe our fires, Senator PADILLA. These are infernos. It gets hot and dry on the forest floor. Somebody drops a match, maybe there is a lightning strike. Kaboom—and those people are finally tonight, through the work that has been done by my friend from California, and our friend from Louisiana, and a lot of Senators—Senator SCHATZ is another example—we are going to be able to tell folks in the West—it is only 5 o'clock or so in California and Oregon—who have been hit by these big fires, they are going to be able to go to bed tonight with a little relief that the Federal Government has finally come to its senses and made sure that they are not going to have this additional tax burden.

So, I want to thank my friend from California for his good work. He has been a terrific partner. I think it is very fitting that the Senator from New Hampshire is in the Chair because she, more than anybody than I know of on our committee, was really putting in the sweat equity for a bipartisan bill.

This is a good night for the people that we represent in the West. It is a good night for a lot of other people in this country. And I want to thank my colleague and the person who has led us on so many of these issues from New Hampshire, Senator HASSAN, because we are finally getting justice and a fair shake for people who did nothing wrong who have been visited by these fires and these disasters.

And the Federal Government is showing some common sense, which most of them, I think, would agree should have been shown quite some time ago. I thank my friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise in support of the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2024.

Three years after Hurricane Ida and months after Hurricane Francine hit Louisiana, communities are still recovering, and every bit we give helps. This bill allows Hurricanes Ida and Francine victims and other victims of natural disasters elsewhere in the country to deduct qualified disaster-related personal casualty losses from their income, even when above the standard deduction.

This is not new, and this is not novel. We have done it before. I led legislation to help the victims of Hurricane Laura and for those impacted by the great floods of 2016.

By the Senate passing the bill tonight, the bill will go to the President's desk to be signed into law, cutting taxes for Louisiana families who will use this money to rebuild. It goes without saying, we only have to look at North Carolina to say what an impact this can have elsewhere in the country.

We have to recognize that if a family wants to rebuild, we can give them a Federal handout, or we can say: Use your own resources.

And these are their own resources. The American people have always been there to help whoever has had a natural disaster. We in Louisiana have benefited. We in Louisiana will always help others.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

TRIBUTE TO LAPHONZA R. BUTLER

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I also rise today with the bittersweet task of saying farewell to my trusted partner for the State of California, Senator LAPHONZA BUTLER, as her tenure here in the Senate with us comes to end in the coming days.

You may recall that just over a year ago, Senator BUTLER was appointed to serve alongside me here in the U.S. Senate. I remember it vividly. In just a matter of days, she received a call from Governor Newsom, accepted the appointment, traveled to Washington to take the oath of office, and introduced herself to the Nation.

That alone is a tall task for anyone—imagine—to be called upon on such short notice to serve a State of nearly 40 million people—but it is another thing entirely to be asked to also, in the process, fill the shoes of the legendary Senator Dianne Feinstein, a titan of California politics and the U.S. Senate, who served with such honor and dignity and grace for over three decades, not to mention that she carried on her shoulders the fate of a narrow Senate Democratic majority. It literally rested on her appointment and willingness to serve. But as I think back and reflect on that moment in her decision to say yes, it takes a trailblazer to fill the seat of a trailblazer.

And LAPHONZA BUTLER was certainly no stranger to high stakes. She knew it and proved it as a union organizer, fighting for workers all across the Nation; she knew it as the onetime presi-

dent of California's SEIU Local 2015, representing members of California's largest home care and nursing home workers union; and she knew it as president of EMILY's List—all leadership positions that she held prior to joining us here in the Senate. So once she did join us here in the Senate, it was no surprise to me that she hit the ground running. She immediately set up an office and built a team of more than capable and passionate public servants who would help her and my office, frankly—we are a tag team, after all—serve the people of California.

Imagine, as she began to navigate the complex Senate procedures to effectively represent Californians, she was also learning, in the early days, how to simply navigate the halls of the U.S. Capitol—with the help of the legendary Alex Baldonado, I might add.

I was honored to serve alongside her here in the Senate, to offer her advice when I could and even lend staff assistance. In the year that has followed, I have been proud to work with her, nominating and confirming historic judicial nominees to the Federal bench, fighting for critical disaster funding for Californians in the relief we just passed a few minutes ago, working to protect and conserve our cherished public lands, and so much more.

Through it all, Senator BUTLER worked to also lift up the voices of all Californians, including through her Youth Advisory Council, empowering young Californians to get involved in the civic process.

So, Senator BUTLER, let the RECORD reflect that it has been an honor to serve alongside you these past 14 months. While we will miss you here in the U.S. Senate, I know that your work is far from over and that our partnership will continue. I have no doubt that I will see you in the trenches.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam 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 still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
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. 25-02, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$6.2 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-02

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: Republic of Korea.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$2.6 billion.
Other \$3.6 billion.
Total \$6.2 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Republic of Korea has requested to buy equipment and services to upgrade its F-15K aircraft fleet, including: Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Ninety-six (96) Advanced Display Core Processor II (ADCP II) mission system computers.

Seventy (70) AN/APG-82(v1) Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars.

Seventy (70) AN/ALQ-250 Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System (EPAWSS) electronic warfare (EW) suites.

Seventy (70) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS) with unique planning components; Computer Program Identification Numbers (CPINs); Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems; major modifications and maintenance support; aircraft components, parts, and accessories; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; training aids and devices; weapons software and software support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; aerial refueling support; aircraft ferry and transportation support; facilities and construction support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (KS-D-QHE).

(v) Prior Related Cases; if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission; Fee; etc.; Paid; Offered; or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(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: November 19, 2024.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Korea—F-15K Aircraft Upgrade

The Republic of Korea has requested to buy equipment and services to upgrade its F-15K aircraft fleet, including ninety-six (96) Advanced Display Core Processor II (ADCP II) mission system computers; seventy (70) AN/APG-82(v)1 Active Electronically Scanned Arrays (AESA) radars; seventy (70) AN/ALQ-250 Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System (EPAWSS) electronic warfare (EW) suites; and seventy (70) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS). The following non-MDE items will also be included: Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS) with unique planning components; Computer Program Identification Numbers (CPINs); Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems; major modifications and maintenance support; aircraft components, parts, and accessories; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; training aids and devices; weapons software and software support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; aerial refueling support; aircraft ferry and transportation support; facilities and construction support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$6.2 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

This proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea's capability to meet current and future threats by increasing its critical air defense capability to deter aggression in the region and to ensure interoperability with U.S. forces. The Republic of Korea will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The primary contractors will be Boeing Company, based in Arlington, VA; Raytheon Technologies, located in Forest, MS; and BAE Systems, situated in Falls Church, VA. The U.S. Government is not aware of any off-set agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Republic of Korea.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-02

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 AN/APG-82(v)1 is an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar up-

grade for the F-15. It includes higher processor power, higher transmission power, more sensitive receiver electronics, and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which creates higher-resolution ground maps from a greater distance than existing mechanically scanned array radars create. The upgrade features an increase in detection range of air targets, increases in processing speed and memory, as well as significant improvements in all modes.

2. The Advanced Display Core Processor II (ADCP II) is the mission processor for the F-15, managing the overall mission functions for the aircraft. The ADCP II controls the aircraft's avionics and provides data for the cockpit displays. It contains multiple core processors enabling rapid processing of data and is connected to aircraft systems by redundant MIL-STD-1553 buses and Ethernet interfaces.

3. The Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System (EPAWSS) is an advanced all-digital EW suite which provides the F-15 with fully integrated radar warning, geolocation, situational awareness, and self-protection solutions to detect and defeat surface and airborne legacy, current, and future threats in highly contested, dense signal environments. EPAWSS is equipped with advanced radio frequency (RF) electronic countermeasures (ECM), enabling deeper penetration against modern integrated air defense systems and providing rapid response capabilities designed to protect the aircrew.

4. The AN/AAR-57A Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) is the detection component of the suite of countermeasures designed to increase survivability of current generation combat aircraft and specialized special operations aircraft against the threat posed by infrared guided missiles.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. 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.

7. A determination has been made that the Republic of Korea can provide substantially 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.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Republic of Korea.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN, Madam 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 still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover

letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
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. 24-119, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-119

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 Ukraine.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0.

Other \$100 million.

Total \$100 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Equipment and services for refurbishment of vehicles; technical assistance; training; publications; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (UP-B-UCZ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(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: November 19, 2024.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—Blanket Order Sustainment of U.S. Army Supplied Systems

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy equipment and services for refurbishment of vehicles; technical assistance; training; publications; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$100 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

Ukraine has an urgent need to strengthen local sustainment capabilities to maintain high operational rates for U.S.-provided vehicles and weapon systems. This sustainment support will directly contribute to battlefield effectiveness, overall operational rates, logistics, and reduction of financial burdens as a result of a more resilient and rapid repair cycle.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be determined from approved vendors. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Ukraine.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY RECOVERY RESPONSE TO HURRICANE HELENE

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, today I recognize National Guard and Active-Duty troops who came to the aid of North Carolinians following the terrible devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

I want to particularly thank the North Carolina National Guard for their leadership, as well as their brothers and sisters in arms from 18 States who answered the call to provide life-saving aid when our State was in need. This includes guardsmen from Georgia, Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Florida, Indiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Ohio, South Carolina, New York, Minnesota, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Alabama. I would also like to thank the Active-Duty servicemembers from the XVIII Airborne Corps at Ft. Liberty, the 82nd Airborne Division, and those from Ft. Campbell's 101st Airborne Division who supported the Guard and communities across western North Carolina in both rescue and recovery operations.

To all those who came to western North Carolina's aid, you have my sincere thanks for your service and sacrifice. On behalf of the Senate, I thank you for your bravery and continued service.

REMEMBERING DONALD H. TURNER, JR.

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, Donald H. Turner, Jr., epitomized public service.

Don grew up in Milton, VT, a town of less than 11,000 people. When he was a boy, it had half that number. Don's family owned the local bowling alley and a construction company. His family's outsized presence in the town may be why he saw the entire community as family.

Don signed up as a volunteer firefighter at 16 and remained involved with the department for his entire life, serving 14 years as chief. On my last visit to Milton in March 2023, we discussed the challenges facing small fire departments and rescue squads, input that directly influenced legislation I introduced to reimburse emergency medical services providers for care they provide patients who are not transported to a hospital.

For the past 7 years, Don served as town manager in his hometown. If the

rescue squad was short a person to respond to a call, he would leave his office and hop in the ambulance.

Prior to serving in town government, Don represented his community in the Vermont House of Representatives for 13 years, including 8 as the minority leader. Perhaps that is why when he assumed leadership of his hometown government, he made his and the town staff's motto, "Get stuff done."

And he did.

A new town garage, something in the works before the birth of the town's current selectboard chair, was wrapped up in 2 years under Don's leadership. It is now named for him, with "Getting stuff done" written in large letters along one wall.

He also kept up the pressure on a transformative road project for the town, working through multiple issues to get the project underway in the past year.

Infrastructure is the most basic part of a town manager's job. Don went beyond that. A lifelong Republican, he led efforts in the town to examine its practices and policies with an eye toward making sure they were fair and allowed everyone to participate. This led to changes in the town's recreation department, where Don wanted to remove barriers to participation, including income or disabilities that might previously have kept children and adults on the sidelines. He championed an annual inclusion festival, in which he was an eager and proud participant.

In 2019, the Milton Public Library hosted a drag queen story time. When the event drew backlash, Don defended the library, attended the event, and had his photo taken with the drag queens.

When the tree topper was damaged ahead of the annual holiday tree lighting, Don made a new one in his garage.

No business in town was too small to receive Don's support. If there was a ribbon to be cut or a grand opening that needed attendees, he was there, regardless of the day or time.

