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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 24, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

BROAD AND DIVERSE SEGMENT OF VOTERS

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am not here to give a political speech. This is not the right venue for that. But I would like to share some observations I have about visiting Nevada last week.

The first observation is that among a broad and diverse segment of voters, there is a great deal of excitement about the political process. It almost doesn't matter which candidate people prefer or even which party, there is so much enthusiasm to participate.

In Nevada, the form of participation is the caucus, and it requires a greater time commitment than simply punching a ballot at your local precinct. Yet, I witnessed thousands of people who were taking hours away from their jobs, at their own expense in many cases, to participate in that process.

You can't come away from that kind of activity and not be inspired that Americans are taking their right to vote, their opinions about who should be the next nominee of their party or the next President very seriously. It was really remarkable.

Still, there were some people I spoke with who could not afford to take hours away from their jobs, some because they couldn't get permission and others because they simply could not afford to give up a couple of hours of wages, clock out to vote, even when it means not having your vote count.

Las Vegas, where I was, is a 24/7 working city; and for many, Saturday is the busiest day of the week, especially for tips.

This election year, as we travel around our districts or campaign in other States, I hope my colleagues in both parties will really examine how local governments and States are facilitating or disenfranchising American citizens who are eligible to vote.

In Nevada, participation in a caucus at a set time of the day with little or no flexibility serves almost like a poll tax for hourly workers. Voters have to weigh the power of their vote against dollars that would not be in their pockets if they exercise that vote.

If you can vote, you should vote, and we should make sure that the laws of our Nation and our communities encourage rather than discourage the participation of every citizen.

Another striking observation I made over the weekend was the diversity of the American electorate: women and men, straight and gay, U.S.-born and naturalized, old and young, working class, retired, students, military, executives. Nevada put on a display of how much progress our Nation has made in a few decades.

I saw the energy and the determination of young voters, new voters, newly 18, newly citizens, newly engaged in the political process. Everywhere I have traveled, including the high schools in my district in Illinois, I see 17- and 18-year-old Latinos anxious and eager to participate, and they are motivated to register and vote and inspired by their candidates and their parties.

Today, tomorrow, and every day for decades about 2,000 U.S.-born Latino citizens of the United States will turn 18 and be eligible to vote. Every day, 2,000 of them turn 18, and they are eager to get involved.

There is a similar energy in the people I meet who are applying for citizenship. There are over 8 million immigrants with green cards who are eligible to apply for citizenship right now. And with fee waivers for those with limited funds, many of them can apply for free. And they are applying in droves.

This coming Saturday, I will be at a workshop in Denver, Colorado, for people learning about the process and applying for citizenship.

A coalition of groups led by the National Partnership for New Americans but also encompassing Mi Familia Vota, a range of labor unions, and advocacy groups large and small across 30 States have invited me to participate in this nonpartisan activity to promote civic engagement and citizenship in immigrant communities across this country. Their goal is to help 1 million eligible immigrants become citizens so they can vote in primaries and general elections this year and make sure they are at America's table.

In communities like Denver and Chicago, there is a hunger for citizenship despite all the barriers, despite the

costs, and despite the anti-immigrant tone coming from our TVs and candidates. In fact, it is the anti-immigrant tone that people tell me over and over is what is motivating them to apply, study for the tests, and better their English.

It is that energy that gives me great confidence in our Nation and in the direction our Nation is heading this year.

Immigrants are a part of a growing American coalition of working class voters: women, straight people and LGBT, environmentalists, Latino, Asians, Black, White, old and young, Muslim and Christians, Jewish and agnostic. They are coming together and mobilizing.

Together, even as some politicians push them away and try to divide up with suspicions of our fellow Americans, together, their diversity and dedication to democracy is a beautiful thing to witness.

AMERICA: LEARN FROM GREECE INSOLVENCY DAMAGE

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office data reveals that America's financial condition has taken a sharp, ugly turn for the worse. America's estimated 2016 deficit is $105 billion worse than 2015's already dangerous $439 billion deficit.

America's debt has blown through the $19 trillion mark and is projected to blow through the $29 trillion mark in a decade.

America's Comptroller General and CBO warn that America's financial path is ''unsustainable,'' meaning America faces a debilitating insolvency unless we get our financial house in order.

Mr. Speaker, those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

In that vein, America must learn from Greece, a country betrayed by decades of financially irresponsible leadership. In the past 5 years, Greece has repeatedly failed to meet its debt obligations and subsisted on three bailouts from the European Union.

The result?

The Greek economy is in a shambles. Greece has a 52 percent labor participation rate, 10 points worse than here in America. Greece's unemployment rate was recently 25 percent, approximating America's worse unemployment rate in the Great Depression. Worse yet, Greeks under the age of 25 suffer from a 48 percent unemployment rate.

Financial irresponsibility ultimately forces draconian austerity spending cuts. Greece has cut public health care spending from 6.8 percent of GDP in 2010 to roughly 5 percent today, thereby risking Greek lives. Cancer screening has been cut. HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria rates have surged as fewer Greeks receive proper treatment.

The public pensions Greek elderly citizens rely on for survival have been cut an average of almost 50 percent since 2010 and are again on the chopping block.

Greek tax rates are exploding. Income taxes on farmers have doubled from 13 percent to 26 percent. Self-employed professionals and farmers say proposed social security and income tax increases will combine to consume as much as 75 percent of their incomes.

Greece's banking system is on the brink. In the summer of 2015, pre-European bailout, the Greek Government froze citizens' bank accounts, limiting cash withdrawals from ATMs to $67 per day. Greeks could not even access their own money.

Post-bailout and as Greeks began fearing their savings accounts would be confiscated to pay for government debt, as occurred in nearby Cyprus—yet another insolvent country—Greeks withdrew cash from banks.

The run on banks caused the Greek Government to intervene and limit the right of Greek citizens to withdraw their own money, which caused citizens to cut deposits into Greek banks, which undermined the Greek banking system, which dried up the availability of loans for new business needed to create jobs in a rebounding economy.

Violent demonstrations are resulting. For example, on February 4, 2016, Athens, Greece, ABC News reported:

''Riot police have used tear gas in clashes with protesters during a mass rally in Athens as Greeks demonstrated against government pension reforms needed to meet demands of international creditors.''

Mr. Speaker, there is an old adage that ignorance is bliss. I don't know about that, but I do know that ignorance is dangerous.

In 2009, Greece spent 3.2 percent of GDP on its national defense. Five years later, Greek defense spending was cut to 2.3 percent of GDP, a 28 percent cut.

Now, perhaps the world will not suffer from Greece's defense spending cuts, but what would be the effect on world peace if America's defense spending suffered a similar fate?

Mr. Speaker, time is running out. Washington must balance the budget before America's debt burden spirals out of control before it is too late to prevent the debilitating insolvency and bankruptcy that awaits us.

I pray the American people will be good stewards of our Republic in 2016 and elect Washington officials who both understand the threat posed by deficits and debt and have the backbone to fix it. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, America's future depends on it.

OPIOID ABUSE/MEDICAL MARIJUANA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last night Frontline on PBS had a compelling documentary on the opioid and heroin epidemic. We are now seeing politicians diving in. Governors across the country are sounding the alarm. It is being featured by Presidential candidates in both parties.

President Obama's budget has some very good suggestions highlighting tools to reduce drug overuse, overdose, evidence-based prevention programs, prescription drug monitoring, and prescription take-back events. There are a variety of things that are going in the right direction.

Yet, it is a little frustrating for me that the simplest, cheapest, safest solution to help these troubled people is not embraced: medical marijuana.

Actually, the public is largely there. For the last 20 years, the tide has been building for medical marijuana, even as the crisis on opioids has slowly started to take hold. It began with voter approval in California in 1996 and in Oregon 2 years later. Now 23 States have legalized medical marijuana, and two-thirds of Americans live in States where at least some form of medical marijuana is authorized.

There is a reason for this movement. A meta-analysis of 79 studies in The Journal of the American Medical Association found solid evidence that medical marijuana is effective in treating chronic pain. There is no evidence of serious side effects among medical marijuana users who are actually less likely to drink alcohol or take other painkillers. And those States with medical marijuana actually have fewer overdose deaths.

Isn't this worth exploring? Especially when there is evidence that availability of medical marijuana dispensaries is associated with a significant decrease in substance abuse admissions and a reduction in opioid overdose deaths.

Recently, we have even had former NFL players come out and describe how they used medical marijuana to self-medicate rather than being shot up with painkillers by team doctors and being prescribed opioid pills.

What is perhaps most frustrating for me is the wrong-headed approach that prohibits Veterans Administration doctors from even talking to their patients about medical marijuana in the States where it is legal. That is ironic because the VA has its own veterans health crisis because their patients are dying from prescription overdoses at rates twice the national average. Opioid prescriptions by VA doctors have surged 270 percent over the last 12 years. They are prescribing significantly more opioids to patients suffering from PTSD and depression than other veterans, even though those are the patients most at risk of overdose and suicide. Nearly 1 million veterans who receive treatment for pain continue to consume those pills beyond 90 days.

It is clear that most veterans would probably be better off if we more fully utilized medical marijuana to treat

conditions of pain, depression, and PTSD.

□ 1015

At the very least, we ought to allow the Veterans Administration doctors to work with their patients on this matter. That is why I will again be introducing my amendment that would make it clear that VA doctors in States where it is legal can work with their patients on medical marijuana.

Since I first introduced this legislation, I have watched growing support on the floor of the House for an amendment that would accomplish this. There has been interest in the Senate. Veterans groups are aware of this discrimination and the Veterans Administration's sorry record when it comes to helping our veterans with these chronic conditions by using conventional painkillers that lead to addiction and death.

Medical marijuana appears safer, effective, and is a low-cost way to deal with chronic pain. Nobody dies from an overdose of medical marijuana. Let's add this to our discussion, promote more effective research, and let VA doctors meet with their patients to talk about this as an alternative.

SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF THE WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as the author of legislation that awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots, better known as the WASP, I rise in strong support of this bill, H.R. 4336, the Women Airforce Service Pilots Arlington Inurnment Restoration Act, presented by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), my great friend and colleague. This legislation seeks to restore eligibility to these brave women pioneers for burial at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

The WASP were the first women in U.S. history to fly our military aircraft. During World War II, a time of great global conflict, these courageous women volunteered to fly noncombat missions so that every available male pilot could be deployed in combat.

The WASP served our Nation without hesitation and with no expectation of recognition or praise. More than 25,000 women applied for the program, but only 1,074 selected women earned their wings. Between the years 1942 and 1944, the WASP logged more than 60 million miles. With the exception of direct combat missions, the WASP flew the same aircraft as male pilots.

Although they took the military oath, the WASP were not recognized as military personnel for their time in service. Their patriotic contributions went unrecognized for many decades. It wasn't until 1977 that Congress granted them veteran status; and then in 2002, the Arlington National Cemetery decided to allow the WASP, among others listed as Active Duty designees, to receive benefits consistent with the status that they had so rightfully earned. Unfortunately, last year, the Department of the Army rescinded this decision and ruled that the WASP were ineligible for burial at that site, citing a lack of space.

This is simply unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. These women deserve to be treated honorably, and our military branch should allocate the necessary space to accommodate these courageous women who sacrificed so much for our country.

We cannot just consider these women to be ineligible. These honorable women answered the call to serve during World War II. They did not turn their backs on the American people nor on their fellow servicemen. Their rights at Arlington National must be restored. We have to do this for the present and future generations to come.

Today, women in our military fly every type of aircraft, from the F–15 to the space shuttle, and I know this because my daughter-in-law, Lindsay Nelson Lehtinen, has flown combat missions both in Iraq and Afghanistan for the Marines. This opportunity was afforded to Lindsay thanks to the service of the Women Airforce Service Pilots. They were the trailblazers. They set the stage for women in the military.

I have been fortunate enough to personally meet some of these heroic women. As pictured in this poster, I presented south Florida WASP Ruth Shafer Fleisher and Frances Sargent with copies of the bill that I introduced and passed in Congress with the help of SUSAN DAVIS, and which was signed by the President, that honored the invaluable contributions of these heroic female pilots. We had this celebration at the Wings Over Miami Air Museum, which has served as the foundation for our community to learn more about veterans and aviators, including our proud WASP.

Throughout my years in Congress, I have also had the pleasure of meeting other south Florida WASP, including Shirley Kruse, pictured here, Bee Haydu, and Helen Wyatt Snapp. Although Frances and Helen are no longer with us, they still live in our hearts and in our minds, and they are embedded in the rich history of our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, we need to do what is right for our valiant, patriotic women and their wonderful families. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will bring up Congresswoman MCSALLY's bill tomorrow, Thursday, during a markup. I encourage all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support and pass this important and necessary bill so that we can continue to honor these women pioneers.

These women must receive the recognition that they are due. We must give them back the right that they earned, to be buried at Arlington. Thank you very much to these brave patriots.

REAUTHORIZATION OF CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of efforts to reauthorize child nutrition programs.

Last year the House and the Senate worked together in a bipartisan fashion to reauthorize our elementary and secondary education programs. I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to carry forward that momentum to complete a much-needed review and renewal of Federal child nutrition programs. In doing so, Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to employ similar goals and objectives: simplify, streamline, and empower State and local education agencies when reauthorizing these programs.

In particular, this approach can benefit our students and families by finding a path forward to simplify and streamline existing Federal nutrition and meal requirements without sacrificing the beneficial dietary value that school meals bring to students' daily lives. Much like we empowered our teachers to establish the curriculum and standards to best teach students they know so well, we likewise should empower those who know what our students will actually eat: the school professionals who work with the goal of making sure our children are able to enjoy healthy, nutritious meals.

Likewise, we can use this opportunity to continue efforts to ensure that our existing Federal nutrition programs are providing adequate and appropriate training to school professionals, as well as the resources necessary to improve and enhance our school meal delivery system.

Mr. Speaker, this opportunity will allow us to strengthen existing programs that strive to get nutritious meals to children year-round, and at earlier ages. Existing programs like the Summer Food Service Program can be enhanced and made more efficient to make sure they effectively reach those children who are most in need of quality, healthy meals. We can collaborate with Head Start, afterschool, and early childhood programs to better engage them in existing Federal programs that offer nutritious meals to young children most in need.

We have a strong infrastructure in place to provide children and families with quality, healthy meals, and we have an excellent opportunity to improve these programs. I respectfully call on my colleagues on both sides of

the aisle to work together to accomplish this effort before another school year comes to a close.

LEVERAGING AND ENERGIZING AMERICA'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS ACT

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Leveraging and Energizing America's Apprenticeship Programs Act, legislation that I have cosponsored.

In the midst of a slow economic recovery, one of the issues plaguing both our workforce and our job creators is a persistent mismatch of employer needs and employee skills. Right now, 10 million unemployed Americans are seeking work, while 4 million jobs remain unfilled. Fortunately, this problem can be solved with a bipartisan commitment to commonsense workforce development initiatives, as demonstrated by the Leveraging and Energizing America's Apprenticeship Programs bill.

By promoting apprenticeship programs, this legislation creates opportunities for highly motivated workers to earn a salary, while gaining the skills they need to succeed in high-demand fields.

I am proud to say that employers in my congressional district in southeastern Pennsylvania have already recognized the value of apprenticeship programs by making hundreds of these opportunities available to those looking to build their job training and skills.

I commend Congressman RODNEY DAVIS for his efforts on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of reauthorizing the Older Americans Act.

The Older Americans Act provides social and nutritional support to members of our senior population and their caregivers. Enacted in 1965, this legislation has improved health outcomes, independence, and quality of life by offering meal delivery, respite care, and other essential services to the most vulnerable members of our population.

Reauthorization of this legislation gives Congress an opportunity to modernize multipurpose senior centers; improve falls prevention and chronic disease self-management training; strengthen laws to combat abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and support our local Area Agencies on Aging.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my support to work with my colleagues to review and advance the legislation passed by the United States Senate last year, as it is an effort that will not only help protect seniors across my district and the U.S., but will ensure that our existing Federal support programs are appropriately tailored to meet the present-day needs of our senior citizens.

PENTAGON WASTEFULNESS IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I have been coming to the floor for weeks and months to complain about the waste of money and life in Afghanistan. In the last couple weeks, I had an opportunity to read two articles. The first is titled, ''This is How the Pentagon Wasted $17 Billion in Afghanistan,'' by Emily Leayman. I would like to quote a couple of examples of the Pentagon's waste that she describes in her article.

The Pentagon spent ''$8 billion for a failed drug war: Despite a 14-year effort, Afghanistan now leads the world in heroin production.'' The Pentagon also spent ''$486 million for useless aircraft: Speaking of planes, 20 planes could not be flown, and most were sold for scrap . . . Legislators like Senators John McCain and James Lankford are fed up with the lack of accountability in spending.''

Senators MCCAIN and LANKFORD have joined me in bringing to the public's attention the lack of accountability in Afghanistan. It is astounding, to say the least.

Mr. Speaker, last month John Sopko, the Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, testified before the Senate Committee on Armed Services about a recent report he wrote on the waste in Afghanistan. In that report, he exposed that the Pentagon paid $6 million to buy nine male Italian goats—the reason they bought the goats from Italy was because they are blond in color—to send to western Afghanistan to set up a farm and try to boost the cashmere industry there in Afghanistan. Now, the Pentagon doesn't even know where the goats are. And the sad thing is, as Mr. Sopko said to the Senate, ''We don't know where the goats are. They might have been eaten''—$6 million. Mr. Speaker, American people could do a lot with $6 million, I assure you. And they wouldn't be spending $6 million for nine goats, that I am certain.

The report that Mr. Sopko made reference to is titled, ''Report Cites Wasted Pentagon Money in Afghanistan.'' Mr. Speaker, the waste goes on and on and on, and yet we in the House every year will send more and more money to Afghanistan. We have already been there 14 years. We are going to be there another 8 years because President Obama signed an agreement with Mr. Ghani to be there for 9 more years. We have already been there 1 year, and that means 8 more years. That is 22 years.

□ 1030

General Campbell, who has been the leader in Afghanistan, but is leaving, says that we need more years to train the Afghans to have a security force. I guess we are going to be there 30 years. I will be dead and gone, for sure, by then.

What a waste of life and money in Afghanistan. It is time for this Congress to meet its responsibility and put pressure on the administration and stop funding Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I have a poster here. The reason I bring this poster to the floor is to show the sad tragedy of war. There is a wife and a little girl. The husband and daddy is in a flag-draped casket.

The reason I bring this matter to the floor is that I have signed over 11,000 letters to families and extended families who died in Afghanistan and Iraq. Last Sunday I signed one letter for an Army sergeant who died in Afghanistan. Mr. Speaker, I thought: How sad. How sad it is for that family. It is just so sad.