When the high school needed someone to transport supplies for an event, Don pulled up in his truck.

His dedication to his town earned him the nickname "Mr. Milton."

Don believed that, "If you look after people, they will look after you." He lived that belief, setting an example, not only for his community, but for all of us who are committed to public service.

He passed away on Saturday, November 30, after a brief battle with cancer. Don was 60 years old.

Margaret and I extend our condolences to his wife Gail and his daughters Emily, Hillary, and Erin, as well as their families and loved ones. And I also give comfort to the Milton community, who lost a neighbor, friend, and important member of their community.

Donald H. Turner, Jr., will be missed by many in Vermont.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD JOHNSON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Harold Johnson of Walnut Ridge for his decades of service to memorialize and champion Arkansas' legacy in aviation history.

Johnson was born in Saline County where he fostered an interest in aviation from a young age. This passion led him to become a pilot and flight instructor and, later, a commercial pilot for 18 years.

His experience in the skies was perhaps most notable for a harrowing encounter while serving as a copilot during the hijacking of Southern Airways Flight 49 on November 10, 1972. During this ordeal that lasted over 30 hours and spanned the U.S., Canada, and Cuba, Harold was able to ensure all passengers landed safely, despite having been shot in the arm.

After his retirement from commercial flight, Johnson channeled his continued love for aviation into the creation of an aviation shrine in Walnut Ridge, AR, which will celebrate its 26th anniversary on March 2, 2025.

As president and founder of the Wings of Honor Museum, he began a new mission to preserve the stories of Arkansas veterans through reflection and education by repurposing the Walnut Ridge Army Flying school and surrounding historical buildings.

The museum's growth and success are a direct result of Johnson's efforts and desire to inspire members of his community and far beyond. Wings of Honor is home to hundreds of aviation cadet class books, airfield records, aerial navigation charts, and the biographies of over 21,000 Arkansans who served in WWII. Beyond the numerous artifacts, aircraft, and unique visual displays, it is his tangible love of learning and keeping history alive that will continue to leave an impression on guests and visitors.

From his days as a pilot to his natural role as a community leader and teacher, Johnson's dedication and impact have been celebrated widely. He was inducted into the Arkansas Aviation Historical Society Hall of Fame in 2017 and was named the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce 2024 Man of the Year.

I thank him for his years of stewardship that generated such tremendous success for the Wings of Honor Museum and the Walnut Ridge community and wish him all the best with continuing to prepare a new generation of leadership to carry on that important legacy. •

TRIBUTE TO GERALD JOHNSON

• Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise today to honor an accomplished and highly regarded leader in Michigan's automotive industry, Mr. Gerald Johnson, executive vice president of

global manufacturing and sustainability for General Motors. Gerald has made an immeasurable impact on General Motors and the metro-Detroit community over the past 44 years, and it is a privilege to recognize him here today and celebrate his upcoming retirement.

Gerald began his career with General Motors in 1980, working as a group leader at the Fisher Body Plant in Euclid, OH. This began his decades long career with General Motors that includes a number of leadership roles, professional achievements, and a legacy of excellence that will stand for years to come.

While serving as vice president of operational excellence, Gerald and his team placed an emphasis on improvement and efficiency, including innovations in process discipline and waste elimination. In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, Gerald used his extensive experience and knowledge in the manufacturing space to lead a team that produced critical medical supplies, such as ventilators and facemasks, for frontline medical workers, while implementing highly successful return-to-work safety protocols across the company. Beyond his work during the COVID-19 pandemic, Gerald also served as vice president of General Motors North American manufacturing and relations, bringing his expertise and insight to a wide swath of the company's operations. In his final role with General Motors, Gerald served as the executive vice president of GM's global manufacturing, manufacturing engineering, labor relations, and sustainability organizations, which included directing the work of more than 94,800 employees located across 4 continents and 13 countries.

Throughout the many positions and leadership roles Gerald has occupied across his career, what has remained consistent is his commitment to fostering positive change within General Motors and across the metro-Detroit area. This is evidenced by Gerald's work as a founding member of the GM inclusion advisory board. As well, as an alumnus of Kettering University in Flint, MI, Gerald serves on the university's board of trustees and continues to mentor young professionals starting out in their careers, along with serving on the National Board of Directors for the United Negro College Fund, UNCF. Named the 2021 Black Engineer of the Year by the Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) selection committee and presented during the BEYA STEM Conference. Additionally, the Michigan Chronicle has recognized Gerald among the Most Powerful African Americans in Southeast Michigan with several awards over the years. Most recently, in 2024, he was named to the Chronicle's Power 50 list. He has inspired hundreds of men and women to pursue and maintain careers in manufacturing and the automotive industry for more than four decades. Protégés speak of his ability to help them develop their

critical thinking skills and navigate daily decisions. Through these constant efforts, Gerald has undoubtedly made an indelible mark on General Motors's global workforce, while helping to lead efforts across the automotive industry to encourage more young professionals from diverse backgrounds to pursue careers in manufacturing, engineering, design, and beyond.

His passion for helping others enrich their lives is apparent in every aspect of Gerald's life. In 2018, Gerald and his wife Darlynn started the Gathering Church in Farmington Hills, MI. Along with helping families, the Gathering Church supports teens at the Detroit Covenant House, helps men at Mariner's Inn homeless shelter in Detroit, and inner-city children at the Detroit Leadership Academy.

Gerald has also been an ordained elder in the Detroit World Outreach Christian Center Church in Redford, MI, where he led the men's ministry known as Men of Valor. At 700 men strong, the ministry is focused on mentoring, teaching, and outreach to those in need.

I cannot understate the impact that Gerald Johnson has made on General Motors and, by extension, on the metro-Detroit community. His hard work and dedication over these many years steadfastly promoted positive change and created a culture at General Motors that continues to attract an immensely talented and diverse workforce. Though Gerald's leadership at General Motors will be missed, his legacy will most certainly endure and continue to inspire. ●

TRIBUTE TO PAM RUBINOFF

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to honor my constituent Pam Rubinoff. Pam is the coastal resilience lead for the Rhode Island Sea Grant and the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center. She has spent three decades engaging with coastal communities, helping them implement science-informed coastal management and shoreline protection measures. Pam started her career working with coastal communities in Latin America and Africa but has focused her outreach in Rhode Island for the past 10 years. She has helped coastal communities address a range of challenges, including flooding and rising sea levels caused by climate change.

Pam's steadfast commitment to coastal communities in Rhode Island and beyond will have a lasting effect and protect people and communities from flooding and erosion. Pam worked with the city of Providence to pilot a near-real-time storm forecasting and infrastructure impact assessment tool, which has helped prioritize public emergency personnel response to flooded urban neighborhoods. With Pam's help, the Providence Resilience Partnership catalyzed \$2.3 million in Fed-

eral funding for a range of projects, including a climate risk assessment of the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier, the neighborhood's main line of defense against major storms. She created the first-ever Military Installation Resilience Review plan for Naval Station Newport, a U.S. Navy property located in a flood zone that is at growing risk for coastal inundation. Pam has also advanced scientific and community engagement through solutions like MyCoastRI, an app-based tool to gather and analyze photos of flooding and storm impacts.

In addition to her scientific work, Pam is great mentor for the next generation of coastal management professionals. Countless undergraduate and graduate students who Pam mentored are now local partners in emergency management, sustainability, and other professions where they put climate science to use. Her ability to clearly communicate the need for shoreline protection makes her highly sought after by government advisory committees, industry groups, community organizations, and the media. I applaud Pam's work and thank her on behalf of all the Ocean State. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:24 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, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 3791. An act to reauthorize the America's Conservation Enhancement Act, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3960. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide a good faith exception to the imposition of fines for false assertions and certifications, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5103. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6395. An act to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to require the Secretary of the Interior to include the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultations regarding designations of critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials.

H.R. 6826. An act to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center.

H.R. 6843. An act to expand the boundaries of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

H.R. 7177. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to consolidate certain divisions in the Northern District of Alabama.

H.R. 7316. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to correct related technical errors.

H.R. 7324. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code.

H.R. 7326. An act to amend chapters 4, 10, and 131 of title 5, United States Code, as necessary to keep those chapters current and to correct related technical errors.

H.R. 7332. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7339. An act to make revisions in title 51, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current, and to make technical amendments to improve the United States Code.

H.R. 7341. An act to make technical amendments to title 49, United States Code, as necessary to improve the Code.

H.R. 7872. An act to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8666. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize holding court for the Central Division of Utah in Moab and Monticello.

H.R. 9151. An act to strengthen the Department of Justice's enforcement against trade-related crimes.

H.R. 9563. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the availability of civil actions affected by United States sanctions, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to 1092(b)(2) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the Senate jointly appoint the following individual to serve as Co-Chair of the Commission on the Future of the Navy: Ms. Mackenzie Eaglen of Arlington, Virginia.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 5103. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 6395. An act to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to require the Secretary of the Interior to include the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultations regarding designations of critical minerals, elements, substances, and materials; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7177. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to consolidate certain divisions in the Northern District of Alabama; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 7316. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 7324. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 7339. An act to make revisions in title 51, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current, and to make technical amendments to improve the United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 7341. An act to make technical amendments to title 49, United States Code, as necessary to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 8666. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize holding court for the Central Division of Utah in Moab and Monticello; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 9151. An act to strengthen the Department of Justice's enforcement against trade-related crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 7332. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6637. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Shelby County, Tennessee; Revisions to Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction Rules" (FRL No. 12238-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6638. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; ID; Update Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 12269-01-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6639. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tennessee: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 12278-01-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6640. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; New Haven and Fairfield Counties Second 10-Year Limited Maintenance Plan for the 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 Standard" (FRL No. 12283-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6641. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Rubber Tire Manufacturing" ((RIN2060-AV70) (FRL No. 5949.1-03-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6642. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Plan Requirements for Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units That Commenced Construction On or Before June 4, 2010 and Have Not Been Modified or Reconstructed Since August 7, 2013" ((RIN2060-AT28) (FRL No. 5960-02-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6643. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval; North Carolina; Second Period Regional Haze Plan" (FRL No. 10405-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6644. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Second Period Regional Haze Plan" (FRL No. 10407-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6645. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Texas: Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program" (FRL No. 9522-01-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6646. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Second Period Regional Haze Plan" (FRL No. 12100-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6647. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions" ((RIN2060-AW02) (FRL No. 10246.1-03-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6648. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Lime Manufacturing Plants Technology Review; Correction" ((RIN2060-AV59) (FRL No. 5948.2-02-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6649. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Maryland; Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date for the 2010 1-Hour Primary Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 11858-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in

the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6650. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval; North Dakota; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period” (FRL No. 12052-02-R8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6651. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval; Wyoming; Regional Haze Plan for the Second Implementation Period” (FRL No. 12135-02-R8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6652. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval; Utah; Regional Haze State Implementation Period; Air Plan Disapproval; Utah; Prong 4 (Visibility) for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard” (FRL No. 12173-02-R8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6653. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Nebraska: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference” (FRL No. 12274-03-R7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6654. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Nuclear Credit Program and Recapture of Credits” (RIN1901-AB57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6655. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program for Appliance Standards: Certification Requirements, Labeling Requirements, and Enforcement Provisions for Certain Consumer Products and Commercial Equipment” (RIN1904-AF48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6656. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Oil, Electric, and Weatherized Gas Consumer Furnaces” (RIN1904-AF19) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6657. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Department of Energy Acquisition Regulation” (RIN1991-AC17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6658. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnace Fans” (RIN1904-AE64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6659. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Office of Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Department of Energy Acquisition Regulation” (RIN1991-AC17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6660. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6661. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Review of Medicare Administrative Contractor Information Security Program Evaluations for Fiscal Year 2023”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6662. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Annual Report to Congress on the Medicare and Medicaid Integrity Programs for Fiscal Year 2023”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6663. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Alternative Payment Model Updates and the Increasing Organ Transplant Access Model” (RIN0938-AU51) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6664. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Extension of Transition Process for Claiming the Statutory Exceptions to the Elective Payment Phaseouts” (Notice 2024-84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6665. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System” (RIN0970-AC98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6666. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and

Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a waiver for the statutory requirement that the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense and Australian Department of Defense contracts supporting the Deep-space Advanced Radar Capability sites in those countries be made on a competitive basis and the requirement that United States’ companies not be precluded from competing under the contracts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6667. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Determination Under Section 614(a) (1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Assistance to Ukraine”; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6668. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the intent to exercise the authority under section 614(a) (1) of the FAA to provide military assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6669. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Denmark and the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-068); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6670. A communication from Senior Attorney Advisor, AmeriCorps, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Protection of the Human Subjects” (RIN3045-AA60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6671. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Increase Flexibility for Tribes in Child Care and Development Fund Eligibility” (RIN0970-AD11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6672. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Income Contingent Repayment Plan Options” (RIN1840-AD97) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6673. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “HHS Continues to Make Progress Towards Compliance With the Geospatial Data Act”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6674. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Organ Procurement and Transplantation: Implementation of the HIV Organ Policy Equity” (RIN0937-AA13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6675. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Institute

on Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Endowment Programs” (RIN0925-AA70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 26, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6676. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Fiscal Year 2023 Report to Congress on Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Activities - Community Economic Development and Rural Community Development Programs”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6677. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Performance and Accountability report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6678. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6679. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6680. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administrator’s Semiannual Management Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6681. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6682. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6683. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6684. A communication from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6685. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6686. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of the General Counsel, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report of a rule entitled “General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; SAM Representation for Leases” (RIN3090-AK22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6687. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6688. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2024-002, Prohibition on Unmanned Aircraft Systems from Covered Foreign Entities” (RIN9000-AO70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6689. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025-01, Small Entity Compliance Guide” (FAC 2025-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6690. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6691. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6692. A joint communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation’s Annual Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6693. A communication from the Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions from the Unanticipated Needs Account for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6694. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations and Security Standards, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Minimum Standards for Driver’s Licenses and Identification Cards Acceptable by Federal Agencies for Official Purposes; Waiver for Mobile Driver’s Licenses” (RIN1652-AA76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6695. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Reports from

the Treasury Inspector General and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration for the period from April 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6696. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6697. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6698. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6699. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Foundation’s fiscal year 2024 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6700. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1898. A bill to amend the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-259).

S. 4442. A bill to amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-260).

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

S. 4505. A bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of Ohkay Owingeh in the Rio Chama Stream System, to restore the Bosque on Pueblo Land in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-261).

S. 4643. A bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-262).

S. 4998. A bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-263).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. 5419. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to maintain a

list of the country of origin of certain critical drugs marketed in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 5420. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 by requiring a distribution analysis of a bill or resolution under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 5421. A bill to provide enhanced provisions for advanced nuclear energy projects receiving loan guarantees through the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 5422. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a contribution limit and increased minimum distributions for certain retirement plans with large account balances; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 5423. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to promote family unity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 5424. A bill to prohibit gender transition procedures on minors, to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to impose civil penalties on persons who perform gender transition procedures on minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 5425. A bill to require congressional approval for rules that are expected to cost not less than \$50,000,000 annually, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 5426. A bill to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect and identify illicit substances in very low concentrations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 5427. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit Federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 5428. A bill to provide women with increased access to preventative and life-saving cancer screening; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 198

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 198, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize provisions relating to rural health clinics under Medicare.

S. 1110

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1110, a bill to amend title

XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1673

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1673, a bill to amend title XVIII to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1800

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1800, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes.

S. 1840

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1840, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, and for other purposes.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3751

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3751, a bill to expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 3967

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3967, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program.

S. 4352

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4352, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Benton MacKaye Trail as a national scenic trail.

S. 4373

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4373, a bill to provide for congressional

approval of national emergency declarations.

S. 4516

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4516, a bill to ensure equal protection of the law, to prevent racism in the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 5062

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5062, a bill to address sexual harassment and sexual assault of Bureau of Prisons staff in prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 5399

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5399, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to provide bankruptcy protections for medically distressed debtors, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3310. Mr. PADILLA (for Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. VANCE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. CASEY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3738, to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

SA 3311. Mr. PADILLA (for Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. ERNST)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3242, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to revise the shareholder threshold for registration under that Act for issuers that receive support through certain Federal universal service support mechanisms, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3310. Mr. PADILLA (for Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. VANCE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. CASEY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3738, to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024” or the “GLRI Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 118(c)(7)(J)(i)(VI) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(7)(J)(i)(VI)) is amended by striking “fiscal year 2026” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031”.

SA 3311. Mr. PADILLA (for Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. ERNST)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3242, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to revise the shareholder threshold for registration under that Act for

issuers that receive support through certain Federal universal service support mechanisms, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Access to Capital Creates Economic Strength and Supports Rural America Act” or the “ACCESS Rural America Act”.

SEC. 2. EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

Section 12(g)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 781(g)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(I) any security where—

“(i) the issuer of the security, during its previous fiscal year—

“(I) received support through the Federal universal service support mechanism for rural, insular, and high cost areas established under section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254); and

“(II) with respect to such fiscal year, not later than 120 days after the last day of such fiscal year, filed with the Commission a financial summary form that—

“(aa) the issuer also delivered to each holder of record; and

“(bb) included—

“(AA) a summary of the consolidated balance sheet and consolidated income statement of the issuer; and

“(BB) such other financially material information as the Commission determines is necessary and appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors;

“(ii) as of the last day of the previous fiscal year of the issuer of the security, the security is held of record by—

“(I) more than 500 persons that are not accredited investors; and

“(II) fewer than 2,000 persons; and

“(iii) the issuer of the security has total assets of not more than \$10,000,000, which the Commission shall index for inflation every 5 years to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, rounded to the nearest \$100,000.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I have one request for committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until December, 6, 2024: Phoebe Coote and Emmanuel Ogundipe.

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

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE ACT OF 2024

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 366, S. 3738.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3738) to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous consent that the Stabenow substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 3310) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024” or the “GLRI Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 118(c)(7)(J)(i)(VI) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(7)(J)(i)(VI)) is amended by striking “fiscal year 2026” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031”.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PADILLA. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3738), as amended, was passed.

Mr. PADILLA. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

SECOND CHANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 4477 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4477) to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a

third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 4477) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4477

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 “Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PROGRAMS.

(a) STATE AND LOCAL REENTRY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Section 2976 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) treating substance use disorders, including by providing peer recovery services, case management, and access to overdose education and overdose reversal medications; and

“(10) providing reentry housing services.”; and

(2) in subsection (o)(1), by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

(b) GRANTS FOR FAMILY-BASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT.—Section 2926(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10595a(a)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

(c) GRANT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL METHODS AT PRISONS, JAILS, AND JUVENILE FACILITIES.—Section 1001(a)(28) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(28)) is amended by striking “2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

(d) CAREERS TRAINING DEMONSTRATION GRANTS.—Section 115(f) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60511(f)) is amended by striking “2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

(e) OFFENDER REENTRY SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COLLABORATION PROGRAM.—Section 201(f)(1) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60521(f)(1)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

(f) COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICE GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 211(f) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60531(f)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

FIREFIGHTER CANCER REGISTRY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3821.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3821) to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PADILLA. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PADILLA. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 3821) was passed.

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

ACCESS TO CAPITAL CREATES ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND SUPPORTS RURAL AMERICA ACT

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee be discharged from and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3242.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3242) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to revise the shareholder threshold for registration under that Act for issuers that receive support through certain Federal universal service support mechanisms, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I further ask that the Baldwin substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 3311) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Access to Capital Creates Economic Strength and Supports Rural America Act" or the "ACCESS Rural America Act".

SEC. 2. EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

Section 12(g)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 781(g)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(I) any security where—

"(i) the issuer of the security, during its previous fiscal year—

"(I) received support through the Federal universal service support mechanism for rural, insular, and high cost areas established under section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254); and

"(II) with respect to such fiscal year, not later than 120 days after the last day of such fiscal year, filed with the Commission a financial summary form that—

"(aa) the issuer also delivered to each holder of record; and

"(bb) included—

"(AA) a summary of the consolidated balance sheet and consolidated income statement of the issuer; and

"(BB) such other financially material information as the Commission determines is necessary and appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors;

"(ii) as of the last day of the previous fiscal year of the issuer of the security, the security is held of record by—

"(I) more than 500 persons that are not accredited investors; and

"(II) fewer than 2,000 persons; and

"(iii) the issuer of the security has total assets of not more than \$10,000,000, which the Commission shall index for inflation every 5 years to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, rounded to the nearest \$100,000."

The bill (S. 3242), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VSO EQUAL TAX TREATMENT ACT

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1432, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1432) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deductibility of charitable contributions to certain organizations for members of the Armed Forces.

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

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PADILLA. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1432) was passed.

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

NATIONAL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 910.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 910) designating November 2024 as "National Hospice and Palliative Care Month".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PADILLA. 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 910) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 21, 2024, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONNECTED MATERNAL ONLINE MONITORING ACT

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 712 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 712) to identify and address barriers to coverage of remote physiologic devices under State Medicaid programs to improve maternal and child health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum women.

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

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PADILLA. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 712) was passed as follows:

S. 712

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 "Connected Maternal Online Monitoring Act" or the "Connected MOM Act".

SEC. 2. COVERAGE OF REMOTE PHYSIOLOGIC MONITORING DEVICES AND IMPACT ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH OUTCOMES UNDER MEDICAID.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report containing information on authorities and State practices for covering remote physiologic monitoring devices, including limitations and barriers to such coverage and the impact on maternal health outcomes, and to the extent appropriate, recommendations on how to address such limitations or barriers related to coverage of remote physiologic devices under State Medicaid programs, including, but not limited to, pulse oximeters,

blood pressure cuffs, scales, and blood glucose monitors, with the goal of improving maternal and child health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum women enrolled in State Medicaid programs.

(b) STATE RESOURCES.—Not later than 6 months after the submission of the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall update resources for State Medicaid programs, such as State Medicaid telehealth toolkits, to be consistent with the recommendations provided in such report.

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 5, 2024

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 5; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of pro-

ceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Johnson nomination; further, that at 11:30 a.m. the Senate vote on confirmation of the Davenport nomination, as under the order of December 4, and that upon disposition of the Davenport nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Johnson nomination; that following the cloture vote, the Senate resume consideration of the Neary nomination; further, that at 1:45 p.m. the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Neary nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:08 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 4, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

ANTHONY J. BRINDISI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

ELIZABETH C. COOMBE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BOARDMEMBER
MICHELLE NEWMAN

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Boardmember Michelle Newman for her service on the Ohio State Board of Education, and my sincere gratitude for all that she has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated her partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Her drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that she has bettered countless lives as a result of her steadfast service. Throughout her time in office, she proved to be a true public servant and leader. She has led by example through her perseverance, compassion, and dedication to her role in the community.

As she goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank her for her commitment to the people of Northeast Ohio and our entire state.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR LENARD SMITH

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant First Class Lenard Smith of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. It is with deep respect and gratitude that we recognize the extraordinary service and dedication of Sergeant First Class Smith, United States Army and United States Air Force (Ret.), for his 22 years of selfless service to our Nation, his unwavering commitment to duty, and his continued contributions to his community.