It doesn't have to happen. We need to debate bringing our troops home from Afghanistan, and we need to debate stopping the funding for the war in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, before closing, I want to remind the House that this is the longest war in the history of America. I don't know who said it, but they said it right: Afghanistan is the graveyard of empires.

I know there is going to be a headstone that says that the empire known as America spent so much blood and money in Afghanistan. It is financially broke. We are $19.1 trillion in debt right now.

Let's bring our troops out of Afghanistan. Let them fight the civil war themselves and decide what they want for Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, bless the families of our men in uniform. And, God, please continue to bless America.

STOP ACT

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an important congressional reform initiative that I have introduced in this body.

I have had the opportunity to study Congress from virtually every angle. I graduated from college as a young intern who drove up here having never been north of Tennessee. As my predecessor said and I shared: I never thought I would meet a Member of Congress, much less have the great opportunity and honor to be one.

Through virtually every staff role over the past 15 or 20 years, I have had a chance to study this body. There are a few experiences now, as a sitting Member of Congress, that I simply cannot accept.

One of them—the most pressing one—is the amount of time that Members of Congress are expected or, in some cases, directed to spend on raising money.

We all know it. Every Member of Congress understands that you arrive with great expectations only to learn the obligation to spend time raising money. There is a quiet anger among many Members about that.

It is not comfortable to talk about, frankly. This is one of the more uncomfortable speeches I will ever give in the well of this House. We must talk about it. Because when does this become the expectation?

This is an orientation slide for freshmen Members of Congress that was produced by one of the two major parties of this Congress a few years back, suggesting that, as a Member of Congress, your first responsibility is 4 hours a day not in your office, but across the street in a call suite asking people for money, another 1 to 2 hours a day networking and raising money, and only 2 hours a day doing your job.

Members of Congress might have a quiet anger, but the American people will have a very loud anger when they understand that we are not accomplishing things here because we are spending too much time raising money. Let's turn that anger into resolve and change this body and change Washington forever.

Former Members of Congress are happy to talk about this, retiring Members who write confessions saying they spent 4,200 hours raising money, former majority leaders of the other body now writing a book lamenting how much time they spent raising money, a colleague of ours leaving this House calling fundraising the main business of Congress.

But what do they all have in common? They are all retiring or retired. Why don't we do something about it, as sitting Members of Congress? Why don't we fix this now when we have the opportunity instead of lamenting it when we are gone?

This is why I have introduced what I call the Stop Act. It is very simple. It is 3 or 4 pages. Every Member of this body can read it before they vote on it. It simply prohibits direct solicitation of a campaign contribution by a sitting Member of Congress.

State legislators in the State of Florida and across the country are often prohibited from directly soliciting. There are 30 States where judges are elected, and they are prohibited from directly soliciting contributions.

I want to say thank you to my colleagues who have cosponsored this. In just over 3 weeks, we have six cosponsors: Mr. NOLAN of Minnesota, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Messrs. DUFFY and RIBBLE of Wisconsin, and Messrs. MICA and NUGENT from my State of Florida.

The message is very simple on this. It says to Congress to get back to work. Let's do our job, the job we were elected to do. We will never solve border security and immigration reform. We will never balance the budget. We will never address national security and foreign policy. We will never address tax reform if we have a part-time Congress in a full-time world.

In any other profession, if you spend 20 to 30 hours a week doing a job other than you are hired to do, you would be fired. But, in Washington, we accept this as the political culture.

Many will say the issue is dark money, the issue is transparency. Fine. We can have a campaign finance debate. But that is not what this is about. This is about congressional reform.

I will close with this, Mr. Speaker. Each one of us made a promise to roughly 700,000 people in the community from which we come and represent. We made a promise to do our job, not to ask them for money. We took an oath.

We each took an oath, swearing to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. The last line of our oath says: ''I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of this office on which I am about to enter.''

Friends, we are not well and faithfully discharging the duties of this body when we are spending 20 hours a week asking people for money and not doing our job.

We are not well and faithfully discharging the duties of this office when fundraising is the main business, when we have Members missing votes to raise money, when the most important question sometimes among colleagues is not what legislation you are working on, but how much money you have raised. We are not well and faithfully executing the duties of this House when we are not doing our job.

I stand here not to judge my colleagues. I stand here to try to change the system. Let's restore credibility to this House. Let's honor the greatness of this body with greatness of integrity, greatness of commitment, greatness of resolve.

Let's recognize the great calling of this body and the even greater calling of this Nation. Let's stand together today and change Washington forever.

Friends, colleagues, I urge you, while you are here and before retiring and lamenting the amount of time you spent raising money, cosponsor the Stop Act. Join me in this effort to change Washington.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

HARPERS FERRY, WEST VIRGINIA

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

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, there are few places in our country that have both strong historical significance and scenic beauty. Harpers Ferry is perhaps the greatest example of both.

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, was founded in 1734 by Robert Harper, who purchased the land for 50 guineas, or around $262. Over the next 282 years, this quaint town was the backdrop for some of the most important events in American history.

From the earliest settlement of this great Nation through the founding of the railroads, the beginning of Meriwether Lewis' adventure with William Clark out West, John Brown's raid, numerous Civil War battles and skirmishes, and the beginning of the civil rights movement, Harpers Ferry has stood the test of time and watched our American history unfold.

As for the scenic beauty, none have described it better than one of our Nation's great founders, President Thomas Jefferson. After visiting Harpers Ferry on October 25, 1783, the author of the Declaration of Independence said he viewed ''the passage of the Potomac River through the Blue Ridge as perhaps one of the most stupendous scenes in nature.''

Let me tell you, this picture does not do the town justice.

Harpers Ferry is a national treasure that has been enjoyed by millions of families for centuries. This past July, however, this quaint town of only 283 residents was struck by a large fire that swept through the downtown business district and destroyed 10 businesses, which is 30 percent of the commercial district, and 2 apartments.

Even before the embers from the fire cooled, members of the community had begun to take action and began making plans to rebuild.

The town council, the Merchants Association, and the community at large stepped up to take care of the people who were displaced by the fire. Jobs and housing were found for everyone who needed them, and space was offered for businesses that were able to immediately reopen.

The Harpers Ferry Historical Town Foundation established a fund to collect and distribute money to help displaced residents, businessowners, and employees meet their most immediate needs.

Over the past several months, in addition to the support the fund received from people who live in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, thousands of visitors from across the country and some from abroad have contributed to this fund.

The president of West Virginia University, Dr. G. Gordon Gee, brought a team to Harpers Ferry to help the town and the town council establish a plan. This plan enabled property owners to rebuild and restore their buildings, to develop a marketing plan, and to provide engineering and archeological services to prevent the demolition of their historical treasures.

The superintendent of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Rebecca Harriott, stepped forward with meeting spaces, security services, and additional personnel to protect town residents and visitors from the fragile, burned-out spaces.

The Jefferson County Commission provided in-kind and financial support to reimburse the town for the unanticipated expenses of fighting the fire and providing for safety in the middle of

Harpers Ferry's busiest part of the tourist season. Local, State, and Federal officials were a constant and reassuring presence for the town.

The town council and the Historic Landmarks and Planning Commissions have worked together to streamline processes and enable property owners to quickly move ahead with the restoration of the burned buildings.

This past Monday I personally visited Harpers Ferry in Jefferson County, where I live with my wife and three children, to see the progress that is being made to repair the structures.

The mayor, Greg Vaughn, was kind enough to show me around the damaged buildings and introduce me to those who were impacted by the fire. I can't tell you how encouraging it was to see how the town has come together to rebuild after the fire.

Harpers Ferry is no stranger to disaster: war, fire, floods. This is a town that endures. Today, Mr. Speaker, Harpers Ferry is still open for business, still thriving, still an elegant and evocative journey into the formative years of our Nation. I invite you to come visit.

HEROIN EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a problem that is near and dear to my heart.

Cheaper than cigarettes and more accessible than alcohol, heroin has become a plague on communities all across our country. Heroin takes a life every 3 days in the Chicago suburbs. Unfortunately, a similarly deadly trend is taking place all over our Nation.

Although heroin is not often considered a serious suburban problem, statistics show the epidemic is quickly growing. Nearly one-quarter of the people who try heroin become addicted, and heroin deaths have literally quadrupled in the United States in less than a decade.

But the statistics don't even begin to tell the whole story. As the co-chair of the Suburban Anti-Heroin Task Force in the State of Illinois, I have seen firsthand the deadly impact of these drugs.

But I still can't even begin to fathom the pain of losing one of my children to a drug overdose. I can't imagine what families throughout the country have been put through because of this terrible drug.

There is hope. Thanks to the great work of the Lake County Opioid Initiative, Live4Lali, and many other organizations in the 10th Congressional District, we have already had tremendous success saving lives with an overdose reversal aid called naloxone.

□ 1045

When used properly, naloxone helps restore breathing that has been stopped by an overdose. First responders in Lake County, Illinois, have now saved over 56 lives in just a little over 1 year. That is 56 families who won't have to experience the same type of unbearable pain as those who have lost a loved one.

With increased access, the World Health Organization predicts that naloxone could save an additional 20,000 lives each and every year. That is why I introduced a new bipartisan piece of legislation this week with Congresswoman KATHERINE CLARK.

Our bill, Lali's Law, will help States increase access to naloxone. The bill is named in memory of Stevenson High School graduate Alex Laliberte, who, sadly, passed away from a drug overdose.

Alex, like many high school students, played sports at Stevenson High School. He did well at school. He cared about his friends. He cared about his family. But during his sophomore year of college, he began being hospitalized for what was a mysterious illness.

Unknown to his family and to the doctors, Alex had an addiction to prescription drugs and was being hospitalized for his withdrawal. He would stay in the hospital until he received his fix, leave the hospital, and repeat the cycle again and again. He continued this pattern until he died of an overdose a few days after his final exams.

The primary purpose, Mr. Speaker, of this bill, is to help fund State programs that allow pharmacists to distribute naloxone without a prescription so that we can prevent the repeat of Alex's story.

Many States use these programs to allow local law enforcement officers to carry and use naloxone, just like the success we have already seen in Lake County.

The police officers in Lake County asked to be able to carry it because they would come to a scene often faster than the paramedics. They could respond within 5 minutes and refused to sit idly by and watch these people die of an overdose.

Lali's Law is an example of what is possible when we set aside partisanship and get to work for the people that we represent. Lali's Law will bring Alex's story to the United States Congress, here, and amplify the lifesaving benefits of Live4Lali's hard work and the work that they did to pass a similar piece of legislation in the Illinois State Legislature.

It is my hope that, through this bipartisan bill, Alex's lasting legacy will include helping countless people get a second chance at recovery and saving their families from unbearable heartbreak.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan initiative and join us in the fight against heroin and prescription drug abuse. Together we can truly save lives.

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 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Bishop Perry Thompson, Freedom Chapel International Christian Center, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Emmanuel, the God of creation, presence, and power, we honor You, the true and only wise God, as Christ and Lord and decree and declare Your principles and patterns to be the common thread through these walls and this august assembly of Representatives.

We declare this day that the Lord has made a day of excellence and cooperation and decree it to be like no other day. We remorse of all sin and shortcomings and acquiesce to the unction of the Shekinah glory of the Most High.

With expediency, deliver us from our enemies, for we flee unto Thee to hide us. Teach us to do Thy will, for Thou art our God. Thy spirit is good. Lead us into the land of uprightness.

We declare these blessings in the name of the Lord and Savior.

Amen in Jesus' name.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN 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.

WELCOMING BISHOP PERRY THOMPSON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Bishop Perry N. Thompson of Richmond, Virginia, for offering the opening prayer.

A graduate of DeVry Institute of Technology and Norfolk State University, Bishop Thompson is the senior

pastor of the Freedom Chapel International Christian Center here in Washington, D.C., and Bishop Thompson oversees ministries abroad in Brazil, Ecuador, Liberia, Mexico, Russia, and Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Thompson is the Admissions and Financial Officer for the Supreme Court of the United States, the First Vice President of Administration for RBI Institute, and serves on the Executive Board of the Apostolic World Christian Fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Thompson is also the pastor of our beloved colleague Joyce Hamlett, Assistant Sergeant at Arms in charge of floor security.

Mr. Speaker, again I thank Bishop Perry N. Thompson for his excellent work and for his being here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PLAN TO CLOSE GUANTANAMO

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Obama announced his plan to close Guantanamo.

As a 29-year Air Force veteran and POW, I speak from experience when I say that the President's decision is wrong and it will endanger our homeland.

As a Congressman who helped pass the law to protect American citizens by ensuring Obama doesn't release terrorists from GTMO, I would like to remind the President that his decision goes against the will of the American people. Furthermore, it is illegal.

Radical Islamic terrorists who are hell-bent on the destruction of our democracy and way of life belong in only one place, Guantanamo.

The President is clearly in denial about these terrorists, but Americans can rest assured we will do everything in our power to keep our country safe.

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

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Great Lakes Day, hundreds of advocates are in Washington to support funding for the restoration of the Great Lakes.

Fortunately, after years of neglect, Congress is starting to meet its responsibilities to protect and to restore this irreplaceable resource.

In 1968, the Buffalo River, which drains into Lake Erie, was so contaminated that it was declared biologically dead.

Today, funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Federal Government, local businesses, and the Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER are working on a massive undertaking to clean up and restore the river. Now we expect it will be fishable and swimmable within the next decade.

In the coming weeks, Congress will begin to devise its spending plan for the year. I urge my colleagues to support programs like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which support local economies, natural habitats, and public health throughout the region.

CLOSING GUANTANAMO

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President announced a dangerous proposal, to close Guantanamo and bring terrorists to America. One of the proposed locations is near Charleston, South Carolina, creating a risk of attacks to adjacent schools, churches, neighborhoods, and ports.

I have visited Guantanamo twice. This is the right location to house terrorists who are obsessed to kill American families.

The 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by the President, bars the closure of Guantanamo. Congress voted that remote Guantanamo is the safest location for mass murderers of American families, which discourages further attacks, and no one wants to be in Communist Cuba.

I appreciate Speaker PAUL DAVIS RYAN, Senators TIM SCOTT and LINDSEY GRAHAM, Governor Nikki Haley, Attorney General Alan Wilson, and the South Carolina House delegation for their efforts to prevent the closure of Guantanamo to protect American families.

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

A NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, all of us were saddened in the last 2 weeks at the loss of the longest serving jurist, Justice Scalia. There is no doubt he loved the law and he loved the Court.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that, in recognition of Justice Scalia's love of the law and the love of that Court, we honor his memory by fulfilling the constitutional duty that the other body has to and the constitutional duty that the President has to, which is to advise and consent on a nomination made by the President or not consent made by the President of a Supreme Court Justice.

The claim that this is an 80-year precedent that has not been broken based upon the time that the President is now serving—332 days—there is no such term as a lame duck in the United States Congress is incorrect. It was recently done in 1988, under President Reagan, with Justice Kennedy, when he was nominated by a Democrat-controlled Senate, 97–0.

It is important that we express to the American people that we are willing to do our duty. I would adhere to the Latin term in English: the last expression of the people prevail. The President of the United States was duly elected in 2012. His term has not ended.

I applaud the President for doing his constitutional duty. I think it is important for us to do our constitutional duty, the Congress of the United States, and address the question on making sure the Court is full to do its duty.

A TRIBUTE TO HARPER LEE

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, last week the world lost a literary giant and Alabama lost a legend. A native of Alabama's First Congressional District, Nelle Harper Lee was born and died in Monroeville, Alabama, the city that served as an inspiration for the town of Maycomb in her legendary novel ''To Kill a Mockingbird.''

Nelle received many honors throughout her life, including being inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor, receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and being awarded the National Medal of Arts.

She was known as a private woman, but her writings inspired generations, promoted acceptance, and taught us all important life lessons.

Sadly, she passed away in Monroeville on February 19 at the age of 89.

One of the best lessons Nelle taught us was about tolerance. As she wrote in ''To Kill a Mockingbird,'' ''You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view . . . until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.''

May we all take time to reflect on the life of Nelle Harper Lee, and may we all continue to live out her lesson of tolerance each and every day.

AUTUMN JOHNSON KILLED BY GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of February 9, this little precious angel, 1-year-old Autumn Johnson, was in her crib when a gunman approached her family's Compton home and opened fire on the converted garage where they lived.

Autumn was struck by a single bullet to her head. Two sheriff's deputies on the scene didn't think they could wait for the paramedics and rushed little Autumn in her father's arms to the hospital in their squad car. She was declared dead at the hospital.

Yesterday sheriffs arrested her suspected killer. The motive is still unknown, but law enforcement suspects gang involvement. I hope that justice is served, but I know that nothing can make up for what Autumn's parents have lost.

I attended her funeral on Saturday, and my heart broke into a million pieces when I saw Autumn in her little lavender casket. Before she was buried, her young father put her pink teddy bear in beside her.

When is the breaking point? When will we decide that our communities have seen enough bloodshed? When will we get serious about investing in our young people and giving them better opportunities than gangs? When will we in Congress finally do our part to prevent gun violence?

Autumn's life mattered, and it is time we started acting like it.

HONORING CAROL MOONEY, PRESIDENT OF SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a champion of higher education in my district.

For the last 12 years, Dr. Carol Mooney has honorably served as president of Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. She is beloved by her peers and praised for strengthening Saint Mary's fiscal and academic standings. Her work has directly impacted the lives of students on campus, providing them with the highest quality education possible.

As its first lay alumna president, Mooney spearheaded Saint Mary's most successful fund-raising campaign, raising over $105 million in gifts and pledges. She also oversaw the expansion of numerous undergraduate and graduate programs. Clearly, her dedication to and passion for education has been felt far and wide.

On behalf of the people of Indiana's Second Congressional District, I thank President Mooney for her commitment to improving the state of our community and society at large and wish her all the best as she enters retirement later this year.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD WAR II GHOST ARMY

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a group of men who played a crucial and unique role in the Allied victory in World War II.

The Army's 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, also known as the Ghost Army, used tactical deception to divert enemy troops. Recruited from art schools and ad agencies, these men created false radio transmissions, along with decoy tanks, planes, and other vehicles, to deceive German soldiers while concealing the true movement of our Allied troops.

The unit's members included celebrated artists like Bill Blass and Ellsworth Kelly, and men like the late Mickey McKane, who lived in my district. Mickey was recruited from the Pratt Institute and put his expertise in architectural design to good use on the battlefields of Europe.