SGT 1st Class Smith served with distinction in both the United States Army and the United States Air Force, making significant contributions to our Nation's defense during a period of great challenge and transformation. His service in Vietnam exemplifies the courage, resilience, and patriotism that have defined his entire career. His sacrifice and dedication to his country have earned him the respect and admiration of all who served alongside him.

Throughout his military career, SGT 1st Class Smith demonstrated exceptional leadership, discipline, and a steadfast commitment to excellence. Known for his humility, he never sought the spotlight and has consistently put the welfare of others above his own. His willingness to lead by example and to shoulder

the toughest tasks earned him the trust and admiration of his peers and subordinates alike.

After retiring from military service, SGT 1st Class Smith did not retire from service to others. He has remained a beacon of strength and leadership within his local community, where he is active in his church and has founded a men's fellowship group to help foster unity, mentorship, and personal growth. His example of faith, service, and leadership continues to inspire those around him. Additionally, his work supporting children with autism, providing both time and resources to help improve their lives, reflects his deep compassion and commitment to making the world a better place for all.

A man of deep conviction, SGT 1st Class Smith has often stated that if called upon, he would serve again without hesitation. His love for America, his community, and his fellow citizens is evident in every aspect of his life, both during his military service and in his post-service activities.

In recognition of his exemplary service to our Nation, his humility, and his ongoing commitment to bettering his community, we are proud to commend Sergeant First Class Smith for his outstanding 22 years of service to the United States of America. His legacy of courage, integrity, and dedication will continue to inspire future generations of soldiers, airmen, and citizens alike.

I am honored to represent Sergeant First Class Smith in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

HONORING KIDS IN DANGER AND
NANCY COWLES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Kids In Danger and its longtime Executive Director and my friend, Nancy Cowles. Headquartered in my home state of Illinois, Kids In Danger is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by fighting for product safety. After over 25 years of protecting children, Kids In Danger will be closing its doors by the end of the year.

Founded in 1998 by the parents of sixteen-month-old Danny Keysar who died when a poorly designed and recalled portable crib collapsed around his neck in his childcare home, Kids In Danger's mission is to save lives by enhancing transparency and accountability through safer product development, better education and stronger advocacy for children.

Nancy Cowles has been Kids In Danger's executive director since 2001 and has passionately advocated for stronger safety standards for children's products to protect all our children, and educated parents, caregivers,

and health professionals about recalled and dangerous children's products.

Nancy and Kids In Danger's hard-fought victories for children include the landmark 2008 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, including Danny's Law requiring strong standards for cribs and other nursery products.

Nancy oversaw the development of the KID Design Safety Toolkit, a free online course for children's product developers to educate them about design safety in the product development process to prevent injuries.

For over two decades, Nancy has been a leader and mentor for parent advocates who lost their children due to hazardous products and assisted them in their advocacy for stronger safety measures at both the national and local levels, including safe infant sleep and preventing furniture tip-overs and button cell and coin cell battery ingestion.

I thank Kids In Danger and Nancy Cowles for their work to protect all our children and grandchildren from hazardous products.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 479.

RECOGNIZING STARK COUNTY
PROBATE JUDGE DIXIE PARK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Judge Dixie Park for her service as a Stark County Probate Judge, and my sincere gratitude for all that she has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated her partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Her drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that she has bettered countless lives as a result of her steadfast service. Throughout her 21 years in the position, she has proven to be a true public servant and leader. Since taking the bench, she has been a champion for seniors and the disabled, and led by example through her perseverance, compassion, and dedication in her role in the community and those she served.

As the first woman to serve as a Stark County Probate Judge, she has undoubtedly inspired the coming generation of young women to stand strong for what they believe in and strive for positions of leadership.

• 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.

For her outstanding devotion, she has earned the respect and esteem of many, and in the wake of her departure, I know her numerous contributions will not be forgotten. I am confident that her fine character and decisive leadership will be solely missed.

As she goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Again, on behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I would like to thank Judge Dixie Park for her commitment to the people of Stark County and to North-east Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR RONALD WEA-
VER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Airman First Class Ronald Weaver of Plano, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. It is with great pride and admiration that we honor Airman First Class Ron Weaver, a distinguished veteran of the United States Air Force, who served with honor and distinction from 1950 to 1954. During his service, Airman Weaver demonstrated exceptional dedication, technical expertise, and a deep sense of duty—qualities that he has continued to embody throughout his life.

Stationed in Japan and deployed to Korea, Airman Weaver's primary responsibility was the maintenance and repair of aircraft electronics systems, a critical role that ensured the success of missions in some of the most challenging and dangerous regions of the world. His technical skills, commitment to excellence, and unwavering dedication to his country earned him numerous honors, including the United Nations Service Medal and the Korean Service Medal—recognitions of his outstanding contributions during the Korean War.

Airman Weaver's sense of duty extended beyond his military service, as he has continued to serve his community in remarkable ways. Upon returning to civilian life, he became a dedicated advocate for the Hispanic community in Plano, Texas, where he has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those around him.

Additionally, Airman Weaver's commitment to service has extended to volunteering at Julia's Center for Healthcare, where he has dedicated countless hours to assisting in a variety of capacities. Whether providing guidance to patients or supporting healthcare workers, his selflessness and compassion have made a lasting impact on all those who have had the privilege of working with him.

Perhaps one of his most profound contributions has been his mentorship of high school and college students, where he has shared his experiences, wisdom, and insights, helping young people navigate their educational and professional journeys. His guidance has empowered countless individuals to pursue careers with purpose and integrity, just as he did during his time in the Air Force.

Airman Weaver's life has been a testament to the values of service, dedication, and leadership. He embodies the highest ideals of the

United States Air Force and continues to make a significant impact on the lives of others through his volunteer work and community engagement.

We salute Airman First Class Ron Weaver for his service to his country, his community, and the countless individuals whose lives he has touched. His legacy of service, mentorship, and compassion will continue to inspire future generations.

I am honored to represent Airman Weaver in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING FORMER CHINO
MAYOR DENNIS R. YATES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mayor Dennis R. Yates and his 24 years of public service and commitment to the City of Chino. He was also an honorable Vietnam War veteran, serving in the Air Force from 1966 to 1970 and receiving the Air Force Commendation Medal for his valiant service.

Dennis Yates was elected to the Chino City Council in 1992. Throughout his distinguished career, Mayor Yates was instrumental in shaping Chino's growth and development. His leadership saw the establishment of the Chaffey College Community Campus and Information Technology Center, the renovation of Downtown Chino, the construction of low-cost senior housing, and the construction of the Carolyn Owens Community Center.

Additionally, Mayor Yates was dedicated to advocating for youth programs. He was integral in the creation of the Chino Youth Museum, a lasting tribute to his belief in fostering educational opportunities for children. He also spent decades as a volunteer and mentor with Chino Pop Warner football, where the Yates Field at Ayala Park stands in his honor, named after him in recognition of his 28 years of service to the program. Mayor Yates' unwavering dedication to his community was honored with Chino's highest accolade, the prestigious Spirit of Achievement Award in 2019.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. This September, Mayor Yates passed away at the age of 79. I offer my deepest condolences to his family.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Mayor Dennis R. Yates. His years of civic service and commitment to the city and the people of Chino are worthy of the highest commendation. He will be missed.

HONORING JOHNNIE KABERLE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize an invaluable staff member of the

House Committee on Appropriations, Johnnie Kaberle, whose 30 years of tireless work for the federal government—and more specifically the United States House of Representatives—exemplifies the devotion and commitment of a distinguished public servant.

Johnnie's government career began in 1994 when she joined the office of former Congressman Nick Smith, serving as Legislative Assistant. Johnnie served in this same capacity for Representatives Dick Chrysler and Lamar Smith until August of 1999, when she joined my team as Legislative Director.

In 2003, at the start of the 108th Congress, Johnnie assumed the position of Senior Policy Advisor for Majority Whip Roy Blunt. In this role, Johnnie's ability to negotiate, build coalitions, and remain calm in crisis made her stand out amongst the crowd. She aided the Whip team in identifying roadblocks and negotiating directly with Members of Congress and other stakeholders to ensure the passage of pivotal legislation on the House floor. In addition to conducting comprehensive research and legislative analysis, Johnnie drafted speeches and talking points for Whip Blunt on key policy positions. Having mastered these responsibilities, Johnnie directly assisted in advancing the Republican Leadership's agenda and contributed to the development of the party's long-term strategic policy goals.

When the House Majority switched hands in 2007, Johnnie continued to serve as the Senior Policy Advisor for then-Minority Whip Blunt. This role was a pivotal part of Johnnie's development into the politically savvy leader she is today, but just as importantly, she made lifelong friendships with a cadre of Members and staff who would lead the House Republican Conference in the coming decades.

After six years with Congressman Roy Blunt, Johnnie returned to work for me at the beginning of the 11th Congress. Serving as my Senior Policy Advisor, Johnnie acted as the point of contact for all appropriations issues as well as defense, homeland security, and transportation authorizing policy. Johnnie's work ethic and expertise earned her the promotion to Policy Director.

While I served as the Chairwoman of the State and Foreign Operations and Defense Appropriations subcommittees, Johnnie provided me with direct support by serving as a conduit between my team, committee staff, federal agency leadership, and heads of state. Johnnie worked to align my agenda with the broader leadership goals and closely coordinated with the appropriations subcommittees in drafting and negotiating legislative proposals. She handled each issue—from meetings with the King of Jordan and the President of Egypt, to advocating for critical resources for Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth—with her patented expertise and enthusiasm.

Having displayed her broad skillset throughout her years of dedicated service, Johnnie transitioned into the role of Deputy Chief of Staff in January 2015. In this position, Johnnie managed 17 direct reports to drive my legislative agenda and effectively represent the 12th district of Texas. This included setting policy priorities, conducting policy research, and managing constituent engagement. Equally important, during her tenure in my personal office, Johnnie took seriously the professional development of the young staffers and defense fellows that were part of Team Granger.

Many of these young professionals have gone on to capably lead their own teams or military units. Johnnie truly left a lasting impression on each of them.

When I was named the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations to begin the 116th Congress, I could think of no one I wanted more as my Deputy Staff Director than Johnnie. Given her wealth of knowledge and leadership abilities, Johnnie effortlessly managed a team of 30 direct reports to liaise with Members of Congress, Executive Branch agencies, and external stakeholders to develop appropriations legislation that reflected House Republican priorities. She served as one of two principal Republican Appropriations staffers in negotiating six omnibus and consolidated appropriations acts—balancing various political interests and addressing priorities to ensure continued government funding. As the new Republican leader of Appropriations, responsiveness to Member requests and questions was critical for me. In response, Johnnie launched a first-of-kind “concierge Member services” program and centralized operational support for congressional offices. Further, she created an “Appropriations 101” class to educate Members and their staff on the nuances of the appropriations process. She also coordinated with congressional leaders, committee chairs, and administration officials to reach agreements on funding and policy provisions. Johnnie aided the Staff Director in advocating for my priorities and those of Leadership in annual spending bills and supplementals. When the Defense Clerk role was vacated, I asked Johnnie to wear two hats, one as the Deputy Staff Director and the other as the Minority Clerk of the Defense Subcommittee, where she successfully fought for Republican priorities in Fiscal Year 2020 through Fiscal Year 2023 Defense Appropriations bills.