The Ghost Army's activities were classified until 1996, which meant that for years their heroics went largely unrecognized. Last year, my colleague PETER KING and I introduced legislation to collectively award a Congressional Gold Medal to the unit.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and give the Ghost Army the recognition it deserves. I hope you will join me tomorrow night on the Hill, where I will be hosting a screening of an acclaimed 2013 PBS documentary, The Ghost Army.

As the proud daughter and daughter-in-law of World War II veterans, I am honored to advocate for those who sacrificed so much for our victory. I urge my colleagues to join me in these efforts.

LACONIA PD

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Laconia, New Hampshire, Police Department helping combat our State's growing heroin epidemic.

Even in picturesque communities like Laconia, New Hampshire's Lakes Region, heroin abuse is afflicting everyone from kids to adults. Laconia is taking a new approach to the problem, however.

In addition to locking up drug dealers, the Laconia Police Department named former undercover officer Eric Adams as a prevention and treatment coordinator. In his new job, Officer Adams builds relationships with heroin users, often at their most vulnerable moments, convincing them to seek treatment.

Sometimes his cell phone rings in the middle of the night. A desperate caller pleads with Eric for help. He arrives with compassion and information. Just last year, he helped 78 Granite Staters seek treatment.

In Congress, members of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic are working to direct more resources to innovative programs like Laconia's. The Laconia Police Department is providing a model for others and saving lives.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, six people were murdered by a gunman on the streets of Kalamazoo, Michigan. So far this year, we have had more than 1,800 people die at the hands of a gun and more than 30 mass shootings. Congress has done nothing in the face of this continued bloodshed.

What will it take for us to act?

Today I will introduce the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, a bill that closes the hate crimes loophole and will prevent those convicted of hate crimes from possessing or purchasing a gun.

I have proposed the assault weapons ban, a bill to end the purchase of firearms by dangerous individuals, to close the fire sale loophole. My colleagues have introduced many other bills to fix our broken background check system.

It is important that we take up this legislation and vote on these bills to let our constituents know where we stand in this fight to reduce gun violence in our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAY WEST

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of my constituent Ray West, who passed away last week at the age of 89.

Ray was a U.S. Navy veteran who served during World War II. He went on to have a successful career in the film industry, earning an Academy Award and a Grammy for his work as a sound engineer.

Ray and his wife, Jean, were married in 1950. The two honeymooned in Yosemite National Park and celebrated each anniversary by returning there.

Ray became ill and the Dream Foundation stepped in. The Dream Foundation is a wish-granting organization for terminally ill adults that is based in Santa Barbara, California. They ensured that Ray and Jean would be able to visit Yosemite for their 65th wedding anniversary.

Last September I had the privilege of meeting Ray and his son David when they traveled to Washington, D.C., for the launch of the Dream Foundation's Dreams for Veterans Program. I was

honored to be able to recognize him for his outstanding military service and his extraordinary life.

So today, my thoughts are with Ray's family. I pray they find comfort as they celebrate the life of this remarkable man.

CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Founded in 1912, the CIAA is our Nation's first historically Black collegiate athletic conference and one of our country's oldest athletic conferences. The CIAA is being held in Charlotte, North Carolina, this week, which I have the pleasure of representing.

As co-chair of the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus, I am proud of the mission of the CIAA, which encourages educational advancements for student athletes, promotes positive competitive sportsmanship, and highlights HBCUs and other member institutions.

The Queen City has hosted this conference for more than 10 years, and the CIAA has had a positive impact on Charlotte's economy over the last decade, generating more than $325 million. It continues to generate more than $55 million annually. CIAA's sponsors, along with the city of Charlotte, have also provided $1.5 million annually in scholarship funding for member schools.

I thank CIAA for being such a positive force in the Charlotte area, and for students, families, and supporters across the country. I wish the best to all of the male and female athletes competing for titles this week.

AIPM ACT/NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES WEEK

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, this is a great opportunity to call attention to the more than 4,300 invasive species that harm our domestic agriculture, local landowners, and communities throughout the United States.

So, what are invasive species?

In my home State of Hawaii, the coffee berry borer, coconut rhinoceros beetle, macadamia nut felted coccid, and others cost our local economy millions and threaten our unique ecosystem, our agriculture and waterways, as well as our food supply and public health.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to combat the thousands of noxious species that are present across the country. That is why I strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor and pass H.R. 3893, a bill I sponsored, the Areawide Integrated Pest Management Act, which would bring local stakeholders together with researchers and other key players in order to find sustainable, cost-effective, and comprehensive solutions that will better help all of us to manage and prevent the spread of these harmful pests and invasive species.

DEADLINE FOR A STRATEGY TO COMBAT ISLAMIC EXTREMISM

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, last week the Obama administration failed to meet a congressionally mandated deadline to submit a strategy to combat Islamic terrorism.

To comply with the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, President Obama was required to submit to Congress a comprehensive strategy to defeat ISIS by Monday, February 15, 2016. That was over a week ago. We still have not received his strategy. Confronting this threat is of utmost importance to the safety and security of the United States and our allies.

While there is an absence of leadership from our Commander in Chief, the House has taken several steps to keep America safe from terrorism. We passed the Visa Waiver Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act to help prevent foreign terrorists from entering the United States. We also passed the American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act, a bill to pause the government's Syrian refugee program.

Just yesterday the House passed two additional measures to ensure our Federal agencies are working to disrupt the travel of terrorists and those seeking help from terrorists.

The House alone cannot keep America safe. We need action from this administration, and submitting an incomplete plan to remove dangerous terrorists to the United States from Guantanamo Bay doesn't count. It just threatens our security more. ISIS is a very grave threat that is clearly not contained.

Today I urge the President to comply with the National Defense Authorization Act and submit a plan to Congress.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACT GIVES MORE FLEXIBILITY TO MEET HEALTH CARE NEEDS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, hardworking families in Minnesota and around the country want more flexibility, more choice, and lower costs when it comes to their own health care. Instead of a top-down approach, patients should be able to work with their doctor to determine what is best to meet their health care needs.

One of the best tools to provide more flexibility for patients are health savings accounts and flexible spending accounts. HSAs and FSAs are a great way to save for future medical expenses.

However, due to certain loopholes in current law, employers are often discouraged from contributing to their employees' accounts. That is why I have introduced legislation, the Health Savings Act, that would remove this loophole and encourage companies to contribute directly to their employees' HSAs and FSAs.

The bill also would bring in seniors and Active Duty military personnel into the mix by allowing contributions to be made to those accounts under Medicare and TRICARE. It also makes commonsense fixes to the current rules regarding HSAs and FSAs. For instance, patients would now be able to purchase over-the-counter medications such as aspirin or allergy medicine without getting a prescription from their doctor first.

Mr. Speaker, let's give the American people more choice and more flexibility. Let's pass the Health Savings Act.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

ERIC WILLIAMS CORRECTIONAL OFFICER PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 238) to amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to issue oleoresin capsicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 238

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 ''Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS AUTHORIZED TO CARRY OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 303 of part III of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 4049. Officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons authorized to carry oleoresin capsicum spray

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall issue, on a routine basis, oleoresin capsicum spray to—

''(1) any officer or employee of the Bureau of Prisons who—

''(A) is employed in a prison that is not a minimum or low security prison; and

''(B) may respond to an emergency situation in such a prison; and

''(2) to such additional officers and employees of prisons as the Director determines appropriate, in accordance with this section.

''(b) TRAINING REQUIREMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In order for an officer or employee of the Bureau of Prisons, including a correctional officer, to be eligible to receive and carry oleoresin capsicum spray pursuant to this section, the officer or employee shall complete a training course before being issued such spray, and annually thereafter, on the use of oleoresin capsicum spray.

''(2) TRANSFERABILITY OF TRAINING.—An officer or employee of the Bureau of Prisons who completes a training course pursuant to paragraph (1) and subsequently transfers to employment at a different prison, shall not be required to complete an additional training course solely due such transfer.

''(3) TRAINING CONDUCTED DURING REGULAR EMPLOYMENT.—An officer or employee of the Bureau of Prisons who completes a training course required under paragraph (1) shall do so during the course of that officer or employee's regular employment, and shall be compensated at the same rate that the officer or employee would be compensated for conducting the officer or employee's regular duties.

''(c) USE OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY.—Officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons issued oleoresin capsicum spray pursuant to subsection (a) may use such spray to reduce acts of violence—

''(1) committed by prisoners against themselves, other prisoners, prison visitors, and officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons; and

''(2) committed by prison visitors against themselves, prisoners, other visitors, and officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 303 of part III of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4048 the following:

''4049. Officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons authorized to carry oleoresin capsicum spray.''.

SEC. 3. GAO REPORT.

Not later than the date that is 3 years after the date on which the Director of the Bureau of Prisons begins to issue oleoresin capsicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons pursuant to section 4049 of title 18, United States Code, as added by this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) An evaluation of the effectiveness of issuing oleoresin capsicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons in prisons that are not minimum or low security prisons on—

(A) reducing crime in such prisons; and

(B) reducing acts of violence committed by prisoners against themselves, other prisoners, prison visitors, and officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons in such prisons.

(2) An evaluation of the advisability of issuing oleoresin capsicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons in prisons that are minimum or low security prisons, including—

(A) the effectiveness that issuing such spray in such prisons would have on reducing acts of violence committed by prisoners against themselves, other prisoners, prison visitors, and officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons in such prisons; and

(B) the cost of issuing such spray in such prisons.

(3) Recommendations to improve the safety of officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons in prisons.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 238, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today I rise in support of S. 238, the Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act of 2015.

Eric Williams was born on August 24, 1978, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Donald and Jean Williams. Eric spent most of his life in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, where he attended the Nanticoke public schools and graduated from Greater Nanticoke Area High School in 1996.

Eric was an avid soccer player. He played youth soccer, was a member of the high school team, and continued playing in adult leagues. In addition, to his love of soccer, Eric was an avid sportsman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and bowling.

Eric graduated with a criminal justice degree from King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and was a graduate of Lackawanna College's police program. He went on to become a security specialist and then a police officer with Jefferson Township, Pennsylvania.

In September of 2011, Eric began his career as a corrections officer at the U.S. Penitentiary in Canaan. In his spare time, he volunteered by visiting jails, talking to inmates about health and spiritual issues.

On the night of February 25, 2013—3 years ago tomorrow—Eric was supervising more than 100 high-security inmates at the USP in Canaan. While making his rounds for nightly lockdown just before 10 p.m., inmate and gang member Jesse Con-ui launched an unprovoked, brutal, and cowardly attack against Senior Officer Williams. Con-ui knocked Eric down a staircase, fracturing his skull. He proceeded to stab Eric more than 200 times with a homemade prison shank.

When authorities found Eric's body, he had only a set of keys, a pair of handcuffs, and a handheld radio on him, clearly not enough to defend himself against such a brutal attack. Eric was 34 years old when he was murdered.

The Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act of 2015 will ensure that our brave corrections officers have the necessary equipment to properly defend themselves from this type of attack in the future.

S. 238 requires the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to issue pepper spray to any Bureau of Prisons officer or employee who may have to respond to an emergency situation to reduce acts of violence committed by prisoners.

□ 1230

This is a much-needed piece of legislation to ensure the safety and security of Bureau of Prisons employees as well as the inmates in their facilities. This bill passed the Senate 2 months ago and, if passed today, will be presented to the President.

I want to particularly thank Congressman MARINO, who represents the district where Eric lived and who has been a staunch advocate for making pepper spray available to Bureau of Prisons employees.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the senior member of the House Judiciary Committee and as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, as the Representative of Houston, I am privileged to be able to support this legislation, legislation that, I am very glad to say, had been included in our draft prison bill, a bipartisan bill. But because of the urgency of this matter, I am very glad to be on the floor of the House with the cosponsors, sponsors, and the chairman of the full committee, Mr. GOODLATTE; and the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. CONYERS, as well, joins in the importance of this effort.

My heart aches for Eric Williams' family, and it aches for the circumstance that caused him to lose his life. Obviously, this young man was committed to public safety, the criminal justice system, and, in fact, the rehabilitation of those who were incarcerated, even in high-risk circumstances.

I rise to support S. 238, the Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act of 2015, to make sure that this provision, providing a tool of safety for these brave corrections officers, does not go out of existence.

I want to extend my thanks again to Judiciary Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS, as I indicated, for their ongoing, bipartisan leadership.

But again, let me refer back to Eric Williams, the namesake of this legislation and the tragedy of his death. I want to offer my sympathy to the family members and to again say that this death did not have to happen.

As I discuss the bill, I want to make the point that we should not shortchange the resources needed for the men and women who are on the front lines of protecting us and securing a criminal justice system to make it work. In this instance, that is what happened.

A death had occurred earlier, but the pilot program did not reach to Eric's facility, and that is inexcusable. But, fortunately, this permanent adding or expanding of this bill will make sure that every high-risk facility under the Bureau of Prisons will have this pepper spray.

The Judiciary Committee unanimously passed the groundbreaking prison reform bill, as I said, 2 weeks ago. This measure was included.

S. 238 codifies a pilot program that has increased Federal prison safety nationwide. It is crucial. However, it is set to expire in a few days, and I look forward to my colleagues bringing forth the criminal justice bill.

It is important to move this bill now. Tomorrow marks 3 years since the death of Correctional Officer Eric Williams, who was stabbed by an inmate at a high-security facility. He was working alone, as I said, with 100 inmates, high risk. Armed with only a radio, keys, and handcuffs, he was unable to defend himself against the aggressive attack. If Officer Williams was equipped with pepper spray, then he might still be here with us today.

Passing S. 238 will honor Officer Williams. The provisions of this bill require BOP to issue oleoresin capsicum spray, known as pepper spray, to certain staff at a higher security prison. This requirement is truly common sense and does not apply to minimum or low-security facilities. It only applies to staff that may respond to an emergency situation in the prison.

S. 238 includes critical safeguards to ensure pepper spray is used appropriately and only when necessary to prevent acts of violence, it is determined that pepper spray is not dangerous, only in limited circumstances.

The legislation requires the officer or employee to complete a pepper spray training course before being issued the spray, annually thereafter.

It establishes parameters for using the spray, and it may only be used to reduce acts of violence. In doing so, S. 238 makes it clear that pepper spray may not be used to punish or coerce inmates, or in an excessive, inappropriate fashion.

Finally, let me say that it is with sadness, but with pleasure, that we provide this legislation and move it quickly so that we can provide that permanent armor, if you will, to protect these officers who are dealing with high-risk inmates.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

As a senior Member of the House Judiciary Committee; as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations; as the representative from Houston and as a co-sponsor of legislation that includes this same measure, I rise in support of S. 238, the ''Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act of 2015.''

Let me extend my thanks to Judiciary Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS for their ongoing leadership on bipartisan criminal justice reform.

When the Judiciary Committee unanimously passed a groundbreaking prison reform bill just two weeks ago, that bill included the measure before us today.

S. 238 codifies a pilot program that has increased federal prison safety nationwide.

This crucial program, however, is set to expire in just a few days.

While I look forward to working with my colleagues to bring our bipartisan criminal justice reform bills before this Chamber soon, we must pass S. 238 now to avoid letting this important program expire.

Tomorrow marks three years since the death of Correctional Officer Eric Williams, who was stabbed by an inmate at a high security facility in Waymart, PA.

Officer Williams was working alone in a unit of more than loo inmates.

Armed only with a radio, keys, and handcuffs, he was unable to defend himself against the aggressive attack.

If Officer Williams was equipped with pepper spray, then he might still be here with us today.

Passing S. 238 will honor Officer Williams.

The Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act of 2015 provides officers in higher security facilities with the means to protect themselves when necessary.

S. 238 requires BOP to issue oleoresin capsicum spray, known as pepper spray, to certain staff at higher security prisons.

This requirement is truly common sense: it does not apply to minimum or low security facilities; and it only applies to staff that ''may respond to an emergency situation'' in the prison.

S. 238 includes critical safeguards to ensure pepper spray is used appropriately and only when necessary to prevent acts of violence.

Specifically, this legislation: requires the officer or employee to complete a pepper spray training course before being issued the spray, and annually thereafter; and establishes perimeters for using the spray—it may only be used to reduce acts of violence committed by prisoners against themselves or others.

In doing so, S. 238 makes it clear that pepper spray may not be used to punish or coerce inmates, or in an excessive and inappropriate fashion.

The need to provide permanent protective equipment cannot be overstated.

Mass incarceration has led to dangerously overcrowded federal prisons.

Such conditions can frequently lead, or at least contribute to, unnecessary violence.

High and medium security level facilities make up 42 percent of the total BOP population.

In FY2013 these facilities were operating 52 percent and 45 percent over capacity, respectively.

Officers in these facilities must be equipped to protect themselves and others.

In 2010, there were almost 1,700 assaults on BOP staff—about 49 per 5,000 inmates.

BOP requires officers on regular duty to carry a radio, body alarm, and keys.

Outside the pilot program and aside from emergency situations and special teams, officers do not carry pepper spray or batons.

Officers must rely on communication skills and training to de-escalate confrontations.

These are critically important skills and we know that our well-trained federal correctional officers are generally able to use these skills to avoid violence.

In some instances, however, these skills may not be enough and, when they are not, these officers must not be defenseless.

The issuance of pepper spray, alongside proper training, will go a long way to assisting these officers when all else fails.

We ask a lot of federal correctional officers.

We support these officers with training and skills, but that is not always enough.

When faced with acts of violence against themselves and others, they must be well-positioned to cut that violence short.

It is therefore vital that we pass S. 238 now.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me; the National Association of Police Organizations; Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; American Federation of Government Employees, and Council of Prison Locals; in supporting the Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act of 2015.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO), a member of the Judiciary Committee and a subcommittee chairman who has been an advocate on this issue and whose district was directly impacted by the murder of Eric Williams.

Mr. MARINO. I thank Chairman GOODLATTE for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I thank Mr. CONYERS for supporting this as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act.

I was not fortunate enough to know Eric Williams while he lived, but, as I have met and worked with his parents, his coworkers and friends, I have come to grasp the depth of his loss to them all.

As the chairman stated before me, on the night he was brutally murdered, Eric was alone and outnumbered, over 100 to 1, in a high-security Federal penitentiary.

USP Canaan, where Eric was murdered, is one of three such high-security institutions in my congressional district. And I might add that Congressman GOODLATTE and I toured the facilities at Lewisburg and at Allenwood several months ago and saw firsthand what takes place there. In each of them, corrections officers and other prison staff are constantly outnumbered while they work among the most violent criminals in the Federal prison system.

Until the BOP implemented its OC spray pilot program, each of these correctional officers was also completely unarmed. Inmates, on the other hand, constantly find ingenious ways to fabricate weapons for use against BOP employees and other inmates.

But, as I have visited and met with corrections officers at USP Canaan,

FCC Allenwood, and USP Lewisburg, I have heard firsthand accounts why OC spray is a necessary tool for their job. It is a sign of why this proven pilot program must be permanently authorized.

I want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE for his support and assistance on this critical piece of legislation, and my colleagues sitting with me here today and on the other side of the aisle. Over many months now, he and the staff have worked with mine to ensure that we bring this to the floor.

I also want to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator TOOMEY, for his efforts to push the bill through the Senate.

While straightforward and short, the bill means life and/or death for corrections officers and BOP employees across the Nation. The loss of Eric Williams and two other Federal corrections officers in recent years is tragic and absolutely preventable.

Tomorrow, February 25, marks 3 years since Eric's death. To honor his service and his memory, I urge my colleagues to do right for those who protect us and support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA).

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act.

First, let me explain the title of the bill.

Eric Williams was a constituent of mine from Nanticoke, a senior correctional officer at the U.S. Prison at Canaan in Waymart, Pennsylvania, which is just outside of my district. On February 25, 2013, that is 3 years ago tomorrow, Eric Williams was working in the prison when he was suddenly attacked by an inmate. The inmate knocked Officer Williams down a flight of steps. He then stabbed him more than 200 times with a homemade shank. That inmate is now charged with first degree murder, first degree murder of a United States corrections officer, and possessing contraband in prison. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Needless to say, at the time of the attack, Officer Williams was unarmed. Now, it makes sense that officers don't carry firearms into areas where inmates could gain access to them, but this bill tells the Bureau of Prisons to supply pepper spray to prison officers or other employees who could be involved in emergency situations with inmates.

If Officer Williams had been equipped with pepper spray 3 years ago, he might have been able to defend himself against that cowardly, ambush-style attack, and perhaps he would be alive today. This will give correctional officers that fighting chance that Officer Williams did not have.

I have had the privilege of meeting with Eric Williams' parents, Don and Jean. They are now part of an organization called Voices of JOE. The letters of J-O-E stand for Jose Rivera, Osvaldo Albarati, and Eric Williams. They were killed because of their jobs in the correctional system.

For them, Mr. Speaker, and all of our correctional officers who risk their lives every day, I urge support of the bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY), who is the chief sponsor of the House version of this bill.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 238, the Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act, and urge its immediate adoption.

Two years ago, our office met with the family of Eric Williams. We heard the tragic story of how he was brutally murdered in the line of duty at the penitentiary at Canaan.

In coordination with Senator TOOMEY's office, we then introduced the bill, in concert with Congressmen BARLETTA and MARINO, the companion bill in the House. We reintroduced it again this past year and are thrilled that the Toomey bill has passed the Senate and has come before the House today. This bill will permanently authorize Federal correction officers to routinely carry pepper spray in medium-, high-, and maximum-security prisons.

Think about what we heard a minute ago. At the time of his death, Officer Williams was only equipped with a radio, a set of keys, and some handcuffs.

Any worker should feel safe and secure when they go to work, but that is not the case in our Federal correctional institutions. These men and women have no line of defense against conflicts within the prison walls. This bill will go far in providing Federal correctional workers a much-needed tool so that they may defend themselves and others if attacked by violent prison inmates.

I thank the Judiciary Committee and leadership for their quick action in bringing this issue to the floor, and I urge all my colleagues to honor the memory of Officer Eric Williams by voting ''yes'' and sending this bill to the President's desk.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time to close.

□ 1245

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, let me state the obvious. All of us are appalled and saddened by the loss of this correctional officer. We express again our sadness and sympathy to his family although 3 years later. Eric Williams did not deserve to die.

Our Federal prisons across America are dangerously overcrowded. Such conditions can frequently lead or at least contribute to unnecessary violence. High- and medium-level security facilities make up 42 percent of the total Bureau of Prisons population.

In FY 2013, these facilities were operating 52 percent and 45 percent over capacity, respectively. Officers in these facilities must be equipped to protect themselves.

In 2010, there were almost 1,700 assaults on BOP staff and about 49 per 5,000 inmates. BOP requires officers of regular duty to carry a radio, body alarm, and keys.

Outside the pilot program and aside from the emergency situation and special teams, officers do not carry pepper spray all the time. Officers must rely on communication skills and training to deescalate confrontations. Sometimes that is not enough. These are important skills.

We know that well-trained Federal correctional officers are generally able to use these skills to avoid violence, but not all the time. We must not have one single time where we have an officer at the risk of losing their life and they have no protection.

In some instances, however, these skills may not be enough. When they are not, these officers must not be defenseless. Issuance of pepper spray alongside proper training will go a long way to assist these officers.

We ask a lot of Federal correctional officers. In the comments made about Mr. Williams, he was engaged in counseling and rehabilitation discussions.

We support these officers with training and skills. We do expect for them to interact. When faced with acts of violence against themselves and others, they must be well positioned to cut that violence short.

So I ask my colleges to join in passing S. 238. I thank the author of the bill who persisted in introducing it on many occasions, my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, including Mr. MARINO, and others, our chairman and ranking member.

I urge my colleagues to join me, the National Association of Police Organizations, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the American Federation of Government Employees, and the Council of Prison Locals in supporting the Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act of 2015.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Very simply, a few weeks ago I had the opportunity to meet Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Eric's parents. They came to the House Judiciary Committee on the day that we marked up our prison reform legislation and included matters related to protecting the security officers in that legislation.

They came after Eric had been brutally murdered. So they knew that

nothing they did there that day would save him, that he had already been lost. But they came for one important reason. They don't want to see that happen to any other Federal prison security guards anywhere anytime. They strongly support this legislation.

I ask my colleagues to pass this legislation in Eric Williams' name and out of respect for the concern his parents have that officers who serve their country in our Federal prisons are kept safe.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 238.

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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3624, FRAUDULENT JOINDER PREVENTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 618 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 618

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3624) to amend title 28, United States Code, to prevent fraudulent joinder. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. 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. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on House Resolution 618, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring forward this rule on behalf of the Rules Committee.

It is a structured rule that provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee for H.R. 3624, the Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act of 2016.

In addition to consideration of H.R. 3624, the House will also debate and vote on two amendments on the House floor.

Yesterday the Rules Committee received testimony from the sponsor of the bill and a minority representative of the Judiciary Committee. Subcommittee hearings were held on this legislation, and it was marked up and reported by the Judiciary Committee. This bill went through regular order and enjoyed meaningful discussion at the subcommittee and full committee level.

H.R. 3624 is strongly supported by the National Federation of Independent Business and the Chamber of Commerce because of the significance of this issue to small businesses in northeast Georgia and across the Nation.

This legislation will protect innocent local parties, often small businessowners, from being dragged into expensive lawsuits. It achieves this goal in two specific ways.

First, the bill empowers judges to exercise greater discretion to free an innocent local party from a case where the judge finds there is no plausible case against that party.

It applies the same plausibility standard that the Supreme Court has said should be used to dismiss pleadings for failing to state a valid legal claim, and we believe the same standard should apply to release innocent parties from lawsuits.

Second, the bill allows judges to look at evidence that the trial lawyers aren't acting in good faith in adding local defendants. This is a standard some lower courts already use to determine whether a trial lawyer really intends to pursue claims against the local defendant or is just using them as part of their forum shopping strategy.

It is important to emphasize that Congress has the authority to regulate the jurisdiction of the lower Federal courts. The present standard has been described as poorly defined and subject to inconsistent interpretation and application and the consequences significant and real.

H.R. 3624 is consistent with the views of our Founding Fathers and the principles of federalism enshrined in the Judiciary Act of 1789.

I would like to thank Chairman GOODLATTE, Congressman BUCK, and their staff for their work in bringing forth this important litigation reform.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this rule and in strong opposition to the underlying legislation. In short, this is a lousy bill.

At the end of last year, Republicans and Democrats came together to pass four major pieces of legislation that were sent to President Obama's desk and enacted into law.

We passed a bipartisan budget agreement, a multiyear tax package, a highway bill, and legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that had all been stalled for years.

That is how Congress is supposed to work, Mr. Speaker. Quite frankly, I thought at the end of last year that maybe these successes would be contagious and that it would become the norm to actually work together in a bipartisan way and to pass meaningful legislation that would actually become law.

But this Republican leadership, I am sad to say, has returned from the holiday break with more of the same tired ideas and partisan legislation that is going nowhere. We are wasting time with this legislation today, which is going nowhere. We are wasting taxpayer dollars spending our time dealing with legislation that is going nowhere.

Instead of considering legislation to create jobs, boost our economy, or lift struggling Americans out of poverty,

this Republican leadership is once again bringing to the floor a completely unnecessary bill that puts the interests of large corporations ahead of the rights of the American people to pursue justice through our court system.

It is not even the first time this week Republicans have played politics with our judicial system. Just yesterday Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL and Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee confirmed that Senate Republicans will not hold hearings or any votes on any nominee by President Obama to fill the current vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court, leaving a vacancy on our highest court for at least a year or more.

Mr. Speaker, for the life of me, I can't understand why my Republican friends have spent so much time during the last 7 years doing everything they can to try to obstruct this President's agenda and every idea that this President has had.

The contempt that Republicans have demonstrated for this President from day one, when the Senate majority leader made clear that they wanted to make President Obama a one-term President and that the Republicans were going to do everything they could to stop every piece of legislation that he proposed because they wanted him to have no success stories, I think illustrates why this place has become the Congress of dysfunction.

We need to do better. We need to understand that, in Washington, D.C., our job is to try to get things done, not simply put roadblocks in the way.

Interfering with our judicial system to score political points sets a dangerous precedent, and the underlying bill that we are set to consider later today is just one more attempt to unbalance the scales of justice.

H.R. 3624, the so-called Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act, works to create a wild west environment for big corporations by making it harder for ordinary citizens to hold them accountable for their actions. It is simply another Republican handout to big business.

H.R. 3624 is an attempt to create a solution to a problem that doesn't exist. The issue of determining if a local party has improperly joined a case is already dealt with in our judicial system. There is no real evidence that the current system is failing to address any fraudulent joinders.

This bill creates redtape and bureaucracy, something I am constantly hearing my Republican friends complain about, all to make our courts friendlier to big business.

H.R. 3624 looks to move judicial cases that are supposed to be handled in State courts up to the Federal system, where trials take longer and are more expensive.

This makes it significantly harder for an individual who has been injured by a corporation to take them to court and to be able to receive the compensation that they may be entitled to, that they deserve.

The costs are even higher for those seeking justice when you consider that this change would force many individuals to travel long distances.

This is unjust and unfair. Maybe it pleases a certain group of contributors, but it is certainly not in the interests of the average American citizen.

Clogging up our Federal court system with unnecessary cases that should be handled in State courts is simply not in the best interest of the American people. Congress should not be taking away the power of the courts to determine where a case should be heard.

Mr. Speaker, Americans would be outraged to learn that we are even considering a bill that would tilt the scales even more in the direction of big corporations.

This is the people's House. We are supposed to be on the side of the people, not on the side of big corporations.

So I urge my colleagues to reject this rule, to reject this underlying bill, and to get on the side of the American people. If we want to do something constructive, maybe what we ought to do is pass a bill that allows the American people to sue the Congress for malpractice because that is what this is about.

This really is malpractice, that we are wasting our time on a bill that essentially is a giveaway to big corporations and we are not doing the business that the people sent us here to do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1300

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to urge that we defeat the previous question. If we do defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up a resolution that would require the Republican majority to stop its partisan games and finally hold hearings on the President's budget proposal.

I don't know why this is so controversial. We ought to have a hearing, and we ought to talk about various ideas on how to deal with our budget. The President of the United States is entitled to have a hearing up here in the House of Representatives.

I urge my colleagues again not to follow suit of the Senate, which is, again, blocking any hearings on a new Supreme Court nominee.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) to discuss this proposal.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding time.

This is my eighth year in service on the House Budget Committee. For the last 7 years, every year, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget has come to the House Budget Committee and has presented the budget of the President of the United States—the President of the United States, who has been duly elected by the people of this country for two terms.

Now the House Budget Committee decides that it wants to break 40 years of tradition and not allow the administration to present the President's budget to not just the committee, but also to the country. This isn't just unprecedented, this is disrespectful to the members of the committee and the Members of this House. It is certainly disrespectful to our President and the office of the Presidency. And above all, it is disrespectful to the American people who expect their elected leaders to at least review the budget of the President they elected.

As I have said before, the American people have elected President Obama twice. They did it for a reason. One of the reasons was that we were facing one of the greatest financial crises in the history of this country. The record since President Obama has taken office is pretty good. During his time in office, he has overseen one of the most monumental recoveries in our Nation's history.

Consider some of the things that have happened over the past two terms of the Obama administration. Over the last 6 years, 14 million new jobs have been created; unemployment is now down to 5 percent; our budget deficit is at the smallest it has been in 8 years, down $1 trillion from the year President Obama took office; corporate profits are up more than 165 percent; the Dow Jones average has doubled; the S&P 500 has more than doubled, up 140 percent; the NASDAQ has tripled, rising 222 percent; more than 16 million Americans now have health coverage who previously didn't; and new business formations are running at their highest rate in 17 years.

With that record of economic leadership, you would think that not just the American people, but certainly the House Budget Committee members would want to hear what this President has to say about his vision for the economy going forward and for the budget of this government. But no, once again, for the first time in 40 years, we don't have time or, apparently, the interest to listen to what the President has to say.

I shouldn't say ''we.'' This is the Republicans on the Budget Committee.

Budgets are the way we prioritize our values and our preferences for future action. I know why the Republicans don't want to hear the President's budget, because they don't want the American people to compare what the President would like to do with what their own budget will do. Now, we don't

know exactly what that Republican budget is going to look like this year, but we do know that the Republican budget is going to resemble the Paul Ryan budget of 2012 and 2011.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman from Kentucky an additional 1 minute.

Mr. YARMUTH. That budget was so distasteful to the American people that his running mate in 2012, Mr. Romney, was forced to disavow it. We can make our own judgments, but we can't make our own judgments if we can't see and we don't let the American people see the administration discuss their priorities versus the Republican priorities.

This really is an insult, once again, to the American people that Republicans are too scared of the contrast that will be presented to even allow the President's budget, the constitutionally elected President of the United States, to have his budget discussed in front of the American people. It is shameful.

I urge my colleagues to reject the previous question.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

I include in the RECORD an editorial that appeared in the New York Times, entitled, ''Republican Budget Tantrum.'' The editorial concludes with this paragraph saying:

''The President's budget request is a detailed and worthy entry in the contest of ideas. Its aim is to move the Nation forward. If Republicans had compelling ideas and a similar commitment to progress, they would engage with the proposals in the budget. But they don't. So they won't.''

[From the New York Times, Feb. 9, 2016]

REPUBLICAN BUDGET TANTRUM

(By The Editorial Board)

By law, dating back to 1921, the president of the United States must submit an annual budget request to Congress. On Tuesday, President Obama submitted his eighth and final budget. And like all presidential budgets, it is a statement of values and priorities, a blueprint for turning ideas into policies, a map of where the president wants to lead the country.

This week, even before the president's budget was released, the Republican chairmen of the budget committees announced they would not even hold hearings with the White House budget director to discuss the proposal.

Their decision is more than a break with tradition. It is a new low in Republican efforts to show disdain for Mr. Obama, which disrespects the presidency and, in the process, suffocates debate and impairs governing.

Mr. Obama's budget proposes to spend $4 trillion in the 2017 fiscal year (slightly more than for 2016). That total would cover recurring expenses, including Medicare and Social Security, as well as new initiatives to fight terrorism, poverty and climate change, while fostering health, education and environmental protection. If Republicans find those efforts objectionable—as their refusal to even discuss them indicates—they owe it to their constituents and other Americans to say why.

Would they prefer to renege on Social Security benefits? Do they think $11 billion to fight ISIS, as the budget proposes, is too much? Is $4.3 billion to deter Russian aggression against NATO allies a bad idea? Does $19 billion for cybersecurity to protect government records, critical infrastructure and user privacy seem frivolous? And is $1.2 billion to help states pay for safe drinking water or $292 million to send more preschoolers to Head Start really unaffordable?

Republicans have objected that the president's budget does not do enough to tackle the nation's borrowing. But according to the White House's estimate, the proposal would reduce deficits by $2.9 trillion over the next 10 years. That would be sufficient to hold deficits below 3 percent of the economy, a level that is widely considered manageable and even desirable, because a wealthy and growing nation can afford to borrow for projects that would be financially burdensome if paid for all at once.

If Republicans have a plan to pay for the necessary work of government while eliminating deficits entirely, they should present it.

The problem is that Republicans do not have viable alternatives. The budget proposes a $10-a-barrel tax on crude oil to help pay for $320 billion in new spending over 10 years on clean-energy transportation projects. Congressional Republicans, unable to break free of their no-new-taxes-ever stance, have derided the oil tax. But what is their plan to pay for projects to modernize transportation and promote green technology in the absence of a new tax?

The budget would also raise $272 billion over the next decade by closing tax loopholes that let high-income owners of limited-liability companies and other so-called pass-through businesses avoid investment taxes that apply to all other investors. Most of the money would be used to strengthen Medicare's finances. What is the Republican plan to strengthen Medicare?

The president's budget request is a detailed and worthy entry in the contest of ideas. Its aim is to move the nation forward. If Republicans had compelling ideas and a similar commitment to progress, they would engage with the proposals in the budget. But they don't. So they won't.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would just say that we are reading in the press that the chairman of the Budget Committee, the Republican chairman of the Budget Committee, is now punting on the Republican budget because apparently there is not enough red meat in there to satisfy the Tea Party—or the Freedom Caucus or whatever they call themselves this particular week—which is very, very disturbing. But I think it is important that the Republicans do their job, just like the President did his job. And while you are waiting to do your job, I think you should maybe have a hearing on the President's budget so that maybe some of these ideas, my friends might be able to react to and maybe even find some agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, the refusal of my friends on the other side of the aisle to hold a hearing on the President's budget is an unprecedented show of disrespect. The lack of respect I have seen for this President is abominable, it is disgraceful, and it does not represent the American character.

Chairman PRICE of the Budget Committee, Mr. Speaker, recently remarked he wanted to ''save the President the embarrassment'' of having his Budget Director come testify before the Congress.

Save him the embarrassment? He should be embarrassed.

This is the first time, Mr. Speaker, since 1975 that the Budget Committee has not given the basic courtesy of reviewing the President's budget, regardless of politics, regardless of whether we had a Democratic President or a Republican President, or regardless of whether we had a Democratic Congress or we had a Republican Congress—since 1975.