Johnnie deservedly reached a pinnacle of the Appropriations Committee by becoming Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Majority Staff Director and Clerk when Republicans gained the Majority in 2023. In this critical role, she drafted and served as the principal House negotiator for the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Defense Appropriations bills, which funded the entire Department of Defense and Intelligence community to the tune of over \$800 billion per fiscal year. She facilitated daily communication with Members of Congress, senior administration officials, and industry leaders, while leading and mentoring a high-performing team of 14 direct reports. Of her many accomplishments in this role, her staunch advocacy for Chairman KEN CALVERT’s vision of defense innovation will have a lasting effect on out national security. This includes the allocation of nearly \$2.5 billion to foster innovation, including funding to identify, invest, and rapidly produce promising defense technologies through the Defense Innovation Unit and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Johnnie’s significant contributions to the entire federal government, the House Committee on Appropriations, and—most significant to me—the office of Texas’ 12th District. Throughout her storied career, Johnnie has exemplified what it means to be a selfless public servant. She has consistently exhibited unparalleled knowledge of government and has bridged the gap between countless diverse stakeholders within

the appropriations process. Johnnie’s commitment to the United States and the American people will remain unmatched as she leaves a legacy within America’s national security apparatus that will live on for generations to come. On behalf of the American people and the lucky ones who were privileged enough to learn from her and work alongside her, we thank Johnnie for her many years of devoted service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING OHIO REPRESENTATIVE REGGIE STOLTZFUS

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Reggie Stoltzfus for his service in the Ohio General Assembly, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio’s 13th Congressional District, the “Birthplace of Champions.” I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

His drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he has proven to be a true public servant and leader. He led by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As he goes on to continue serving his community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio’s 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his commitment to the people of Northeast Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR RENE RODRIGUEZ

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Rene Rodriguez and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we proudly recognize and commend Sergeant Rene Rodriguez of Whitewright, Texas, for his outstanding service in the United States Marine Corps. A dedicated and skilled Marine, Sergeant Rodriguez attained the rank of Sergeant and served with distinction as a Hybrid Test Set Technician, a critical and demanding specialty requiring exceptional technical expertise and precision.

Throughout his service, Sergeant Rodriguez displayed unwavering dedication, commitment, and professionalism, directly contributing to the operational readiness and success of his unit and the Marine Corps as a whole. As a Hybrid Test Set Technician, he was responsible for ensuring the functionality and reliability of advanced military equipment, a role that is vital to mission success and the safety of his fellow Marines. His technical acumen and meticulous attention to detail helped to uphold the highest standards of excellence

within his specialty, enabling his unit to operate effectively under challenging conditions.

Sergeant Rodriguez’s service embodies the values of honor, courage, and commitment that define the United States Marine Corps. His dedication to duty and exceptional performance as a Marine have left a lasting impact on those he served with and on the Corps itself.

Today, we honor Sergeant Rodriguez for his sacrifice, his skill, and his steadfast dedication to the ideals of freedom and duty. His legacy of service and excellence is an inspiration, and his contributions to our Nation will always be remembered with gratitude.

HONORING COPS/METRO’S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Communities Organized for Public Service, known as COPS/Metro, for fifty years of dedicated service to the San Antonio community. For half a century, COPS/Metro has helped community members use their voices to influence the policy that affect their lives. This broad, nonpartisan coalition of religious congregations, schools, civic associations, labor and professional organizations, and non-profits has enacted powerful change over the years.

Working with both the private and public sector, COPS/Metro provides a productive forum for advocacy that has changed Bexar County for the better. COPS/Metro brings together community members from many different walks of life to share their perspectives and organize for progress. COPS/Metro members have had an impact on everything from housing affordability and job training to environmental justice and government accountability.

Whether the issue is improving city streets or making sure workers are paid a living wage, COPS/Metro has ensured services are delivered to those in need. I commend all the great work this organization has done in our community and for the growth and opportunity they have fostered for the San Antonio region. I look forward to seeing many more years of continued success for COPS/Metro.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUENT ADVOCATE, HNUCHEE VANG, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA’S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Constituent Advocate, Hnuchee Vang, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota’s Third Congressional District. I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

Hnu began her advocacy and policy career when she attended the University of Minnesota where she worked as a Crisis and

Legal Advocate at The Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education. She went on to work in the Minnesota State Legislature, where she worked in both the House and Senate. With Minnesota House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler, she assisted in passing various legislation including Immigrant Drivers Licenses for All, legalizing adult use cannabis, and grant funding for the Veterans Resilience Project. While in the Minnesota State Senate, she successfully passed the Hmong Special Guerilla Units Memorial Day. Before coming to my office, Hnu worked as the Director of Policy and Advocacy at a local nonprofit for the Coalition of Asian American Leaders.

Hnu is an inquisitive and joyful spirit. She is immensely reliable, wicked smart, and easy to have a long chat or a good laugh with. She has worked hard on behalf of the constituents in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. During her time in my office, as part of the Casework and Advocacy Team, she has helped the team return over \$45 million dollars from the Federal Government to Minnesotans and the local economy.

Hnu has a strong work ethic and a steady approach to ensuring we provide the best service to Minnesota's Third Congressional District. Hnu excels in communicating with constituents; she delivers important information with clarity and kindness, even when that information may not be what constituents want to hear. She is a strong advocate who works diligently to ensure everyone she serves, receives the support they need.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. I wish Hnu all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for her faithful service to this Nation—and much more to come.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION FOR JAMES BELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain James Bell and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. In recognition of Captain James Bell's distinguished service to the United States and his unwavering commitment to duty, this commendation celebrates the extraordinary contributions he has made to our Nation, both in uniform and as a dedicated civilian leader.

Captain Bell's military career began with his valiant service as an Armored Platoon Leader and Forward Support to the Company Commander of the 23rd Infantry Division. Serving during the Vietnam War, Captain Bell spent nearly a year managing Division and Brigade supply operations, a role that required logistical expertise, resilience, and the utmost dedication. Following his service in Vietnam, he was stationed in Berlin, Germany, where he contributed significantly to Quick Response Readiness—a critical aspect of maintaining operational stability during the Cold War era.

Upon transitioning from active duty, Captain Bell continued his commitment to his country as a member of the Texas National Guard, where he helped safeguard the state and community. His dedication to public service

extended beyond the military, as he served as an advisor to the Work Release Program in Texas prisons, working tirelessly to help individuals rebuild their lives. Captain Bell's dedication was further recognized at the national level when President George W. Bush appointed him to serve on the Red River Authority, where he provided essential leadership and guidance over an impressive 18 years. His three terms on the Authority reflect his deep commitment to responsible resource management and public service.

Captain Bell's commitment to his fellow veterans and his community is equally commendable. He remains active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and his church, embodying the spirit of camaraderie, faith, and service that define America's finest. With profound respect and gratitude, we commend Captain Jim Bell for his remarkable service, his steadfast loyalty to his country, and his ongoing commitment to his community. His legacy of honor, resilience, and public service stands as an inspiration to all.

Today, we honor Captain James Bell for his sacrifice, his skill, and his steadfast dedication to the ideals of freedom and duty. His legacy of service and excellence is an inspiration, and his contributions to our Nation will always be remembered with gratitude.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF GEORGE
MAIER

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Sheriff George Maier for his service as the Stark County Sheriff, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

His drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He led by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As he goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his commitment to the people of Stark County and Northeast Ohio.

HONORING CORPORAL ADRIAN
MALDONADO, DEPUTY JAMES
MACKEY, DEPUTY JASON COKER,
DEPUTY TAMMY FOX, AND DEP-
UTY YANICK EXCEUS

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five outstanding leaders in Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

(PBSO): Corporal Adrian Maldonado, Deputy James Mackey, Deputy Jason Coker, Deputy Tammy Fox, and Deputy Yanick Exceus. I congratulate each of them on being named recipients of the Innovations in Community Policing Award at the 7th Annual Attorney General Awards for Distinguished Service in Policing.

During their time in Palm Beach County, they have demonstrated the core values and mission of the PBSO by developing innovative ways to use community policing to improve the lives of the people they serve. Specifically, Deputy Mackey and Corporal Maldonado established PBSO's first Homeless Intervention Team, connecting individuals experiencing homelessness with resources. Deputies Coker, Fox, and Exceus have organized food distribution programs for the hungry and helped feed elderly residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a direct result of their innovation, several other community policing units within and outside of the agency use these program models to bring similar change to their communities.

I am proud to celebrate them all today. Their dedication to public safety and service to the people of Palm Beach County is commendable. I wish them continued success.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR MATTHEW
LOVACHEFF

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Matthew Lovacheff and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Petty Officer Third Class Matthew Lovacheff, of Rockwall, Texas, served the United States Navy with distinction and dedication for four years, embodying the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. As a Gunners Mate and an Aviation Boatswain's Mate, Petty Officer Lovacheff was stationed on the USS *George Washington* in Norfolk, Virginia, where he undertook significant responsibilities that were integral to the ship's operational readiness. His primary role was in providing essential supplies and logistical support for a division of 200 personnel, ensuring the smooth and efficient operation of his team. In addition, he expertly maintained catapults and arresting gear within the Aircraft Launch and Recovery Division, enabling safe and reliable operations in the high-stakes environment of naval aviation.

Petty Officer Lovacheff's service extended beyond standard duties as he participated in United Nations Weapons Inspections leading up to the 2003 Iraq War, contributing to international security and diplomacy. Through his Navy experience, Petty Officer Lovacheff developed a profound sense of patriotism and an unwavering dedication to the ideals of service, sacrifice, and leadership.

One instance of his bravery and commitment is especially noteworthy: during a critical moment, Petty Officer Lovacheff acted decisively to prevent injury to a shipmate by attempting to stop a 400-pound piston from falling. In the process, he sustained an injury to

his finger but succeeded in protecting his fellow sailor. This selfless act highlights his courage and commitment to his team.

Since completing his naval service, Petty Officer Lovacheff has continued his legacy of service by establishing substance abuse counseling ministries in the United States and around the world. His work has positively impacted countless lives and communities, bringing hope and support to those in need. Additionally, he serves as a dedicated volunteer within his church in Dallas, Texas.

Petty Officer Matthew Lovacheff's exemplary service in the U.S. Navy, his commitment to his country, and his ongoing dedication to his community mark him as a true patriot and an honorable representative of the United States Navy. His actions reflect the highest standards of naval service, and his contributions, both in uniform and as a civilian, continue to inspire those around him.

I am honored to represent Petty Officer Third Class Matthew Lovacheff in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE JOHN WISE

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Judge John Wise for his service on the 5th District Court of Appeals, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

His drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he has proved to be a true public servant and leader. He led by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As he goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his commitment to the people of Northeast Ohio.

HONORING WORLD TURKISH COFFEE DAY

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World Turkish Coffee Day, celebrated annually on December 5th, as a moment to honor a cherished tradition transcending borders, cultures, and generations. Turkish coffee, renowned for its rich flavor, unique preparation, and social significance, holds the prestigious designation of being listed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

This timeless beverage is more than just a drink—it is a cultural bridge that fosters connections and encourages conversations. The preparation and sharing of Turkish coffee symbolize hospitality, friendship, and the spirit of togetherness. For centuries, it has been an integral part of countless traditions, from engagement ceremonies to gatherings with loved ones.

Today, I also want to highlight the contributions of Turkish Americans, who have brought this rich cultural heritage to communities across the United States, including right here in Northern Virginia. Through their entrepreneurial spirit, Turkish Americans have introduced Turkish coffee to a global audience, opening businesses, fostering intercultural dialogue, and enriching the cultural tapestry of our Nation. Their contributions remind us of the strength we draw from diversity and the beauty of shared traditions.

As we celebrate World Turkish Coffee Day, let us acknowledge the legacy of Turkish coffee as a living symbol of heritage and humanity. May its spirit of unity and friendship continue to inspire us all.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the cultural significance of Turkish coffee and the invaluable contributions of Turkish Americans to our society.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF L.A. CARE CEO JOHN BAACKES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Baackes and his nine years of steadfast service as the L.A. Care Health Plan Chief Executive Officer, the nation's largest publicly operated health plan serving over two million members in Los Angeles County.