This crass display of partisanship diminishes the ability of Congress to do its job. It certainly doesn't help us in reaching across the aisle, or maybe I am missing something. Had the committee held a hearing on the President's budget, you would know that it creates opportunity for all, not just those at the top. It invests in growing the economy and ensuring the United States is competitive in the 21st century.

Look, we set the parameters in December, just a few months ago, and now what you want to do politically is tell us you can't live within those parameters. That is what you are telling the American people. We agreed to that. We voted on it.

Now the majority has punted—to use the term—its responsibility and postponed releasing a budget as it tries to cater to the extreme rightwing of its party.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman from New Jersey an additional 1 minute.

Mr. PASCRELL. By the way, we were going to be marking up that budget this week; am I correct? I will stand corrected, Mr. Speaker, if I am wrong. We were supposed to be marking up that budget. Now, we have to ask: Why aren't we marking up that budget?

We call on you to use this extra time during this delay to do your job and hold a hearing on the President's budget. It is the right thing to do. It is the moral thing to do.

Gee, what does that mean? I asked you if you want to work in a bipartisan way. This would be a demonstration of how to do that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by saying again to my colleagues that they should defeat this rule, which is a restrictive rule. They should vote against

the previous question so we can actually bring forward the resolution that would allow for there to be a hearing on the President's budget proposal, and we should defeat the underlying bill.

We should defeat the underlying bill because it is a giveaway to big corporations and big special interests. It is a bill that seems like it was written in the Republican congressional campaign committee to make big contributors happy. It does nothing to protect the well-being and the interests of average Americans, of small businesses, and of people who do not have a lot of wealth.

For those reasons, we ought to reject the underlying bill, we ought to have a debate on the President's budget proposal, and we ought to have a debate on whatever the Republicans come up with on their budget proposal.

Speaker RYAN said that this would be the year of ideas, but it seems that any idea that isn't the idea of a small group of very, very rightwing Republicans is not welcome to be talked about, never mind deliberated on, in this Congress. We need to listen to all ideas, and that includes what the President has proposed.

By the way, this is a President who, notwithstanding all of the attempts by my Republican friends to try to frustrate all of his legislative efforts, has a record of accomplishment nonetheless, and one that I think we Democrats are very, very proud of.

But the fact of the matter is he is the President. He was elected not once, but he was elected twice. The American people elected him twice. He is our President for another year, whether my friends like it other not. He ought to be given the respect—and not just him, but the Presidency ought to be given the respect—to not play these kinds of political games when it comes to the budget.

I hope that the previous question will be defeated so that we can bring this amendment to the floor for a vote.

Again, I urge my colleagues, we have a lot to do. Let's stop bringing press releases to the floor for votes, and let's start doing business that will actually help the American people. This has become a place where trivial issues get debated passionately but important ones not at all. We need to change that. There is a reason why Congress is so low in the public opinion polls. What is happening today is an example of that.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

It has been interesting. Again, I want to just remind everyone, Mr. Speaker, that this is a rule debate about a bill that is coming forward to discuss a fraudulent joinder, which is something that impacts our communities and impacts our legal system. Just as a reminder, I am going to ask that you vote for the rule and for the underlying bill, H.R. 3624, which will have plenty of debate forthcoming.

It has been an interesting thing in the last few minutes to discuss with my colleagues across the aisle and talk about real ideas and press releases. Well, it is interesting. It has always been the prerogative of Congress and committee chairmen to invite whom they want and how they run their committees, and that is continuing in that tradition.

I think it is interesting that at the time it was announced, no hearing on the President's budget was needed; we had no reason to believe the President's budget would balance or show any real interest in doing the fiscal challenge.

If you want to talk about press releases, go look at what was handed out just a few weeks ago. In the President's budget, it had a great picture of a mountain on the front. It was great symbolism because it basically just symbolized that this is a budget of debt; it is a mountain of debt; it has no hope, no promise—never will—to balance our budget.

Do you want to talk about real ideas? It reminds me of when I was going back and I was raising my children when they were smaller, and I would say it is time to eat and they would say: Daddy, we want candy. Daddy, we want this.

I would say: You have to eat real food.

Real ideas mean that in this country we take them seriously.

□ 1315

It means a budget that can actually balance.

When you have military leaders, business leaders, and community leaders saying that the greatest threat to America right now is our debt and deficit situation, and, yet, the President, in his own press release—if you would, a large budget—says that we are never going to balance, that we don't hope to balance, I do not understand the disconnect from the kitchen table to the White House's kitchen table. Undoubtedly, there is a disconnect, because you put forth an idea that is not serious, and you are not putting forth an idea that balances. It is the compelling idea that makes us move forward.

The budget debate that Congress is having right now is one that the American people are demanding. It is about how we advance a budget that balances and that addresses fiscal challenges so we can have a strong national defense, a healthy economy, and healthy retirements and security for seniors and families. The President's ''status quo'' budget doesn't do that. In fact, it doesn't do anything with regard to what we have talked about.

Mr. Speaker, I was back in my district last week, as many of us were. One of the many things we are hearing in this election season is the reality that there is a disconnect between Main Street and inside this beltway. As long as there are ideas down a certain avenue called Pennsylvania that say we want to put a budget up that has no hope of helping this country out of the situation it is in, then we are not dealing in reality, then we are not dealing in real ideas. We are simply dealing in the fantasy that, one day, it will all just be better.

Mr. Speaker, I remind our Democrat friends who are adamant about bringing the President's budget into the mix that they are welcome to offer it up when a vote comes; but the last time the President's budget hit the floor, it got all of two votes.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 618 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

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

SEC. 2. Immediately upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 624) Directing the Committee on the Budget to hold a public hearing on the President's fiscal year 2017 budget request with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget as a witness. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of the resolution specified in section 2 of this resolution.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

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

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

The Republican majority may say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous

question vote in their own manual: ''Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.''

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

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

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 237, nays 180, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 85]

YEAS—237

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—180

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—16

Blumenauer
Buck
Cook
Green, Gene
Hastings
Herrera Beutler
Huizenga (MI)
Kelly (IL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Rice (SC)
Roby
Rooney (FL)
Sanchez, Loretta
Smith (WA)
Speier

□ 1340

Messrs. CÁRDENAS, LYNCH, RUSH, and FARR changed their votes from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 85. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3624.

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 is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 180, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 86]

AYES—238

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp

Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—180

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Buck
Cook
Green, Gene
Hastings
Herrera Beutler
Huizenga (MI)
Kelly (IL)
Napolitano
Roby
Rooney (FL)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sewell (AL)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier

□ 1347

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.

Stated against:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 86. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on H. Res. 618—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3624—Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act of 2015.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 86 on February 24, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I was unable to vote on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, due to important events being held today in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas. If I had been able to vote, I would have voted as follows: On the motion on ordering the previous question on the rule for consideration of H.R. 3624, the Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act of 2015, I would have voted "no." On passage of H. Res. 618, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3624, I would have voted "no."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 571

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H. Res. 571.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

MODIFYING AND CONTINUING THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CUBA AND CONTINUING TO AUTHORIZE THE REGULATION OF THE ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114–102)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 1 of title II of Public Law 65–24, ch. 30, June 15, 1917, as amended (50 U.S.C. 191), sections 201, 202, and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report that I have issued a Proclamation to modify and continue the national emergency declared in Proclamations 6867 and 7757.

The Proclamation recognizes that certain descriptions of the national emergency set forth in Proclamations 6867 and 7757 no longer reflect the international relations of the United States related to Cuba. Further, the Proclamation recognizes the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba, and that the United States continues to pursue the progressive normalization of relations while aspiring toward a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic Cuba.

The Proclamation clarifies the national emergency related to Cuba and specifically provides the following statements related to U.S. national security and foreign policy:

- It is U.S. policy that a mass migration from Cuba would endanger the security of the United States by posing a disturbance or threatened disturbance of the international relations of the United States.
- The unauthorized entry of vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States into Cuban territorial waters is in violation of U.S. law and contrary to U.S. policy.
- The unauthorized entry of U.S.-registered vessels into Cuban territorial waters is detrimental to U.S. foreign policy, and counter to the purpose of Executive Order 12807, which is to ensure, among other things, safe, orderly, and legal migration.
- The possibility of large-scale unauthorized entries of U.S-registered vessels would disturb the international relations of the United States by facilitating a possible mass migration of Cuban nationals.

I have directed the Secretary of Homeland Security (the ''Secretary'') to make and issue such rules and regulations as the Secretary may find appropriate to regulate the anchorage and movement of vessels, and authorize and approve the Secretary's issuance of such rules and regulations, as authorized by the Act of June 15, 1917.

I am enclosing a copy of the Proclamation I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 24, 2016.*

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings

today on additional motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

GULLAH/GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3004) to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3004

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE GULLAH/GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION.

Section 295D(d) of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act (Public Law 109–338; 120 Stat. 1833; 16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended by striking ''10 years'' and inserting ''15 years''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3004, introduced by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), amends the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act by extending the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

The corridor exists to preserve and foster the unique cultural communities formed by Americans of African descent along the Atlantic coastal islands of four States and that existed in relative isolation for many generations.

During those years, a distinct and uniquely American culture evolved, a culture that is gradually slipping from us in the march of the modern world.

Although the heritage corridor was authorized through October 12, 2021, the Commission was only authorized through October 12, 2016. Without any legislative change, the corridor will have to be managed by a different, as yet unconstituted, entity.

I urge passage of the measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill simply extends the authorization of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission from 10 to 15 years.

Congress designated the Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor in 2006 to promote and interpret the story of African Americans known as Gullah/Geechee who settled along the coast of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

The enabling legislation for the corridor, while providing a 15-year authority for technical and financial assistance, only gave the identified local coordinating entity a 10-year authorization. This bill matches up the two authorities so the Commission can continue its work.

I want to thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) for bringing this issue to our attention and all of his work on behalf of the Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3004, which would extend authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission through October of 2021.

The low country and sea islands of our southeastern States, including the First Congressional District of Georgia, are home to some of our Nation's most treasured cultures. One of the most unique is the Gullah/Geechee people.

Over the past three centuries, the Gullah/Geechee people have developed and preserved their own distinct language and culture that retains many of their African traditions. The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor was created to recognize the cultural contributions of the Gullah/Geechee and to assist in preserving and interpreting their history, language, folklore, art, and music.

The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission coordinates with local officials and communities to preserve and honor the Gullah/Geechee heritage for years to come.

H.R. 3004 would extend the Commission's authorization for an additional 5 years so that they may continue their mission of preserving the valuable contributions of the Gullah/Geechee culture.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3004, a bill that makes a technical change to the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act.

Gullah/Geechee is a blend of African and European language, culture, and traditions found along the coast and sea islands of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, where former slaves began their freedom in isolated and remote communities and nurtured unique cultural traditions.

The Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act, signed into law in 2006, created the Gullah/Geechee Heritage Corridor to preserve and protect the remaining vestiges of this living culture, which has been threatened by development in these coastal communities.

Called Gullah in the Carolinas and Geechee in Georgia and Florida, these enclaves of language and culture provide a significant link to African American heritage. As a former history teacher and historic preservation advocate, the establishment of the heritage corridor is one of my proudest achievements in Congress.

This bill before us corrects a technical issue by extending the authorization of the Commission created by the original legislation to coincide with the heritage corridor, which runs to 2021. Without this change, the heritage corridor would continue to exist but would need to be managed by a new entity, eroding the progress the current Commission has made toward implementing its management plan. Enacting this legislation will ensure continuity in the management of the corridor so that its mission is carried out as efficiently and effectively as possible.

I want to thank the chairman and ranking members of the Committee on Natural Resources and Subcommittee on Federal Lands for their support of this bill and for moving it swiftly to the House floor today for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE).

□ 1400

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding.

The Gullah/Geechee culture is infused throughout the low country of South Carolina. In fact, it is a big part of what makes the low country of South Carolina so unique. From Daufuskie on the southern end to Little River Neck on the northern end, that culture permeates our geography and our people.

My father's family, my grandfather's family, my brother, and myself were raised in the midst of the Gullah/Geechee culture. In all of our cities—again, from north to south; in Charleston, Myrtle Beach, and Georgetown—you can see those traditions infused throughout those communities.

The traditions of the Gullah/Geechee arts, oral history, literature, music, cuisine, and others, have made a distinctive impact on the coastal Carolina culture. Growing up on the coast, I have fond memories of the Gullah/Geechee people and their way of life.

Authorizing the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission is important to preserving and managing the uniqueness of their important traditions. I support the reauthorization of the Commission and the passage of H.R. 3004.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3004.

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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT OF 2016

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2880) to redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2880

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 ''Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2016''.

SEC. 2. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

The Act entitled ''An Act to establish the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes'' (Public Law 96–428) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) of the first section, by striking ''the map entitled 'Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site Boundary Map', number 489/80,013B, and dated September 1992'' and inserting ''the map entitled 'Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Proposed Boundary Revision', numbered 489/128,786 and dated June 2015'';

(2) by striking ''Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site'' each place it appears and inserting ''Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park'';

(3) by striking ''national historic site'' each place it appears and inserting ''national historical park'';

(4) by striking ''historic site'' each place it appears and inserting ''historical park''; and

(5) by striking ''historic sites'' in section 2(a) and inserting ''historical parks''.

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law (other than this Act), map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to ''Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site'' shall be deemed to be a reference to ''Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2880, introduced by our colleague, JOHN LEWIS, redesignates the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia as the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. It also authorizes the National Park Service to include the Prince Hall Masonic Temple in the Historical Park's boundaries.

The Prince Hall Masonic Temple long served as the headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. This historic and distinguished civil rights organization was cofounded by Dr. King, who also served as its first president. Including the Prince Hall Masonic Temple within the unit's boundary allows the National Park Service to provide technical assistance to the building's owners with respect to repairs, renovations, and maintenance that would preserve its historic integrity.

It can be said that every American figuratively walks in the footsteps of the American Founders and those who followed them and who perfected their vision. Because of their work, we enjoy the blessings of a free government that exists to protect the God-given natural rights of every person and a free society where every person will be judged, in Dr. King's words, ''on the content of his character.''

Our historical parks give us the opportunity literally to walk in the footsteps of these great Americans who have struggled over the centuries to secure this vision. Those who gathered around Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the 1950s walked the streets of this neighborhood, and its preservation gives us and future generations a tangible link with them.

One of them was our distinguished colleague, Congressman LEWIS, and I commend him for his work. It is altogether fitting that a man who did so much to establish this legacy brings to the House today a bill to further preserve it, and I urge its adoption.

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

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

H.R. 2880 is a simple piece of legislation that has broad bipartisan support. The bill will accomplish two primary goals: to redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia, as a National Historical Park, and to adjust the boundary of the park to include the Prince Hall Masonic Temple. These actions will enhance the ability of the National Park Service and the community to tell the very important story of Dr. King.

The site, which is the final resting place of the great civil rights leader, continues to connect visitors with the historical and contemporary struggles for civil rights in this country. These stories are as relevant today as they were half a century ago. This legislation will provide the site with the proper acknowledgment that it deserves.

I want to thank Congressman LEWIS, who remains an important civil rights leader, for bringing this important bill forward.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise as the proud sponsor of this legislation.

First, let me thank Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and all the staff of the Natural Resources Committee for their hard work and support of this act.

Mr. Speaker, my bipartisan bill will create the first National Historic Park in the State of Georgia. This technical change from a ''Site'' to a ''Park'' will make it easier for the National Park Service to share the history of the American civil rights movement with national and international visitors to Atlanta.

These historic spaces are located in my congressional district in downtown Atlanta, on and around Auburn Avenue. This is where Dr. King was born and raised, where he was nurtured and taught, where he preached and loved.

I was a teenager when I first met Dr. King in 1958, at the age of 18. This conversation forever changed my life, but I was not the only one. Many, many people were touched by this man's genius and compassion for all humankind. Dr. King's mission was to create the beloved community, a community of justice, a community at peace with itself.

Dr. King had the power to bring people together to do good. His message was love, his weapon was truth, and the method was the way of nonviolence and passive resistance.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led a nonviolent movement that changed the face of our Nation. He inspired people from all over our country and from all over the world.

My simple act will improve the services and educational opportunities for visitors to this wonderful space and this wonderful piece of history. It will preserve this important part of our history for generations yet unborn.

Again, I would like to thank the chair and ranking member for their support, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this simple, commonsense legislation.

Ms. TSONGAS. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there is no greater voice of the civil rights movement here in this Congress and in this Nation than our dear friend, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

I am both excited and honored to be able to support this legislation that changes what was a ''Site'' in its early beginnings to the important designation of a National Historic Park honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

I first want to thank JOHN LEWIS for his conscientious and hard work on behalf of the King family. As I sat here and listened to Congressman LEWIS relaying his story, I had the slight privilege to have worked for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on the very street that he has mentioned. After him, I was able to come to the then-offices of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in this historic area.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. TSONGAS. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 2 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. It was a small office where so many historic persons were, in essence, able to walk in the midst of those hallowed streets. Dr. King came. I don't know whether he parked a car or walked into that office. Of course, we have all of the other surrounding areas and other names of historic persons that had the ability to walk down those streets and into that area.

We take great pride in the preservation of our National Park areas. And I must compliment the National Park Service, because it has a love and affection for all those lands that it takes care of. You can see it when you are able to visit these national sites throughout our country that we have had a chance to visit.

In my colleague's district will be an added place for Dr. Martin Luther King's resources and things his hands touched. What an appropriate time in our history to be able again to thank this man of peace, of nonviolence, and to remind ourselves that America is really a great country to have given birth to him. Along with the plight and conditions in which he lived in at the time and the conditions which he was subjected to, to our knowledge, he never became embittered. He always, although frustrated at moments, recognized love and nonviolence.

I hope that with the recognition he will get and the protection of these wonderful assets, people will come there for solace. It will be another place, along with the monument here in Washington, where people will come here for solace and the recognition that nonviolence and peace and the human dignity of all people are virtues of this Nation carried forward by a great and wonderful and heroic leader—someone whom I at least had a small moment to be associated with through his organization after his death. And I thank him.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2880, the ''Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act.''

In 1980, Congress passed legislation (P.L. 96–428), establishing the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.

H.R. 2880 redesignates the ''Martin Luther King Junior, National Historic Site'' as the ''Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park.''

This name change is important because it recognizes the greater physical extent that the site represents not only for African American history, but American history.

This legislation will improve the preservation and ensure the continuous protection of this historic district.

When passed, in 1980, the law set the boundaries of the site along a portion of Auburn Avenue in Atlanta.

This area includes the birthplace of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where both he and his father preached; and the immediate surrounding area.

That law also designated a preservation district that extended protection beyond the immediate neighborhood surrounding the birthplace and church to include the broader Sweet Auburn commercial district.

Since 1980, Congress has twice modified the boundaries of the site and preservation district (P.L. 102–575 and P.L. 108–314).

H.R. 2880 will extend the boundaries of the site to include the Prince Hall Masonic Temple, which is where the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) established its initial headquarters in 1957.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a co-founder and the first president of the SCLC.

It is fitting that we remember the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America.

The life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature.

Dr. King walked the walk, going to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others.

He knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

It is proper that we remember this man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day.

So it is fitting that we pass H.R. 2880 and expand, protect, and preserve the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Park so that for generations to come it remains a living memorial to the men and women who led the movement that helped our nation live up to the true meaning of its creed and inspired non-violent movements for social change the world over.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would urge adoption of the measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2880, 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.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE ACT OF 2016

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1475) to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1475

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 ''Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2016''.

SEC. 2. WALL OF REMEMBRANCE.

Section 1 of the Act titled ''An Act to authorize the erection of a memorial on Federal Land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War'', approved October 25, 1986 (Public Law 99–572), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''Such memorial shall include a Wall of Remembrance, which shall be constructed without the use of Federal funds. The American Battle Monuments Commission shall request and consider design recommendations from the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. for the establishment of the Wall of Remembrance. The Wall of Remembrance shall include—

''(1) a list by name of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who died in theatre in the Korean War;

''(2) the number of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, in regards to the Korean War—

''(A) were wounded in action;

''(B) are listed as missing in action; or

''(C) were prisoners of war; and

''(3) the number of members of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, and the other nations of the United Nations Command who, in regards to the Korean War—

''(A) were killed in action;

''(B) were wounded in action;

''(C) are listed as missing in action; or

''(D) were prisoners of war.''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

□ 1415

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1475, introduced by Congressman SAM JOHNSON, would permit a privately funded addition of a Wall of Remembrance to the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

The Wall would list the names of all members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were killed in theater during the Korean war as well as the number of all of the American POWs and MIAs.

They call the Korean war America's forgotten war. During the 3 years of that war, 5.8 million Americans worldwide served in the U.S. armed services, 22 nations fought alongside us to preserve the freedom of South Korea. 54,246 Americans died worldwide during this conflict, 8,200 were missing in action, and an additional 103,284 were wounded.

The sacrifice they made and the freedom they secured for the people of South Korea must never be forgotten. This measure assures the names of the fallen shall live on.

This bill comes to us from one of only three Korean war veterans who still serve their country today in this House, the legendary Congressman SAM JOHNSON of Texas, from whom we will be hearing shortly.

Representatives CHARLES RANGEL and JOHN CONYERS, Jr., also distinguished themselves in that war, as they have in this House, and are original cosponsors.

I urge passage of the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the construction of a Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall.

Similar to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Wall will list the names of the U.S. military personnel killed in action during the Korean war, along with the number of servicemen and -women wounded in action, listed as missing in action, and those who were listed as prisoners of war.

Construction of the current Korean War Veterans Memorial was finished in 1992, and it is considered a complete work of civic art. However, the Korean war veterans' community has identified the addition of a Wall of Remembrance as a priority, and they have advocated for legislation to authorize its construction for years.

Their hard work and dedication has led to this bill before us today, which is currently cosponsored by 291 Members of the House.

The National Park Service, the agency responsible for the management of the current memorial, has expressed concern with the idea of adding a new feature in an area of the National Mall known as the Reserve, where Congress has prohibited the construction of new memorials.

As this bill moves forward, I encourage the sponsors to work with the National Park Service and other relevant stakeholders to make sure that the new feature complements the current memorial.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, we are all deeply honored to serve in this House with the author of this measure, a genuine hero who served courageously in both the Korean and Vietnam wars and who endured many years of suffering as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He not only saw the courage and heroism of those who fought in Korea, he was one of them.

I am honored to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start off by thanking my fellow Korean war veterans, Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL and Congressman JOHN CONYERS, for their support.

I also want to thank Chairman ROB BISHOP, the Natural Resources Committee, and the House leadership for bringing the bill to the floor.

Additionally, I want to thank my fellow Korean war veterans who have tirelessly advocated for this bill. It has been a long time coming.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, the Korean war is often referred to as the forgotten war; yet, the magnitude of sacrifice made by Americans during this conflict was enormous. More than 36,000 Americans gave their lives.

My fellow Korean war veterans and I believe that the magnitude of this enormous sacrifice is not yet fully conveyed by the memorial in Washington, D.C. That is where this bill, H.R. 1475, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act, comes into play.

This bill, which already has the support of over 300 of my colleagues, would allow for the creation of a Wall of Remembrance at the site of the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall.

Similar to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance would eternally honor the brave Americans who gave their lives in defense of freedom during the Korean war. It would list their names as a visual record of their sacrifice.

Furthermore, the Wall would also list the total number of all of America's wounded, missing in action, and prisoners of war.

As a veteran and POW, I can tell you that these memorials are a special place for servicemembers and their families to pay their respect to fallen comrades and loved ones.

As a constitutional conservative who values our great Nation's history, I believe these memorials also serve as a unique and physical reminder that freedom is not free.

Future generations need to know and appreciate the sacrifices made by the servicemembers who fought and died to protect freedom. These memorials can physically convey what oftentimes our words fail to do.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, as a fiscal conservative, I am proud to say this project will not cost taxpayers one dime. In fact, the cost has been 100 percent privately fund-raised, and this bill prohibits any Federal funding for this project.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember the service and sacrifice of those who gave their lives in the Korean war, we can only humbly acknowledge that we are the land of the free because of our brave men and women.

These heroes are shining examples of everything great that America stands for. I can't think of a better way to individually honor each man and woman who gave their life in Korea than through this Wall of Remembrance.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the soldiers who fought to ensure that South Korea could achieve the prosperity and the fulfillment it enjoys today. Without our soldiers, that would not have happened. These soldiers deserve to be recognized for their contributions.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor this legislation, which would expand the current Korean War Memorial to include a Wall of Remembrance in our Nation's Capital. This addition will honor the service and sacrifice of those who fought in the Korean War.

I want to thank my good friend and committee mate, Congressman SAM JOHNSON, for introducing this legislation and, also, for his heroic military service to our country in both the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Through the Speaker, SAM, we owe you so much, and we could never repay you and the likes of RANGEL and CONYERS, et cetera, who put their lives on the line to not only defend America, but to defend the Korean people.

In addition to a wall, this legislation will allow us to demonstrate our Nation's appreciation for the service of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, the Republic of Korean Armed Forces, and the nations of the United Nations Command, who were killed in action, wounded, listed as missing in action, or were prisoners of war.

The Korean War Memorial Wall can ensure that future generations remember and honor the pride and dedication of those who served, the legacy they continued, and the freedom they preserved.

You have heard the numbers about how many folks served, how many of our own brave soldiers and sailors and marines fought in the Korean war: almost 6 million; over 100,000 were wounded and over 36,000 gave their

lives. So this is a fitting recognition for those who bravely served in defense of our Nation.

I visited my brother-in-law the other day, who lives in a veterans' nursing home. He was a soldier in the Korean war, a victim. Many in that home fought in the same war, those who are still alive.

Talking to them, one thing I noticed is they don't want to talk about their experiences ever. I remember talking to my brother-in-law, Joe, 30 years ago. He didn't want to talk about it. His brother, who served there, didn't want to talk about it. His other brother, Freddie, did not want to talk about it. He served there, also.

So this is not only remembrance. More importantly, it is thank you. Thank you so much for what you did.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned their names before, Congressmen RANGEL and CONYERS. We owe them so much. I read Congressman RANGEL's book twice about the experiences that he had in service to our country. We can never forget this. God bless, and I thank them.

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), a distinguished veteran of the Korean war.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman for making this possible, Colonel Bill Webb, of the Korean Memorial Foundation, and, of course, my buddies and colleagues, Congressmen JOHNSON and CONYERS.

Why this is so important to me is not for those who are living, but for the memories of our colleagues who died overseas and whose family have very little to explain as to why they were there.

I really think that this Congress and Congresses before us have lost all of the meaning of having the power and the only power to support the declaration of war.

When I went overseas in 1950, I hadn't the slightest idea as to why I was going. Quite frankly, I didn't even know where Korea was.

But because of my age and having been in combat, I have received more accolades from the grateful people from the country of South Korea than I deserve. But I know that they are thanking the United States and the United Nations for saving them from coming under communism.

I could not possibly have any bad feelings. Indeed, it is a great sense of honor that I could have played some small part in preserving democracy in South Korea, albeit as a volunteer to the Army, but certainly not a volunteer to go into combat.

But the truth of the matter is that we shouldn't have young men and women being placed in harm's way in any situation without men and women and their families knowing that they did this because the security of our great Republic was threatened.

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Each time I feel heavily and scream out that we should have a draft instead of an All Volunteer Army, I know that it appears as though I am putting a burden on so many people who don't necessarily want to belong to the military. But serving our great country is a privilege, and all people should share if indeed there is a threat to our national security. If there isn't a threat to our national security, there is no reason in the world morally or legally that our troops should be there.

So putting up this wall, to me, is symbolic because they can call it the forgotten war. And, believe it or not, after seeing how some of our Vietnam veterans were treated when they came home, you can almost thank God that no one missed you. They didn't know where you were, or didn't care about the Korean war, because politics got in the way of how we treated those people who fought, got wounded, and died in Vietnam.

Of course, since then, we have had dozens of times where we have heard Members of Congress say that we have to have more boots on the ground, that we can't win a war by air, that we have to be there, we have to intervene, and we have to show how strong America is. And they know in their hearts that no one from their families, their communities, or even anyone they know will be included in that number of Americans that they are asking to go.

So I think when you put the names of people who have actually lost their lives, which means destroyed the lives of so many other people who loved them, when you think of those who got wounded, they should at least be able to say what they did for their families, community, and their country. They shouldn't just be used as pawns on the board to fulfill the political commitments of a party or a cause that doesn't involve the security of the United States. Maybe, just maybe, when people come to sightsee, and they see the names of people that they don't know, it could remind them that these are not just human beings; these are Americans who had the same dreams as they did, except they made a sacrifice.

So let me laud and thank the Members of Congress that have caused the casualties of the forgotten war not to be forgotten. Let us try to do something about those that follow those of us that were in combat in Korea and explain how wrong we were in Vietnam and we should have said, never, never, never again.

Let us look at the ways we have just sent troops who, like me, saw the flag go up and heard the President say that we have to go, and we never asked, and we couldn't legitimately ask why, but we did. Let us preserve the American lives for those causes that at least if they don't come back home or they don't come back normal, that we can say that it was protecting the flag, it was protecting our country, and it was protecting our national security.

Right now, with all the fears we have that are going on in the Middle East, I am not certain whether or not that will impact our great country, but I am prepared to listen to those who know better than I. And if, indeed, there is a threat to our country, then everyone should be prepared to be called, even by lottery, because it is not just for the wealthy and the educated to be excluded. It shouldn't be just those who need a job that get the opportunity to defend our country. But every time you say ''troops on the ground,'' ''boots on the ground,'' ''lives on the ground,'' I truly think that just putting their names on a memorial wall should mean something for generations that follow.

I hope and pray that we don't have names that go on boards. But if there is a reminder of how many people died over the years to keep this country great, let us be in the position as a Congress to say that we know specifically why they died and we gave them all the support that they needed to make the sacrifice.

Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we remember those who died in the war and those who served in the war because their achievement remains alive today. It is personified in a free and prosperous Republic of Korea that has been a beacon of hope to the oppressed people throughout the Asian Continent and a steady counterbalance to the malignant presence of the North Korean dictatorship.

From the dais in this Chamber, Douglas MacArthur paid tribute to these brave souls with these words. He said: ''I have just left your fighting sons in Korea. They have met all tests there, and I can report to you without reservation that they are splendid in every way . . . Those gallant men will remain often in my thoughts and in my prayers always.''

And so should they with us. This bill assures that this will not be a forgotten war, and our honored dead will not be forgotten by name.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the 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 California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1475, 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.

INDIAN TRUST ASSET REFORM ACT

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 812) to provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 812

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Indian Trust Asset Reform Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—RECOGNITION OF TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) there exists a unique relationship between the Government of the United States and the governments of Indian tribes;

(2) there exists a unique Federal responsibility to Indians;

(3) through treaties, statutes, and historical relations with Indian tribes, the United States has undertaken a unique trust responsibility to protect and support Indian tribes and Indians;

(4) the fiduciary responsibilities of the United States to Indians also are founded in part on specific commitments made through written treaties and agreements securing peace, in exchange for which Indians have surrendered claims to vast tracts of land, which provided legal consideration for permanent, ongoing performance of Federal trust duties; and

(5) the foregoing historic Federal-tribal relations and understandings have benefitted the people of the United States as a whole for centuries and have established enduring and enforceable Federal obligations to which the national honor has been committed.

SEC. 102. REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.

Pursuant to the constitutionally vested authority of Congress over Indian affairs, Congress reaffirms that the responsibility of the United States to Indian tribes includes a duty to promote tribal self-determination regarding governmental authority and economic development.

TITLE II—INDIAN TRUST ASSET MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Indian Trust Asset Management Demonstration Project Act of 2016''.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(2) PROJECT.—The term ''Project'' means the Indian trust asset management demonstration project established under section 203(a).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 203. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT; SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING INDIAN TRIBES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and carry out an Indian trust asset management demonstration project, in accordance with this title.

(b) SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING INDIAN TRIBES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe shall be eligible to participate in the project if—

(A) the Indian tribe submits to the Secretary an application under subsection (c); and

(B) the Secretary approves the application of the Indian tribe.

(2) NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide a written notice to each Indian tribe approved to participate in the project.

(B) CONTENTS.—A notice under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) a statement that the application of the Indian tribe has been approved by the Secretary; and

(ii) a requirement that the Indian tribe shall submit to the Secretary a proposed Indian trust asset management plan in accordance with section 204.

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to participate in the project, an Indian tribe shall submit to the Secretary a written application in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall consider an application under this subsection only if the application—

(A) includes a copy of a resolution or other appropriate action by the governing body of the Indian tribe, as determined by the Secretary, in support of or authorizing the application;

(B) is received by the Secretary after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) states that the Indian tribe is requesting to participate in the project.

(d) DURATION.—The project—

(1) shall remain in effect for a period of 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act; but

(2) may be extended at the discretion of the Secretary.

SEC. 204. INDIAN TRUST ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) PROPOSED PLAN.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—After the date on which an Indian tribe receives a notice from the Secretary under section 203(b)(2), the Indian tribe shall submit to the Secretary a proposed Indian trust asset management plan in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) CONTENTS.—A proposed Indian trust asset management plan shall include provisions that—

(A) identify the trust assets that will be subject to the plan;

(B) establish trust asset management objectives and priorities for Indian trust assets that are located within the reservation, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction, of the Indian tribe;

(C) allocate trust asset management funding that is available for the Indian trust assets subject to the plan in order to meet the trust asset management objectives and priorities;

(D) if the Indian tribe has contracted or compacted functions or activities under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) relating to the management of trust assets—

(i) identify the functions or activities that are being or will be performed by the Indian tribe under the contracts, compacts, or other agreements under that Act, which may include any of the surface leasing or forest land management activities authorized by the proposed plan pursuant to section 205(b); and

(ii) describe the practices and procedures that the Indian tribe will follow;

(E) establish procedures for nonbinding mediation or resolution of any dispute between the Indian tribe and the United States relating to the trust asset management plan;

(F) include a process for the Indian tribe and the Federal agencies affected by the trust asset management plan to conduct evaluations to ensure that trust assets are being managed in accordance with the plan; and

(G) identify any Federal regulations that will be superseded by the plan.

(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION.—On receipt of a written request from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe any technical assistance and information, including budgetary information, that the Indian tribe determines to be necessary for preparation of a proposed plan.

(b) APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF PROPOSED PLANS.—

(1) APPROVAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which an Indian tribe submits a proposed Indian trust asset management plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the proposed plan.

(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve a proposed plan unless the Secretary determines that—

(i) the proposed plan fails to address a requirement under subsection (a)(2);

(ii) the proposed plan includes 1 or more provisions that are inconsistent with subsection (c); or

(iii) the cost of implementing the proposed plan exceeds the amount of funding available for the management of trust assets that would be subject to the proposed plan.

(2) ACTION ON DISAPPROVAL.—

(A) NOTICE.—If the Secretary disapproves a proposed plan under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe a written notice of the disapproval, including any reason why the proposed plan was disapproved.

(B) ACTION BY TRIBES.—If a proposed plan is disapproved under paragraph (1)(B), the Indian tribe may resubmit an amended proposed plan by not later than 90 days after the date on which the Indian tribe receives the notice under subparagraph (A).

(3) FAILURE TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE.—If the Secretary fails to approve or disapprove a proposed plan in accordance with paragraph (1), the plan shall be considered to be approved.

(4) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—An Indian tribe may seek judicial review of a determination of the Secretary under this subsection in accordance with subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Administrative Procedure Act''), if—

(A) the Secretary disapproves the proposed plan of the Indian tribe under paragraph (1); and

(B) the Indian tribe has exhausted all other administrative remedies available to the Indian tribe.

(c) APPLICABLE LAWS.—Subject to section 205, an Indian trust asset management plan, and any activity carried out under the plan, shall not be approved unless the proposed plan is consistent with any treaties, statutes, and Executive orders that are applicable to the trust assets, or the management of the trust assets, identified in the plan.

(d) TERMINATION OF PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe may terminate an Indian trust asset management plan on any date after the date on which a proposed Indian trust asset management plan is approved by providing to the Secretary—

(A) a notice of the intent of the Indian tribe to terminate the plan; and

(B) a resolution of the governing body of the Indian tribe authorizing the termination of the plan.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—A termination of an Indian trust asset management plan under paragraph (1) takes effect on October 1 of the first fiscal year following the date on which a notice is provided to the Secretary under paragraph (1)(A).

SEC. 205. FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT AND SURFACE LEASING ACTIVITIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The term ''forest land management activity'' means any activity described in section 304(4) of the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3103(4)).

(2) INTERESTED PARTY.—The term ''interested party'' means an Indian or non-Indian individual, entity, or government the interests of which could be adversely affected by a tribal trust land leasing decision made by an applicable Indian tribe.

(3) SURFACE LEASING TRANSACTION.—The term ''surface leasing transaction'' means a residential, business, agricultural, or wind or solar resource lease of land the title to which is held—

(A) in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian tribe; or

(B) in fee by an Indian tribe, subject to restrictions against alienation under Federal law.