John Baackes joined L.A. Care in 2015. Throughout his extensive tenure, Baackes helped spearhead and sustain a number of significant initiatives, including expanding from 4 to 14 community resource centers throughout Los Angeles County; launching a scholarship program for medical school students committed to practicing in underserved communities; and developing a school loan repayment program for physicians who establish their medical practice within disadvantaged communities. He also works with L.A. Care's Board of Governors to set the strategic vision while overseeing the day-to-day operations.

Additionally, Baackes currently serves as Chairman of the Board for Charles Drew University and sits on the boards of America's Health Insurance Plans, California Association of Health Plans, Local Health Plans of California, and Urban Voices Project.

At the end of this year, John Baackes is officially retiring. I hope that he gets to rest and enjoy time with his family. We are grateful for his service to our community.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize John Baackes. His years of civic service and commitment to the betterment of Los Angeles County is worthy of the highest commendation.

RECOGNIZING SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCILWOMAN GLORIA RODGERS

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Councilwoman Gloria Rodgers for her service on Summit County Council, and my sincere gratitude for all that she has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated her partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Her drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that she has bettered countless lives as a result of her steadfast service. Throughout her time in office, she proved to be a true public servant and leader. She led by example through her perseverance, compassion, and dedication to her role in the community.

As she goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank her for her commitment to the people of Summit County and to Northeast Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR RUSSELL PETRE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Russell Petre and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Petty Officer Third Class Russell Petre, from Denison, Texas, is hereby honored for his dedicated service to the United States Navy and his lifelong commitment to the safety and service of others. As a parachute rigger during the Vietnam War, Petty Officer Petre took on the critical responsibility of ensuring the safety and survival of aircrew members. Through his meticulous inspection, testing, and packing of parachutes and survival equipment, he safeguarded countless lives. His commitment to excellence in this role, even under the challenges of a combat environment, upheld the highest standards of readiness and reliability for his crew members.

For his honorable service, Petty Officer Petre was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal, acknowledgments of his dedication and sacrifice during a pivotal period in American history.

After his time in the Navy, Petty Officer Petre continued his legacy of service for 23 years as a firefighter, demonstrating bravery, skill, and unwavering commitment to public safety. His work with the fire department exemplified his deep sense of duty to protect his community. Following his firefighting career, he applied his knowledge and experience to deliver and demonstrate fire trucks, further supporting first responders and ensuring they

had the equipment they needed to do their jobs safely and effectively.

Petty Officer Petre's distinguished career in the military, firefighting, and his subsequent service exemplifies a lifetime of devotion to protecting and aiding others. His dedication, integrity, and selflessness serve as an inspiration to his family, community, and fellow veterans. We honor and thank Petty Officer Third Class Russ Petre for his invaluable contributions to his country and his community.

I am honored to represent Petty Officer Third Class Russell Petre in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING DISTRICT EIGHT CONSTITUENT MRS. MARY MCCOY

HON. MORGAN LUTTRELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate an outstanding District Eight constituent, Mrs. Mary McCoy, on her two most recent extraordinary honors. The first being her introduction into the Radio Hall of Fame, and also for her statue unveiling in the Conroe, Texas Founders' Plaza.

These achievements not only celebrate her unparalleled career, but also reflect the profound impact she has had on the Conroe community and beyond. Mrs. McCoy's voice has been a constant companion to generations of listeners. Through the airwaves, she has not only entertained but also uplifted people from all walks of life.

The recognition of her career is well deserved, a testament to her talent, hard work, and influence in the world of radio. Mrs. McCoy has set a standard of excellence that will inspire the future generations of broadcasting.

The bronze bust presented in the Founders' Plaza will stand as a symbol of her legacy not just in Radio, but to our community and culture. It reminds us all of the power of perseverance, passion, and the ability to blaze our own trails.

These are well-earned accolades for the great work Mrs. McCoy has done through the years that will leave a mark in our history. I am honored to have the privilege of witnessing Mrs. McCoy's legacy and I am proud to have her as an incredible constituent of Texas-08.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

SPEECH OF

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my forever shero, Shirley Chisholm.

Long before I joined this chamber, I had a soul-tie to Shirley.

My mother used to read me the words of Shirley Chisholm instead of fairy tales at bed-

time, and I often remember her words: If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring your own folding chair.

We often define iconic trailblazers to a single moment in history, but Shirley's contributions go beyond just one speech or achievement.

A visionary and a doer, Shirley Chisholm was a forceful champion and helped advance policies that support our most marginalized communities.

Mr. Speaker let the record reflect that Shirley Chisholm was a legislator in her own right.

Without her, we may not have an effective SNAP program or a multi-racial, intergenerational coalition fighting to codify the ERA.

She paved the way for every Black woman in this legislative body—myself included.

As the first Black woman to represent the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the House of Representatives, I was honored during my first two terms to occupy the physical office she once held as the first Black woman elected to Congress ever.

Shirley was disruptive. She was brave. Shirley dared to be herself, and Shirley dared to dream.

So it's befitting she was also the first Black woman to make a presidential run, paving the way for our Vice President KAMALA HARRIS to do the same.

She was unbought and unbossed, and she is a reminder to Black girls everywhere that we belong in the halls of power.

Today, we honor one of the founders of the Congressional black Caucus by leading, legislating and taking up space—just like she taught us.

Happy 100th birthday to the Congresswoman, and may she rest in peace and power.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE SCOTT GWIN

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Judge Scott Gwin for his service on the 5th District Court of Appeals, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

His drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He led by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As he goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his commitment to the people of Northeast Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR ROBERT WALKER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senior Airman Robert Walker and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Senior Airman Walker is a dedicated patriot from Paris, Texas, who served our Nation with distinction for an extraordinary 50 years in the United States Air Force, including 17 years of active duty and 33 years in the reserves. Through both his extensive military career and ongoing service to his community, Senior Airman Walker embodies President John F. Kennedy's call to "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

During his active-duty service Senior Airman Walker played a critical role in supporting Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. As a logistics and operations expert, he meticulously managed orders for essential parts needed by base agencies, ensuring mission readiness and safety. In addition, he coordinated flight plans for aircraft on base, ensuring operational efficiency and the secure movement of critical assets. His unwavering commitment to these demanding responsibilities was instrumental in supporting our armed forces and maintaining our country's defense.

Senior Airman Walker's dedication did not end with his retirement from active duty. Despite being rendered 100 percent disabled as a result of his service, he has tirelessly contributed to his community, particularly in his work with special needs and disabled children. His selfless commitment to helping others and his resilience in the face of personal hardship demonstrate his character and his dedication to a lifetime of service.

Today, we commend Senior Airman Robert Walker for his outstanding dedication to his country and community. His service and sacrifices stand as a testament to the highest values of our Nation, and we are forever grateful for his legacy of bravery, kindness, and service.

I am honored to represent Senior Airman Robert Walker in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING STAFF ASSISTANT AND LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT, ZEHRA KHAN, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my former Staff Assistant and Legislative Correspondent, Zehra Khan, for her

work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. In August, Zehra departed my office for a new opportunity to attend Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Science for Political Science, and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

As a Minnesota District Three native, Zehra grew up in the district she so proudly served. After graduating from The Blake School, she attended and graduated from the University of Minnesota earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. Her public service spans time working in State Legislative Offices and at the federal level. Zehra has strong ties to her cultural identity and community. She has a passion for global women's issues, even serving as a delegate to the 68th UN Commission on The Status of Women.

Zehra's colleagues have had the honor of watching her evolve from a shy intern to a confident, capable Staff Assistant during her time in the office. Equally adept with pop culture critiques and international affairs analysis, Zehra has made our office both smarter and more relevant. Her deep roots in MN-03 allow her to both connect with constituents and offer the best local restaurant recommendations.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she is dearly missed. However, we look forward to watching her succeed in graduate school and beyond.

HONORING CAPTAIN ERIK E.
ANDERSON

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 50th birthday of Captain Erik E. Anderson.

Captain Anderson was born on December 1, 1974. Raised in Lafayette, Louisiana, Captain Anderson graduated from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He first served aboard USS *Hopper* (DDG 70) from 1998 to 1999, completing the ship's maiden deployment, a dry-docking availability, and surface warfare officer qualification.

After serving on the USS *Hopper*, he completed the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's nuclear pipeline training and reported to his second division officer tour on USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) from 2001 to 2003. He completed the ship's "Iron Man" Cruise in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and became a Nuclear Engineer Officer.

Captain Anderson was selected for shore duty at Naval Reactors' Headquarters in Washington, DC, where he worked from 2003 to 2006 on advanced technology Insertion projects for CVN 68 Class ships' propulsion plant, preliminary designs for USS *Gerald R Ford* (CVN 78), and test programs for west coast CVNs and ex-Enterprise (CVN 65).

During this time, he attended graduate school at The Catholic University of America, earning a Master of Engineering Degree in Engineering Management.

From late 2006 to 2011, Captain Anderson served as the Assistant Program Manager for

ex-Enterprise in the Naval Reactors' Program Office for Surface Ships. During this time, he led the planning and execution of the ship's last major dry-docking availability, allowing the ship to complete two more deployments prior to her removal service. He also led early planning and budgeting efforts for the one-of-a-kind defueling and inactivation of ex-Enterprise.

Captain Anderson then transferred to the Nuclear Technology Division as the Director of Radiological Controls from 2011 to 2014. He was responsible for the radiation protection of all sailors, workers, the public, and the environment from the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's radioactivity on all ships, prototypes, shipyards, bases, DOE laboratories, and the Naval Reactors Facility. He also assisted with the Naval Reactors' support of the U.S. Navy's Operation Tomodachi in response to the nuclear accidents at Fukushima.

From late 2014 to mid-2023, Captain Anderson assumed duties as the Program Manager for the Naval Reactors Facility in Idaho, where he led the Naval Reactors' efforts to publish the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements for the recapitalization of spent fuel handling in Idaho, a three billion dollar major construction project. He has also led the Naval Reactors Facility fleet support mission in Idaho to process, examine, and package naval spent nuclear fuel in accordance with stringent Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program requirements, fleet schedules, and commitments to the State of Idaho.

In July 2023, Captain Anderson transferred to the Acting Deputy Director for Governmental Affairs. In February 2024, he was selected as the Director for Governmental Affairs, where he oversees multiple aspects of the Naval Reactors' Congressional Affairs efforts.

Captain Anderson's decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals and other individual and unit awards. His wife, Ania, and son, Aksel, consider him the head and the heart of their family.

On December 1, 2024, Captain Anderson celebrated his 50th birthday. I thank Captain Anderson for his service and congratulate him for reaching this important milestone. I hope this next chapter is filled with as much adventure as the last.

RECOGNIZING STARK COUNTY
COMMISSIONER JANET WEIR
CREIGHTON

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Commissioner Janet Weir Creighton for her service as a Stark County Commissioner, and my sincere gratitude for all that she has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated her partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Her drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that she has bettered countless lives as a result of her steadfast service. Throughout her 40 years in public service, she

has proven to be a true advocate and leader. She led by example through her perseverance, compassion, and dedication in her role in the community and those she served.

As a woman in a position of influence, and sometimes the first woman in her various roles throughout her career, she has undoubtedly inspired the coming generation of young women to stand strong for what they believe in and strive for positions of leadership.

For her outstanding devotion, she has earned the respect and esteem of many, and in the wake of her departure, I know her numerous contributions will not be forgotten. I am confident that her fine character and decisive leadership will be sorely missed.

As she goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Again, on behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I would like to thank Commissioner Janet Weir Creighton for her commitment to the people of Stark County and to Northeast Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR CHARLES E.
RICHMOND II

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Charles E. Richmond II of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Lieutenant Richmond honorably served in the United States Army for over twenty years, both in an Active Duty role and as a reservist.

Lieutenant Richmond began his distinguished career in the United States Army, where he served with honor and distinction. During his time serving our country, he demonstrated exceptional leadership, strategic thinking, and a deep commitment to the values that define the Army—loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Over the course of his military service, Lieutenant Richmond participated in numerous assignments, missions, and operations, always prioritizing the safety and well-being of his fellow soldiers and the nation he swore to defend. His ability to lead with integrity, his tactical acumen, and his ability to adapt to the challenges of military service earned him the admiration of peers and superiors alike.

After his service in the Army, Lieutenant Richmond transitioned seamlessly into a new chapter of service as a police officer. For more than twenty years, he served in this demanding and high-pressure role with the same dedication to protecting and serving his community. As a law enforcement officer, Lieutenant Richmond stood as a pillar of strength, always striving to maintain order, promote safety, and foster positive relationships between law enforcement and the public. His presence on the force was marked by a steadfast commitment to justice, an unwavering respect for human dignity, and a tireless work ethic. Whether responding to critical incidents or mentoring younger officers, Lieutenant Richmond demonstrated the qualities of a leader and a servant, working tirelessly to ensure that the community remained safe and secure.

Throughout his career, Lieutenant Richmond exemplified what it means to be a public servant. His courage, resilience, and professionalism set a standard for others to follow. The impact of his service will be felt for many years to come, as the countless lives he touched—whether as a soldier or as a police officer—will continue to carry the lessons he imparted through his actions and leadership.

Lieutenant Richmond is also an exemplary father and husband. Throughout his career, he worked hard to ensure that his family was taken care of, and that they had all of the opportunities.

I am honored to represent Lieutenant Richmond in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

On June 10, 1999, a pipeline leak caused a massive explosion in my district in Bellingham, Washington. The rupture released more than a quarter million gallons of gasoline into Whatcom Creek. The gasoline ignited, sending a fireball racing down the creek that killed two 10-year-old boys and an 18-year-old young man. The two boys, Stephen Tsiorvas and Wade King, were playing in a creek near their homes on an idyllic summer day, and the young man, Liam Wood, had just graduated from high school and was fly-fishing for trout.

The American people, including my constituents in response to the tragic Bellingham incident, justifiably raised safety concerns that there was not enough federal oversight of pipelines and hazardous materials. In response, Congress created PHMSA within the Department of Transportation in 2004 to do just that, as part of the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act, which was signed into law on November 30, 2004.

Twenty years after the 2004 creation of this new modal administration specifically focused on pipeline and hazardous materials transportation safety, PHMSA continues its work. This includes overseeing \$1 billion in pipeline safety grants as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law so communities can repair or replace aging, leak-prone natural gas pipeline infrastructure while creating jobs, reducing methane emissions and keeping communities safe.

Last December, the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee passed a bipartisan pipeline safety reauthorization bill to ensure PHMSA and state pipeline safety inspectors have the resources they need. This legislation increases transparency and accountability from pipeline operators and supports emerging

technology in pipelines, including for carbon dioxide and hydrogen.

I am grateful for PHMSA's two decades of work and the agency's ongoing commitment to protecting people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to daily life.

In the 119th Congress, I look forward to a bipartisan effort to reauthorize the work of PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety, as we have for the past two decades. More work remains, including ensuring first responders have the training they need to address accidents and incidents where hazardous materials are released whether that is by pipeline, rail, or any other mode of transportation. Safety is a need in every community in every Congressional District and in my role in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I will continue to work to reach common ground to enhance safety for all Americans. I thank PHMSA for its ongoing work to do the same.

HONORING JORGE CORTEZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Jorge Cortez, who passed away on November 11, 2024, at the age of 81. Known for his signature red apron, white guayabera and white hat, Jorge was not just an icon of San Antonio's culinary world but also a visionary artist and a champion of the city's vibrant cultura. A proud son of my hometown of San Antonio, Mr. Cortez leaves behind his seven children—Pete, Deborah, Christina, Paloma, Cariño, Alexandra, and Sol Jorge, twelve grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

In 1941, Mr. Cortez's parents, Pedro and Cruz, purchased a small three-table café that would become an iconic and beloved community institution. Mi Tierra Café was more than a place to dine—it became a haven for comunidad, filled with música, murals, and the aromas of their authentic comida. After their father passed away in 1984, Mr. Cortez and his siblings committed themselves to preserving and expanding his legacy, creating a thriving business rooted in honoring and promoting their Latino culture. Under their leadership, La Familia Cortez grew to include five beloved restaurants, employing more than 600 San Antonians. Mr. Cortez's creative spark was also behind the invention of sizzling fajitas, a dish that has become synonymous with Tex-Mex cuisine.

Mr. Cortez was more than a restaurateur; he was an artist and a visionary leader who believed in using art and culture to uplift the community. His artistry extended beyond the murals of Mi Tierra to shape the cultural fabric of downtown San Antonio. Mr. Cortez played a key role in the establishment of Zona Cultural, a 44-block historic district designated by the City of San Antonio and the State of Texas that celebrates the diversity, creativity, and commerce of San Antonio. His vision for Zona Cultural transformed it into a hub of heritage and innovation, ensuring that future generations could experience and cherish the richness of the city's history.

La Familia Cortez is the definition of the American dream, and the Cortez family continues to shape San Antonio for the better. Mr. Cortez was a lively and much-admired member of our community, and he will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE PATRICIA DELANEY

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Judge Patricia Delaney for her service on the 5th District Court of Appeals, and my sincere gratitude for all that she has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated her partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Her drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that she has bettered countless lives as a result of her steadfast service. Throughout her time in office, she proved to be a true public servant and leader. She led by example through her perseverance, compassion, and dedication to her role in the community.

As she goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank her for her commitment to the people of Northeast Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR JEFFREY WILEY

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Jeffrey Wiley and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. In honor of Major Jay Wiley's dedicated 20-year career in the United States Army, we extend our deepest gratitude for his exemplary service. Hailing from Rockwall, Texas, Major Wiley's commitment to duty and country reflects an unwavering dedication to safeguarding our Nation and advancing military operations both at home and abroad.

Throughout his distinguished career, Major Wiley served as a Signals Officer, Detachment Commander, and Operations Officer. His roles required significant expertise and responsibility, overseeing multi-national and joint-service intelligence activities and ensuring seamless coordination across multiple defense sectors. His leadership was vital to the success of intelligence operations, bringing together personnel from various branches and nations, and enabling information sharing at critical moments in support of national security. His knowledge and strategic vision in air defense systems also enhanced our military's operational effectiveness and strengthened our national defense posture.

In 1991, Major Wiley deployed to Kuwait, where he contributed to the coalition efforts

during Operation Desert Storm, exemplifying courage and commitment in service to his country. His work as part of the coalition underscored his ability to work effectively in high-pressure, international environments, providing crucial signals intelligence and operations expertise in one of the most significant conflicts of our time.

Major Jay Wiley's legacy of service and leadership in the United States Army is a testament to his dedication, skill, and loyalty. His contributions have made a lasting impact on our Nation's security and on the lives of those with whom he served. We honor his sacrifices and accomplishments and express our heartfelt thanks for his years of dedicated service to our country.

I am honored to represent Major Wiley in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on December 3, 2024, I was not recorded on Roll Call No. 479. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 479.

HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF JAHMAR ROBINSON

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) Deputy Sheriff Jahmar Robinson, a diligent public servant, to congratulate him on being named the Field Operations Awardee at the 7th Annual Attorney General Awards for Distinguished Service in Policing. During his time with PBSO, Deputy Robinson has become a trusted presence and role model in the community.

Deputy Robinson's knowledge of the County and its residents has prevented potential violent crimes before they happen and has allowed him to respond effectively when incidents arise. He serves our local residents through community-oriented practices in policing, while combating crime and decreasing recidivism.

Deputy Robinson serves as a positive role model for at-risk youth, and his work goes above and beyond crime prevention and response. From facilitating outreach to local schools to connecting local residents to childcare resources and domestic violence crisis resources, his dedication to enhancing safety and fostering civilian relationships has lasting impacts on building a safer and more connected community.

Jahmar's dedication to public safety and his service to the people of Palm Beach County is truly admirable. I am proud to celebrate him today and wish him continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 479 on December 3, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE JIM JAMES

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Judge Jim James for his service on the Stark County Court of Common Pleas, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

His drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He led by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As he goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his commitment to the people of Stark County and Northeast Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR MARK RUSSELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Mark Russell of Sherman, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Staff Sergeant Russell honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam war.

Staff Sergeant Russell trained in Radiology, Radiation Technology, and medical physics. During his time serving in the U.S. Air Force, he was given the responsibility to open and establish a Radiation Oncology treatment center to qualify the Wright-Patterson AFB as a comprehensive cancer treatment center. Additionally, he received the National Defense Service Medal, the AFM 900-3, and a Sharp Shooter Badge for his service in the U.S. Air Force.

Staff Sergeant Russell is a graduate of the Hobe Sound Bible College in Florida, where he received a bachelor's degree in educational administration in 1970. He began working at the Wright-Patterson AFB Medical Center's Radiation Oncology facility that same year while completing postgraduate studies. Staff Sergeant Russell later received his Master of

Science in Radiological Physics from Ohio State University and a Master of Health Administration from Washington University. Throughout his extensive career, he has published numerous studies on the topic of oncology and worked diligently to bring us one step closer to defeating cancer. From 2007 to 2012, Staff Sergeant Russell served as the Director for Physics and Technology Services at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Florida.

I am honored to represent Staff Sergeant Russell in Texas' 4th Congressional district. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 10

10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine mass deportations. SD-G50

2 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Coast Guard. SD-342

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine consumer protection, focusing on protecting workers' money and fighting for the dignity of work. SD-538

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband
To hold hearings to examine communications networks safety and security. SR-253

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6791–S6824

Measures Introduced: Ten bills were introduced, as follows: S. 5419–5428 **Pages S6820–21**

Measures Reported:

S. 1898, to amend the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act to make improvements to that Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–259)

S. 4442, to amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–260)

S. 4505, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of Ohkay Owingeh in the Rio Chama Stream System, to restore the Bosque on Pueblo Land in the State of New Mexico. (S. Rept. No. 118–261)

S. 4643, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake. (S. Rept. No. 118–262)

S. 4998, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico. (S. Rept. No. 118–263) **Page S6820**

Measures Passed:

Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5863, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S6813–14**

GLRI Act: Senate passed S. 3738, to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6822**

Padilla (for Stabenow) Amendment No. 3310, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6822**

Second Chance Reauthorization Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 4477, to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007, and the bill was then passed. **Page S6822**

Firefighter Cancer Registry Reauthorization Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3821, to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S6822–23**

ACCESS Rural America Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 3242, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to revise the shareholder threshold for registration under that Act for issuers that receive support through certain Federal universal service support mechanisms, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6823**

Padilla (for Baldwin/Ernst) Amendment No. 3311, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6823**

VETT Act: Senate passed H.R. 1432, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deductibility of charitable contributions to certain organizations for members of the Armed Forces. **Page S6823**

National Hospice and Palliative Care Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 910, designating November 2024 as “National Hospice and Palliative Care Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6823**

Connected MOM Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 712, to identify and address barriers to coverage of remote physiologic devices under State Medicaid programs to improve maternal and child health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum women, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S6823–24**

Davenport Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico. **Page S6812**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 313), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6812**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the vote on confirmation of the nomination occur at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, on Thursday, December 5, 2024; that during the session of the Senate of Thursday, December 5, 2024, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Tiffany Rene Johnson, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, and Keli Marie Neary, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, in the order in which cloture was filed; that if cloture is invoked on any of the above nominations, all post-cloture time be considered expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, no earlier than Monday, December 9, 2024.