(b) APPROVAL BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary may approve an Indian trust asset management plan that includes a provision authorizing the Indian tribe to enter into, approve, and carry out a surface leasing transaction or forest land management activity without approval of the Secretary, regardless of whether the surface leasing transaction or forest land management activity would require such an approval under otherwise applicable law (including regulations), if—

(1) the resolution or other action of the governing body of the Indian tribe referred to in section 203(c)(2)(A) expressly authorizes the inclusion of the provision in the Indian trust asset management plan; and

(2) the Indian tribe has adopted regulations expressly incorporated by reference into the Indian trust asset management plan that—

(A) with respect to a surface leasing transaction—

(i) have been approved by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (h)(4) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415(h)(4)); or

(ii) have not yet been approved by the Secretary in accordance with clause (i), but that the Secretary determines at or prior to the time of approval under this paragraph meet the requirements of subsection (h)(3) of the first section of that Act (25 U.S.C. 415(h)(3)); or

(B) with respect to forest land management activities, the Secretary determines—

(i) are consistent with the regulations of the Secretary adopted under the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (25 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.); and

(ii) provide for an environmental review process that includes—

(I) the identification and evaluation of any significant effects of the proposed action on the environment; and

(II) a process consistent with the regulations referred to in clause (i) for ensuring that—

(aa) the public is informed of, and has a reasonable opportunity to comment on, any significant environmental impacts of the proposed forest land management activity identified by the Indian tribe; and

(bb) the Indian tribe provides responses to relevant and substantive public comments on any such impacts before the Indian tribe approves the forest land management activity.

(c) TYPES OF TRANSACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Indian tribe, an Indian trust asset management plan may authorize the Indian tribe to carry out a surface leasing transaction, a forest land management activity, or both.

(2) SELECTION OF SPECIFIC TRANSACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES.—At the discretion of the Indian tribe, the Indian tribe may include in the integrated resource management plan any 1 or more of the transactions and activities authorized to be included in the plan under subsection (b).

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance, on request of an Indian tribe, for development of a regulatory environmental review process required under subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii).

(2) INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT.—The technical assistance to be provided by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (1) may be made available through contracts, grants, or agreements entered into in accordance with, and made available to entities eligible for, contracts, grants, or agreements under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

(e) FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), if an Indian tribe carries out a project or activity funded by a Federal agency, the Indian tribe shall have the authority to rely on the environmental review process of the applicable Federal agency, rather than any tribal environmental review process under this section.

(f) DOCUMENTATION.—If an Indian tribe executes a surface leasing transaction or forest land management activity, pursuant to tribal regulations under subsection (b)(2), the Indian tribe shall provide to the Secretary

(1) a copy of the surface leasing transaction or forest land management activity documents, including any amendments to, or renewals of, the applicable transaction; and

(2) in the case of tribal regulations, a surface leasing transaction, or forest land management activities that allow payments to be made directly to the Indian tribe, documentation of the payments that is sufficient to enable the Secretary to discharge the trust responsibility of the United States under subsection (g).

(g) TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States shall not be liable for losses sustained—

(A) by an Indian tribe as a result of the execution of any forest land management activity pursuant to tribal regulations under subsection (b); or

(B) by any party to a lease executed pursuant to tribal regulations under subsection (b).

(2) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—Pursuant to the authority of the Secretary to fulfill the trust obligation of the United States to Indian tribes under Federal law (including regulations), the Secretary may, on reasonable notice from the applicable Indian tribe and at the discretion of the Secretary, enforce the provisions of, or cancel, any lease executed by the Indian tribe under this section.

(h) COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An interested party, after exhausting any applicable tribal remedies, may submit to the Secretary a petition, at such time and in such form as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, to review the compliance of an applicable Indian tribe with any tribal regulations approved by the Secretary under this subsection.

(2) VIOLATIONS.—If the Secretary determines under paragraph (1) that a violation of tribal regulations has occurred, the Secretary may take any action the Secretary determines to be necessary to remedy the violation, including rescinding the approval of the tribal regulations and reassuming responsibility for the approval of leases of tribal trust land.

(3) DOCUMENTATION.—If the Secretary determines under paragraph (1) that a violation of tribal regulations has occurred and a remedy is necessary, the Secretary shall—

(A) make a written determination with respect to the regulations that have been violated;

(B) provide to the applicable Indian tribe a written notice of the alleged violation, together with the written determination; and

(C) prior to the exercise of any remedy, the rescission of the approval of the regulation involved, or the reassumption of the trust asset transaction approval responsibilities, provide to the applicable Indian tribe—

(i) a hearing on the record; and

(ii) a reasonable opportunity to cure the alleged violation.

SEC. 206. EFFECT OF TITLE.

(a) LIABILITY.—Subject to section 205 and this section, nothing in this title or an Indian trust asset management plan approved under section 204 shall independently diminish, increase, create, or otherwise affect the liability of the United States or an Indian tribe participating in the project for any loss resulting from the management of an Indian trust asset under an Indian trust asset management plan.

(b) DEVIATION FROM STANDARD PRACTICES.—The United States shall not be liable to any party (including any Indian tribe) for any term of, or any loss resulting from the terms of, an Indian trust asset management plan that provides for management of a trust asset at a less-stringent standard than the Secretary would otherwise require or adhere to in absence of an Indian trust asset management plan.

(c) EFFECT OF TERMINATION OF PLAN.—Subsection (b) applies to losses resulting from a transaction or activity described in that subsection even if the Indian trust asset management plan is terminated under section 204(d) or rescinded under section 205(h).

(d) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sections 204 and 205 and subsection (e), nothing in this title amends or otherwise affects the application of any treaty, statute, regulation, or Executive order that is applicable to Indian trust assets or the management or administration of Indian trust assets.

(2) INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION ACT.—Nothing in this title limits or otherwise affects the authority of an Indian tribe, including an Indian tribe participating in the project, to enter into and carry out a contract, compact, or other agreement under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) (including regulations).

(e) SEPARATE APPROVAL.—An Indian tribe may submit to the Secretary tribal regulations described in section 205(b) governing

forest land management activities for review and approval under this title if the Indian tribe does not submit or intend to submit an Indian trust asset management plan.

(f) TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—Nothing in this title enhances, diminishes, or otherwise affects the trust responsibility of the United States to Indian tribes or individual Indians.

TITLE III—IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND STREAMLINING PROCESSES

SEC. 301. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to ensure a more efficient and streamlined administration of duties of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to providing services and programs to Indians and Indian tribes, including the management of Indian trust resources.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) BIA.—The term ''BIA'' means the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of the Interior.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ''Under Secretary'' means the Under Secretary for Indian Affairs established under section 303(a).

SEC. 303. UNDER SECRETARY FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may establish in the Department the position of Under Secretary for Indian Affairs, who shall report directly to the Secretary.

(b) APPOINTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Under Secretary shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The individual serving as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs on the date of enactment of this Act may assume the position of Under Secretary without appointment under paragraph (1), if—

(A) that individual was appointed as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

(B) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary approves the assumption.

(c) DUTIES.—In addition to any other duties directed by the Secretary, the Under Secretary shall—

(1) coordinate with the Special Trustee for American Indians to ensure an orderly transition of the functions of the Special Trustee to one or more appropriate agencies, offices, or bureaus within the Department, as determined by the Secretary;

(2) to the maximum extent practicable, supervise and coordinate activities and policies of the BIA with activities and policies of—

(A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

(B) the Bureau of Land Management;

(C) the Office of Natural Resources Revenue;

(D) the National Park Service; and

(E) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(3) provide for regular consultation with Indians and Indian tribes that own interests in trust resources and trust fund accounts.

(d) PERSONNEL PROVISIONS.—

(1) APPOINTMENTS.—The Under Secretary may appoint and fix the compensation of such officers and employees as the Under Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out any function transferred under this section.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Except as otherwise provided by law—

(A) any officer or employee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed in accordance with the civil service laws;

(B) the compensation of such an officer or employee shall be fixed in accordance with title 5, United States Code; and

(C) in appointing or otherwise hiring any employee, the Under Secretary shall give preference to Indians in accordance with section 12 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 472).

SEC. 304. OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS.

(a) INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—Notwithstanding sections 302 and 303 of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4042 and 4043), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and, after consultation with Indian tribes and appropriate Indian organizations, submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate—

(1) an identification of all functions, other than the collection, management, and investment of Indian trust funds, that the Office of the Special Trustee performs independently or in concert with the BIA or other Federal agencies, specifically those functions that affect or relate to management of nonmonetary trust resources;

(2) a description of any functions of the Office of the Special Trustee that will be transitioned to other bureaus or agencies within the Department prior to the termination date of the Office, as described in paragraph (3), together with the timeframes for those transfers; and

(3) a transition plan and timetable for the termination of the Office of the Special Trustee, to occur not later than 2 years after the date of submission, unless the Secretary determines than an orderly transition cannot be accomplished within 2 years, in which case the Secretary shall include—

(A) a statement of all reasons why the transition cannot be effected within that time; and

(B) an alternative date for completing the transition.

(b) FIDUCIARY TRUST OFFICERS.—Subject to applicable law and regulations, the Secretary, at the request of an Indian tribe or a consortium of Indian tribes, shall include fiduciary trust officers in a contract, compact, or other agreement under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

(c) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section or the submission required by this section—

(1) shall cause the Office of the Special Trustee to terminate; or

(2) affect the application of sections 302 and 303 of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4042 and 4043).

SEC. 305. APPRAISALS AND VALUATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 304, not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with Indian tribes and tribal organizations, shall ensure that appraisals and valuations of Indian trust property are administered by a single bureau, agency, or other administrative entity within the Department.

(b) MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish and publish in the Federal Register minimum qualifications for individuals to prepare appraisals and valuations of Indian trust property.

(c) SECRETARIAL APPROVAL.—In any case in which an Indian tribe or Indian beneficiary submits to the Secretary an appraisal or valuation that satisfies the minimum qualifications described in subsection (b), and that submission acknowledges the intent of the Indian tribe or beneficiary to have the appraisal or valuation considered under this section, the appraisal or valuation—

(1) shall not require any additional review or approval by the Secretary; and

(2) shall be considered to be final for purposes of effectuating the transaction for which the appraisal or valuation is required.

SEC. 306. COST SAVINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For any program, function, service, or activity (or any portion of a program, function, service, or activity) of the Office of the Special Trustee that will not be operated or carried out as a result of a transfer of functions and personnel following enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) identify the amounts that the Secretary would otherwise have expended to operate or carry out each program, function, service, and activity (or portion of a program, function, service, or activity); and

(2) provide to the tribal representatives of the Tribal-Interior Budget Council or the representative of any other appropriate entity that advises the Secretary on Indian program budget or funding issues a list that describes—

(A) the programs, functions, services, and activities (or any portion of a program, function, service, or activity) identified under paragraph (1); and

(B) the amounts associated with each program, function, service, and activity (or portion of a program, function, service, or activity).

(b) TRIBAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of a list under subsection (a)(2), the tribal representatives of the Tribal-Interior Budget Council and the representatives of any other appropriate entities that advise the Secretary on Indian program budget or funding issues may provide recommendations regarding how any amounts or cost savings should be reallocated, incorporated into future budget requests, or appropriated to—

(1) the Secretary;

(2) the Office of Management and Budget;

(3) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(4) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(5) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(6) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 812, which is sponsored by our respected colleague from Idaho, Congressman SIMPSON. This measure reforms tribal sovereignty made to America's Indian nations.

Specifically, this bill provides new authority to tribal governments to manage and develop their trust assets according to their own best judgment and the wishes of their own constituencies rather than an historically inept and often clueless bureaucracy in Washington. These nations are either sovereign or they are not, and the essence of sovereignty is self-determination.

Under this act, participating tribes will have the option of entering into disagreements with the Department of the Interior to take over management of the resources within their own jurisdictions. This bill also builds upon other congressional initiatives like the HEARTH Act of 2012, which deferred to a tribe's own judgment about what is in the best interests for their own lands.

This bill has strong bipartisan support both here in the House as well as the U.S. Senate. Additionally, the bill is supported by the National Congress of American Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Intertribal Timber Council, and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, which include 57 tribal governments in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, southeast Alaska, northern California, and Montana.

I urge passage of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 812 will take an important step in fulfilling our fiduciary responsibility to Indian tribes by modernizing the Indian trust asset management system.

The Indian Trust Asset Reform Act will streamline the bureaucratic process that has often been a hindrance to successful trust management, while also rightfully giving tribes the options to manage their own assets.

Through the trust asset demonstration project created in the bill, tribes can, at their own election, develop asset management plans with the Secretary of the Interior in order to better manage and develop their lands and natural resources.

As has been shown time and time again, tribal governments are the ones best suited to make decisions for their own people and their own communities.

Additionally, while the Office of the Special Trustee, or OST, has implemented positive reforms since its creation in 1994, the time has come to transition to a more modern, efficient, and accountable system for the management of Indian trust resources.

To that end, H.R. 812 would consolidate the functions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the OST into one office within the Department of the Interior, headed by a new undersecretary of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, we fully support H.R. 812, and I urge its swift adoption.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), the author of this measure and an indefatigable fighter for the Indian nations of our country.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the full committee chairman, Mr. BISHOP; the ranking member, Mr. GRIJALVA; the subcommittee chairman, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and the ranking member, Ms. TSONGAS, for considering this bill.

The relationship between Native Americans and the United States Government is complicated, not well understood, and filled with inconsistencies. Today Indian Country faces a number of serious challenges, ranging from addressing abject poverty to trying to promote economic development in the face of inefficient bureaucracy.

The Federal Government has a trust responsibility to meet its commitments to Indian Country. Yet in many cases, Federal agencies hinder, rather than help, tribes provide for their members. This is illustrated by the settlement of the Cobell litigation and the scores of tribal trust lawsuits over the past few years, which have cost taxpayers more than $5.5 billion.

A number of tribes, including many in the Northwest, have been working to address some of the challenges that they face in managing tribal trust assets. Many tribes are capable of effectively and efficiently managing their own assets—and often are better equipped to do so than the agencies currently responsible for that management. Yet, in order to have a say in how these assets are managed, they must swim upstream against a muddled Federal bureaucracy.

This is why I introduced H.R. 812, the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act. This legislation had its origins with the tribes themselves, which is where Congress should always start when it takes up issues affecting Indian Country. H.R. 812 was developed and has been endorsed by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the National Congress of American Indians, the United South & Eastern Tribes, the Intertribal Timber Council, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

H.R. 812 will do several things to modernize the Federal Government's role in managing Indian trust property. First, it would establish a voluntary demonstration project to give Indian tribes more control over the management of their trust assets. This will provide Indian tribes with new flexibility to direct management of these assets under tribal standards rather than Federal standards that are often outdated and inefficient.

As part of the negotiated demonstration project, Indian tribes would be able to conduct forest management activities on their own tribal lands through a process similar to the HEARTH Act of 2012, which the administration has strongly supported and has proven successful in promoting tribal self-determination and self-governance.

H.R. 812 would also authorize the Indian tribes and Indian beneficiaries, on a voluntary basis, to obtain appraisals of their trust property without having to wait for the Department of the Interior to approve them. This new authority would provide relief to all in Indian Country who currently endure lengthy delays in selling or leasing their trust land while they wait for the Department to review and approve appraisals.

Finally, the bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to consult with Indian Country and provide certain information to Congress about the Office of the Special Trustee. OST was originally intended as a temporary entity to oversee certain financial reforms of Indian trust funds at the Department of the Interior. More than 20 years later, OST has significant involvement in the day-to-day transactions. Tribes have long complained about the miscommunications, delays, and inefficiencies that result from trying to navigate the processes of both OST and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The information the bill requires the Secretary to provide will assist Congress in determining the future of OST.

It is worth noting that this bill has undergone a number of changes since introduction. The bill has been revised to incorporate input not only from the committees of jurisdiction in both Chambers, but also from the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, tribal organizations, and individual Indian tribes.

The Congressional Budget Office has found that H.R. 812 would not affect the Federal Government's overall costs.

I would also point out that H.R. 812 is a voluntary program intended to provide tribes with new flexibility to promote economic development. Where tribes are not willing or able to take on these responsibilities, they will not have to.

H.R. 812 is just one aspect in a larger conversation on improving the management of tribal trust assets. If enacted into law, this bill would be an important step in providing tribes with the autonomy they need to manage their assets and spur economic growth in their communities.

I want to thank Chairman MCCLINTOCK and his committee, and Chairmen BISHOP and YOUNG and their staffs for their work on this bill. They have held two hearings and graciously taken input from tribes and the administration, which is why we are here today with this legislation.

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Finally, I want to thank the tribes that have offered their expertise in the crafting of this bill. Just like the intentions of the underlying bill, Indian

Country deserves to be in the driver's seat when making decisions about their own future.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK).

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 812, the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, and I commend it to you for your positive consideration.

When you stop and think about it, this word ''trust'' actually has two pretty distinct meanings. It can be the belief that someone or something is honest, trustworthy, the belief that you can take them at their word.

On the other hand, ''trust'' can also be a financial or a property arrangement. A trust is legally held or managed by someone else. It could be for your kids or your grandkids or any beneficiary.

But the irony is a trust in the property management sense is that that often arises out of a lack of trust, as in honesty, when it comes to the person or source receiving the money. It is not a check handed over. It is a financial arrangement with conditions or requirements.

When it comes to Indian Country, they have plenty of historical reasons to lack trust when it comes to the Federal Government; but, the Federal Government does not have reasons to not trust Indian Country's ability to manage their own resources, and natural resources are what have always been the most important asset in Indian Country.

The Indian Trust Asset Reform Act is based on the simple notion that Indian Country prospers when tribes have the opportunity to make their own decisions and chart their own paths. This is what self-determination looks like. This is what sovereignty looks like.

Many tribes, particularly those in my home State of Washington, are among the largest employers and natural resource managers in the entire region. Tribes in the Pacific Northwest have an abundance of trust resources on their land, from timber to rangeland, to fishery resources.

These tribes count on the ability to make decisions quickly to adjust to changing circumstances and to maintain vibrant communities for their members and the region as a whole.

H.R. 812 advances this idea by giving tribes new authority to propose and enter into management plans with the Department of Interior, plans that put the tribes in the driver's seat.

H.R. 812 also returns more control to tribal members, who are often frustrated by, as has been noted earlier, years-long delays that they must go through in obtaining Federal approval to sell or lease or otherwise manage their trust lands.

H.R. 812 would give individuals and tribes a new option to complete these transactions without having to wait for the Department of Interior to go through all that lengthy review and approval process.