Page S6824

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 5, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Tiffany Rene Johnson, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia; that at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, as under the order of Wednesday, December 4, 2024, and that upon disposition of the nomination of Sarah Morgan Davenport, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Tiffany Rene Johnson; that following the cloture vote on Tiffany Rene Johnson, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Keli Marie Neary, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania; and that at 1:45 p.m., Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Keli Marie Neary. **Page S6824**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 310), Anthony J. Brindisi, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York. **Pages S6791–S6805**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 309), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S6791–S6805**

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 312), Elizabeth C. Coombe, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York. **Pages S6791–S6805, S6805–12**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 311), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S6791–S6805**

Messages from the House: **Pages S6817–18**

Measures Referred: **Page S6818**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S6818**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6818–20**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S6821**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements: **Pages S6816–17**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6821–22**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6822**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6822**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—313) **Pages S6798, S6805, S6812**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:08 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6824.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AIRLINE FEES

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine new revelations about airline fees, after receiving testimony from Stephen Johnson, American Airlines, Fort Worth, Texas; Peter Carter, Delta Air Lines, Atlanta, Georgia; Andrew Nocella, United Airlines, Inc., Chicago, Illinois; Robert Schroeter, Frontier Airlines, Inc., Denver, Colorado; and Matthew H. Klein, Spirit Airlines, Inc., Dania Beach, Florida.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 10281–10298; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 1606–1607, were introduced. **Pages H6361–62**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6363**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows: H.R. 7440, to promote innovation in financial services, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–792);

H.R. 3556, to amend the Federal financial laws to increase financial regulatory accountability and transparency, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–793, Part 1);

H.R. 6862, to amend the FAST Act to include certain mineral production activities as a covered project, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–794);

H.R. 8692, to require that the Amtrak Board of Directors comply with the open meetings requirements of section 552b of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–795);

H.R. 2672, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for the authority to reimburse local governments or electric cooperatives for interest expenses, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–796); and

H.R. 5623, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide substance use and alcohol use disorder services, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–797). **Page H6361**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative LaTurner to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6297**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:06 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H6304**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:08 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. **Page H6342**

Crucial Communism Teaching Act and Prove It Act of 2024—Rule for consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 1602, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5349) to develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7198) to amend title 5, United States Code, to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses, by a recorded vote of 207 ayes to 199 noes, Roll No. 483, after the pre-

vious question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 206 yeas to 200 nays, Roll No. 482.

Pages H6306–12, H6344–45

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Tuesday, December 3rd.

Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Enhancement Act: H.R. 390, amended, to amend the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–333; 54 U.S.C. 320101 note) to include all of Saratoga and Washington Counties in the boundaries of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 378 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 480; and **Page H6343**

Lahaina National Heritage Area Study Act: H.R. 8219, amended, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Lahaina National Heritage Area, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 378 yeas to 25 nays, Roll No. 481.

Pages H6343–44

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Macedonia Lane in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the “Reverend Harold Middlebrook Post Office Building”: H.R. 9360, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Macedonia Lane in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the “Reverend Harold Middlebrook Post Office Building”; **Pages H6312–13**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West White Street in Millstadt, Illinois, as the “Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt Post Office”: H.R. 8976, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West White Street in Millstadt, Illinois, as the “Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt Post Office”; **Page H6315**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Center Street East in Roseau, Minnesota, as the “Floyd B. Olson Post Office”: H.R. 8841, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Center Street East in Roseau, Minnesota, as the “Floyd B. Olson Post Office”; **Pages H6315–16**

Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets Act: H.R. 1695, amended,

to improve the visibility, accountability, and oversight of agency software asset management practices;

Pages H6316–19

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West Main Street in Santaquin, Utah, as the “SGT Bill Hooser Post Office Building”: H.R. 8717, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West Main Street in Santaquin, Utah, as the “SGT Bill Hooser Post Office Building”;

Page H6324

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 Highway 74 South in Peachtree City, Georgia, as the “SFC Shawn McCloskey Post Office”: H.R. 8919, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 Highway 74 South in Peachtree City, Georgia, as the “SFC Shawn McCloskey Post Office”;

Pages H6324–25

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14280 South Military Trail in Delray Beach, Florida, as the “Benjamin Berell Ferencz Post Office Building”: H.R. 6116, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14280 South Military Trail in Delray Beach, Florida, as the “Benjamin Berell Ferencz Post Office Building”;

Pages H6327–28

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 East Battles Road in Santa Maria, California, as the “Larry Lavagnino Post Office Building”: H.R. 7158, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 East Battles Road in Santa Maria, California, as the “Larry Lavagnino Post Office Building”;

Page H6328

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1285 Emancipation Highway in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as the “Gladys P. Todd Post Office”: H.R. 7508, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1285 Emancipation Highway in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as the “Gladys P. Todd Post Office”;

Pages H6328–29

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 609 Portsmouth Avenue in Greenland, New Hampshire, as the “Chief Michael Maloney Post Office Building”: H.R. 8868, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 609 Portsmouth Avenue in Greenland, New Hampshire, as the “Chief Michael Maloney Post Office Building”;

Pages H6329–30

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 802 North Tancabua Street in Corpus Christi, Texas, as the “Captain Robert E. ‘Bob’ Batterson Post Office”: H.R.

10065, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 802 North Tancabua Street in Corpus Christi, Texas, as the “Captain Robert E. ‘Bob’ Batterson Post Office”;

Pages H6330–31

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 82–6110 Mamalahoa Highway in Captain Cook, Hawaii, as the “Army 1st Lt. John Kuulei Kauhahao Post Office Building”: H.R. 8909, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 82–6110 Mamalahoa Highway in Captain Cook, Hawaii, as the “Army 1st Lt. John Kuulei Kauhahao Post Office Building”;

Page H6331

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3913 Leland Avenue Northwest in Comstock Park, Michigan, as the “Captain Miguel Justin Nava Post Office”: H.R. 9285, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3913 Leland Avenue Northwest in Comstock Park, Michigan, as the “Captain Miguel Justin Nava Post Office”;

Pages H6331–32

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 675 Wolf Ledges Parkway in Akron, Ohio, as the “Judge James R. Williams Post Office Building”: H.R. 9322, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 675 Wolf Ledges Parkway in Akron, Ohio, as the “Judge James R. Williams Post Office Building”;

Pages H6332–33

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 North Main Street in Bucoda, Washington, as the “Mayor Rob Gordon Post Office”: H.R. 9421, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 North Main Street in Bucoda, Washington, as the “Mayor Rob Gordon Post Office”;

Page H6333

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 South 1st Avenue in Hillsboro, Oregon, as the “Elizabeth Furse Post Office Building”: H.R. 9549, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 South 1st Avenue in Hillsboro, Oregon, as the “Elizabeth Furse Post Office Building”;

Page H6334

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2777 Brentwood Road in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the “Millie Dunn Veasey Post Office”: H.R. 9580, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2777 Brentwood Road in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the “Millie Dunn Veasey Post Office”;

Pages H6334–35

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Main Street in Brawley, California, as the “Walter Francis Ulloa Memorial Post Office Building”: H.R. 8641, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 Main Street in Brawley, California, as the “Walter Francis Ulloa Memorial Post Office Building”;

Page H6335

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building”: H.R. 9544, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building”;

Pages H6336–38

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 North Anderson Street in Elwood, Indiana, as the “Officer Noah Jacob Shahnava Post Office Building”: H.R. 9775, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 North Anderson Street in Elwood, Indiana, as the “Officer Noah Jacob Shahnava Post Office Building”;

Pages H6338–39

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, as the “Bill Barrett Post Office Building”: H.R. 7507, amended, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, as the “Bill Barrett Post Office Building”;

Pages H6339–40

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, as the ‘William E. and Elise L. Barrett Post Office Building’”;

Page H6340

Source code Harmonization And Reuse in Information Technology Act: H.R. 9566, amended, to require governmentwide source code sharing;

Pages H6340–42

Shirley Chisholm Congressional Gold Medal Act: S. 4243, to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm;

Pages H6345–49

Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act: S. 91, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust;

Pages H6349–50

Roberto Clemente Commemorative Coin Act: H.R. 6751, to require the Secretary of the Treasury

to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente; and

Pages H6350–53

Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act: H.R. 7480, amended, to amend section 102(a)(20) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to require the exclusion of service-connected disability compensation when determining whether a person is a person of low and moderate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income.

Pages H6353–55

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Federal Agency Performance Act: S. 709, amended, to improve performance and accountability in the Federal Government;

Pages H6313–15

Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2024: H.R. 9598, amended, to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act to reauthorize such Office; and

Pages H6319–24

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 Main Street in Plains, Georgia, as the “Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office”: H.R. 9600, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 Main Street in Plains, Georgia, as the “Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office”.

Pages H6325–27

Senate Referrals: S. 1956 was held at the desk. S. 2514 was held at the desk. S. 3277 was held at the desk. S. 4107 was held at the desk. S. 4243 was held at the desk. S. 4569 was held at the desk. S. 5355 was held at the desk.

Page H6312

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H6312.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6343, H6343–44, H6344–45, and H6345.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Committee Meetings

BACK TO BASICS: AMERICA’S FOUNDING, CIVICS, AND SELF-GOVERNMENT IN K–12 CURRICULA

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “Back to Basics: America’s Founding, Civics, and Self-Government in

K–12 Curricula”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

INNOVATION REVOLUTION: HOW TECHNOLOGY IS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF FINANCE

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Innovation Revolution: How Technology is Shaping the Future of Finance”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement held a hearing entitled “Oversight of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services”. Testimony was heard from Ur Jaddou, Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a business meeting on the report entitled “After Action Review of the COVID–19 Pandemic: The Lessons Learned and a Path Forward”. The report entitled “After Action Review of the COVID–19 Pandemic: The Lessons Learned and a Path Forward” was adopted, as amended.

EXPOSING THE TRUTH ON LNG: HOW THE ADMINISTRATION PLAYED POLITICS WITH AMERICA’S ENERGY FUTURE

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled “Exposing the Truth on LNG: How the Administration Played Politics with America’s Energy Future”. Testimony was heard from Brad Crabtree, Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, Department of Energy.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine the public health impacts of PFAS exposures, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nomination of David Samuel Johnson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General for Tax Administration, Department of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine implementation of the Global Magnitsky Laws, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine what the FDA is doing to reduce the diabetes and obesity epidemics in America, focusing on the food and beverage industry, 10 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the United States Postal Service, focusing on understanding proposed service changes, 10 a.m., SD–342.

House

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled “Design vs. Default: Analyzing Shifts in Cybersecurity”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee hearing, hearing entitled “Oversight of the U.S. Census Bureau”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Fact and Fiction: Getting to the Bottom of the VA Budget Shortfall”, 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Rebuilding the Arsenal of Democracy: The Imperative to Strengthen America’s Defense Industrial Base and Workforce”, 9:30 a.m., 2176 Rayburn.

Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump Full Committee, hearing entitled “Secret Service Security Failures and the Attempts to Assassinate President-Elect Donald J. Trump”, 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Full Committee, business meeting on final recommendations and report, 11:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine the role of Belarus in Russia’s crimes, 2:30 p.m., 2118–RHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, December 5

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, December 5

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Tiffany Rene Johnson, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Tiffany Rene Johnson. Following which, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Keli Marie Neary, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 1:45 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 5349—Crucial Communism Teaching Act. Consideration of H.R. 7198—Prove It Act of 2024.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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