Accordingly, it will save time, it will save money, but, most importantly, it will allow the tribes to make their own decisions about how to use their historic lands.

When we find commonsense fixes like this, we restore some of the trust, in the first meaning of the word, and build upon the trust that is already there.

Twenty-seven years ago, if I may make a personal note, I had the privilege to join the office of Governor Booth Gardner in a role that would quickly become chief of staff. Fairly shortly, we signed off on a document known as the Centennial Accord. My good friend and colleague from Washington State will recall it well.

Basically, it was the first memorialization in the history of the United States that recognized the government-to-government relationship between the tribes and the State of Washington.

I have said regularly since, in an intermittent public service career extending back 40-some years, I have no higher point of pride than the small role I played in that, lo, those many years ago.

Accordingly, I would like to thank Congressman SIMPSON very much for his leadership on this bill and for allowing me the privilege to be the Democratic lead cosponsor.

I would like to add my expression of gratitude to Chairman MCCLINTOCK and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) as well as our ranking member, all those involved.

I would like to thank the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and its Trust Reform Committee. Let it not go unsaid that there was a decade of work leading up to today, a decade of work.

''Sovereignty'' means sovereignty. ''Government-to-government'' means just exactly that. The fact of the matter is we have a moral and a legal and sometimes a treaty obligation to fulfill that government-to-government relationship. It is the right thing to do.

It is in that spirit that I submit H.R. 812 for your favorable consideration.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), my colleague on the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, last summer more than 400,000 acres of tribal land in the Northwest burned with the Colville and the Yakama Tribes, which are in my district, enduring the worst fire season in a generation.

The Colville Indian Reservation alone saw 250,000 acres burned, consumed, by that blaze, much of which consisted of commercial timber.

The Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, H.R. 812, will authorize Indian tribes on a voluntary basis to carry out forest management activities on their own tribal lands without requiring review and approval by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It will allow the Colville, the Yakama, and other tribes across the West to move salvage log sales more quickly than is possible under the current BIA process.

Providing tribes who maintain their timber resources with the authority to make these management decisions will expedite on-the-ground activity and open new doors to attract investment. In fact, I would argue that we should also give more control to States and localities in addition to these tribes.

The new authority derived in H.R. 812 will provide additional benefits to tribes with timber resources. The Colville Tribe has been attempting to reopen a sawmill in Omak, Washington, also in my district, since 2009.

One of the primary impediments to reopening has been the BIA's unwillingness to approve longer term agreements between the tribe and third-party investors. This new authority in this bill will allow tribes to enter into these type of agreements on their own, resulting in the creation of additional jobs as well as economic activity.

Last September, while catastrophic wildfires continued to burn across central Washington, Secretary Jewell visited the Colville Reservation and saw the devastation firsthand. Mr. Speaker, before the next fire season begins, significant resources will be needed to replant these forests as well as rehabilitate these landscapes.

The administration has not done enough to provide these tribes with the resources they need. We must correct that. We must make this change in order to ensure that these forests can continue to be a viable and productive resource for the tribes and communities in my district, my State, and the rest of the country.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 812, 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.

KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3371) to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3371

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 ''Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park was authorized as a unit of the National Park System on June 26, 1935. Prior to 1935, parts of the park had been acquired and protected by Civil War veterans and the War Department.

(2) Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park protects Kennesaw Mountain and Kolb's Farm, which are battle sites along the route of General Sherman's 1864 campaign to take Atlanta.

(3) Most of the park protects Confederate positions and strategy. The Wallis House is one of the few original structures remaining from the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain associated with Union positions and strategy.

(4) The Wallis House is strategically located next to a Union signal station at Harriston Hill.

SEC. 3. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT; LAND ACQUISITION; ADMINISTRATION.

(a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is modified to include the approximately 8 acres identified as ''Wallis House and Harriston Hill'', and generally depicted on the map titled ''Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Proposed Boundary Adjustment'', numbered 325/80,020, and dated February 2010.

(b) MAP.—The map referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(c) LAND ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire, from willing owners only, land or interests in land described in subsection (a) by donation or exchange.

(d) ADMINISTRATION OF ACQUIRED LANDS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall administer land and interests in land acquired under this section as part of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

(e) WRITTEN CONSENT OF OWNER.—No non-Federal property may be included in the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park without the written consent of the owner. This provision shall apply only to those portions of the Park added under subsection (a).

(f) NO USE OF CONDEMNATION.—The Secretary of the Interior may not acquire by condemnation any land or interests in land under this Act or for the purposes of this Act.

(g) NO BUFFER ZONE CREATED.—Nothing in this Act, the establishment of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, or the management plan for the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park shall be construed to create buffer zones outside of the Park. That activities or uses can be seen, heard, or detected from areas within the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park shall not preclude, limit, control, regulate or determine the conduct or management of activities or uses outside the Park.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3371, introduced by our colleague BARRY LOUDERMILK, expands the boundary of the Kennesaw National Battlefield Park.

It also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 8 acres of land only by donation or exchange from willing sellers. The expanded area includes the historic Wallis House and Harriston Hill.

Wallis House is one of the few remaining structures associated with the Kennesaw Mountain Civil War battle, while Harriston Hill was strategically significant as the Union signal station.

The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in June of 1864 was critical to the Union campaign to split the Confederacy, and although it was a tactical victory for the Confederate, it opened the way for the Union's strategic victory of taking Atlanta.

The sacrifices of more than 3,000 Union troops on Kennesaw Mountain made possible Sherman's famous telegram to Lincoln 3 months later that ''Atlanta is ours, and fairly won.''

These battlefields remind succeeding generations of Americans of the price paid by so many for the preservation of our Constitution and the liberty it protects and the enormous responsibility that each of us has to maintain and defend that same Constitution today.

I urge passage of the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This bill adjusts the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Georgia to include two historically significant structures, the Wallace House and Kolb's Farm, and to assist in the preservation of the story of the Atlanta Campaign.

Between June 19 and July 2, 1864, a series of battles occurred here between Union and Confederate forces. The loss of Kennesaw Mountain removed one of the last major geographic obstacles protecting Atlanta, which eventually fell to the Union Army in September of 1864.

The bill will allow for the donation of approximately 8 acres to Kennesaw National Battlefield Park, a unit of the National Park Service.

I want to thank my colleague from Georgia, Representative BARRY LOUDERMILK, for continuing to support the preservation of the history of this great country.

The Civil War was a significant event in the history of this country and remains relevant as we grapple with civil rights discussions today.

The preservation of these sites reinforces Congress' dedication to equality and enables the National Park Service to interpret and tell our national story.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK), the author of this measure.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 3371, a bill that will add valuable historical property to the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

This park, which is located in Georgia's 11th Congressional District, is a site of significant battles that took place during America's bloodiest conflict, the Civil War.

Our Nation has long recognized the importance of preserving historical sites, especially those battlefields where Americans fought and died for freedom. Sites such as Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park allow us to look back in time and get a glimpse of events that help shaped our Nation.

It is extremely important that we understand our history; otherwise, we will be destined to repeat the mistakes of the past.

A recent study of American history education revealed that, while 98 percent of college students could identify that Snoop Doggy Dogg was a rapper, only 23 percent of college seniors could identify that James Madison was the father of the Constitution.

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Mr. Speaker, it is now more important than ever that the generations following us have access to these historic sites and to the educational opportunities they provide, or we risk losing touch with our history. It is extremely important to restore the comprehensive study of American history in our schools. However, it is equally important to preserve the places at which significant events in our history took place.

This bill that I have sponsored will simply allow Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to acquire two pieces of property that will add to the historic and educational value of this battlefield.

One of the properties this bill will preserve is a home that was built in 1853 by Mr. Josiah Wallis. Mr. Wallis built this home for his family, but it was eventually used as a hospital by the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

In 1864, the Wallis House fell into the hands of General William Sherman of the Union Army during his campaign to take Atlanta. The house served as

Sherman's headquarters during the Battle of Kolb's Farm, which was a resounding victory for the Union Army; but the victory was not without cost. When the smoke cleared, over 350 Union soldiers and over 1,000 Confederate soldiers lay dead.

Five days later, Union General Oliver Howard used the Wallis House as his headquarters and communications center during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, one of the bloodiest 1-day battles of the entire war. This was also the last major battle before Atlanta fell to Union forces. While the assault by General Sherman was a tactical failure in its costing the lives of 3,000 of his men, the battle also inflicted heavy losses on the Confederates. After losing another 1,000 men, the Confederate Army could not stop General Sherman on his march to Atlanta.

Adjacent to the Wallis House are 8 acres of land, known as Harriston Hill. This property offers a sweeping view of the valley leading to the Confederate line on top of Kennesaw Mountain, and it was used by the Union as a signaling position during the battle. This location is essential for park visitors to understand the strategic positions taken by the Union and Confederate Armies during the battle.

In addition to being critical sites in Civil War history, the Wallis House and Harriston Hill are two of the few original locations remaining from the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain that are associated with the Union Army. Most of the park's current attractions correspond with Confederate history, so these additions will prove to be major historical acquisitions that will enhance the value of the park and provide insight into the Union's side of the story.

In 2002, the Cobb County Government purchased the Wallis House and Harriston Hill in order to prevent the house from being demolished. Since then, the county has been seeking to transfer the property to the park. My bill simply modifies the boundary of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the house and the hill, and it authorizes the park to acquire the property by donation. Along with the Cobb County Government, this bill is supported by the National Park Service, by Kennesaw Mountain Park, and by several park volunteer organizations and historical societies in my district.

This legislation is an essential step toward preserving our Nation's heritage, and it is a valuable part of Civil War history. The Wallis House and Harriston Hill will provide tremendous educational and historical value to Kennesaw Mountain Park; and it is my hope that the park will quickly acquire this property and will restore it to its original condition for visitors to enjoy for generations to come.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3371.

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.

DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA IMPROVEMENT ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3620) to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3620

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

SECTION 1. VEHICULAR ACCESS AND FEES.

Section 4 of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act (Public Law 109–156) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. USE OF CERTAIN ROADS WITHIN THE RECREATION AREA.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, Highway 209, a federally owned road within the boundaries of the Recreation Area, shall be closed to all commercial vehicles.

''(b) EXCEPTION FOR LOCAL BUSINESS USE.—Until September 30, 2020, subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the use of commercial vehicles that have four or fewer axles and are—

''(1) owned and operated by a business physically located in—

''(A) the Recreation Area; or

''(B) one or more adjacent municipalities; or

''(2) necessary to provide services to businesses or persons located in—

''(A) the Recreation Area; or

''(B) one of more adjacent municipalities.

''(c) FEE.—The Secretary shall establish a fee and permit program for the use by commercial vehicles of Highway 209 under subsection (b). The program shall include an annual fee not to exceed $200 per vehicle. All fees received under the program shall be set aside in a special account and be available, without further appropriation, to the Secretary for the administration and enforcement of the program, including registering vehicles, issuing permits and vehicle identification stickers, and personnel costs.

''(d) EXCEPTIONS.—The following vehicles may use Highway 209 and shall not be subject to a fee or permit requirement under subsection (c):

''(1) Local school buses.

''(2) Fire, ambulance, and other safety and emergency vehicles.

''(3) Commercial vehicles using Federal Road Route 209, from—

''(A) Milford to the Delaware River Bridge leading to U.S. Route 206 in New Jersey; and

''(B) mile 0 of Federal Road Route 209 to Pennsylvania State Route 2001.''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act (Public Law 109–156) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section) the following:

''(1) ADJACENT MUNICIPALITIES.—The term 'adjacent municipalities' means Delaware Township, Dingman Township, Lehman Township, Matamoras Borough, Middle Smithfield Township, Milford Borough, Milford Township, Smithfield Township and Westfall Township, in Pennsylvania.''.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 702 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–333) is repealed.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3620, introduced by Congressman TOM MARINO, amends the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to allow a road in the recreation area to continue to be used by commercial vehicles that serve the local communities adjoining this federally designated land. It is entirely in keeping with one of our principal objectives for Federal land use policy: to restore the Federal Government as a good neighbor to the communities impacted by the Federal lands.

Before the Federal Government took control of 70,000 acres of land adjacent to the Delaware River in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, highway 209 served as a major trucking route for commerce. Legislation that created the recreation area and implemented it sought to prohibit commercial vehicles from using this public highway, promising to establish alternate routes. Yet, despite three extensions of the deadline, local residents and businesses in the communities of Delaware Township, Dingman Township, Lehman Township, Metamoras Borough, Middle Smithfield Township, Milford Borough, Milford Township, Smithfield Township, and Westfall Township in Pennsylvania are directly threatened by the impending limitation.

H.R. 3620 would protect the people of these communities from this unnecessary disruption and inconvenience by

allowing commercial vehicles serving these communities to continue to use this long-established highway. Specifically, it directs the Department of the Interior to establish a fee and permit program for commercial vehicles serving these communities.

This bill enjoys broad support in the affected communities, and Congressman MARINO should be commended for his efforts to resolve this vexing issue for his constituents.

I urge the passage of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This bill amends the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to extend the authorization of a waiver for certain commercial traffic on U.S. Route 209, a federally owned highway that runs through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

When Congress decided to restrict commercial traffic on the portion of the highway that runs through the recreation area, the law included an exemption for certain vehicles that belong to nearby businesses and municipal governments. This bill provides a 5-year extension of that exemption in order to facilitate continued access for local residents.

It is supported by the National Park Service, and I urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of this measure, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO).

Mr. MARINO. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill to reauthorize commercial traffic along Route 209 through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

For nearly 5 months now, uncertainty has reigned over this 21-mile stretch of road that is running through my district. Over 30 years ago, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—as the chairman so eloquently stated—transferred Route 209, then a State road, to the National Park Service.

As commercial thru traffic is banned on roads within our national parks, it would also be so on this stretch of Route 209; but, at that time, a 10-year exemption was made to support the local freight transportation industry and because acceptable alternative routes were unavailable. After multiple extensions, the most recent commercial vehicle authorization expired at the end of September of 2015.

To address the problem, county and township officials from the surrounding areas met with the National Park Service and my staff to negotiate a new plan. They recognized the continued need to allow some commercial vehicle access, and they settled on the carefully crafted language we are considering today.

The work to produce this extension acknowledges the continued need of employers, businesses, and homeowners I represent in Pike and Monroe Counties. The expiration in September cast a cloud on the local business community and put countless jobs in jeopardy. Passing this bill so that it can be swiftly considered by the Senate is imperative as the weather warms and business activity increases through the region.

I thank Chairman BISHOP for his support and assistance in bringing this bill to the floor as quickly as possible. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3620.

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.

HONORING PENN STATE'S MIKE HERR, ''MIKE THE MAILMAN''

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mike Herr on his retirement from the United States Postal Service. For generations of students at Penn State University, Mike is lovingly known as ''Mike the Mailman.''

Mike's first day with the Postal Service was April 1, 1968—48 years to the day of his expected retirement this year. In his nearly five decades of working at the university's main campus in State College, he has formed bonds with countless students and has become a fixture at the school's annual dance marathon, also known as THON—the largest student-run philanthropy in the world. In fact, Mike has become known for delivering Mack Trucks that are full of letters and packages for dancers who are participating in the event.

When asked about becoming a Penn State campus institution, Mike said: ''My secret is fairly simple: kindness matters; humor always helps; staying enthusiastic about the big and little things and showing compassion to every single person that I meet.''

Mr. Speaker, these are words that we can all live by, and I wish ''Mike the Mailman'' the best of luck in his retirement.

THE GENOCIDE OF CHRISTIANS AND OTHER RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I had the extraordinary privilege of being in the room when Pope Francis was given a small cross, a crucifix. This crucifix belonged to a young Syrian man who had been captured by the jihadis and then given a choice—convert or die—and he chose. He chose his ancient faith tradition.

He chose Christ.

And he was beheaded.

His mother was able to recover his body and the crucifix that he wore and bury him, and then she subsequently made her way to Austria by which this cross came into the possession of the Holy Father.

This type of incident—the killings, the beheadings, the crucifixions, the immolations—occurs day, after day, after day to the beleaguered religious minorities of the Middle East—the Christians, the Yazidis, and others—who have ancient faith traditions, who have every right to be in their ancient homelands as does anyone else.

□ 1515

This is a genocide. This is a deliberate attempt to exterminate an entire set of peoples based upon their faith.

Mr. Speaker, in the year 2004, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell came to the United States Congress and in a committee hearing—the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—he declared what was happening in Darfur in Sudan a genocide. In making that simple declaration, using that powerful word, he helped put an end to that grim reality.

Thankfully, what is happening now that should give the beleaguered communities of the Middle East some hope is that there is an international coalition developing that has recognized the fact that this is a genocide being committed.

Nearly 200 Members of the United States Congress, this body, have signed on and are cosponsoring a resolution that declares this a genocide. The International Association of Genocide Scholars has stated it as such.

Others, including the Yazidi community, the United States Catholic bishops, Pope Francis himself, Hillary Clinton and MARCO RUBIO, both Presidential candidates, have declared this to be a genocide.

Genocide is a powerful word. It evokes special meaning. It creates the conditions for when there hopefully is inevitably and perhaps miraculously

some proper settlement in the Middle East—security arrangements, political, economic, and cultural settlement—that the religious minorities of that area who once made up the rich tapestry of that region will have their rightful place restored and reintegrated back into those communities.

This would give hope again to persecuted peoples. It provides a gateway for the discussion of further policy recommendations, for instance, that could place people who are being forced to flee under the threat of genocide in proximity to where their ancient homeland is so that, once stability is restored, they can return and reclaim what is rightfully theirs.

A little while back when the Yazidi community, primarily women and children, were trapped on Mount Sinjar, President Obama, to his credit, acted quickly.

The House of Representatives had passed a resolution calling for additional humanitarian assistance, and the President, with great deliberateness, decided to save their lives. I want to personally state that I am grateful for that.

I represent the largest Yazidi refugee community in America. This is an ancient faith tradition that usually enjoyed a quiet and peaceable life in areas of Iraq and who began to come under increasing pressure during the Iraq war and now are, of course, subjected to ISIL's attempt to exterminate them. They were saved by quick action.

So in an exchange with Secretary Kerry today, I commended the administration for that quick action to save the Yazidis and I asked the administration to actively consider and call this what it is, a genocide.

When we do so, again we create the conditions not only for which the international consciousness on this problem will be raised and other international organizations, including the European Union Parliament who have spoken to it. Other parliaments around the world have also declared this a genocide.

However, in our complicated times, we rush from urgency to urgency. It is difficult to keep the mind focused because the horrors that continue to come at us are so extreme we almost get numb to it all. Yet, we have to act. In doing so, we can save lives.

We can reposition and potentially preserve the remnant of the rich tapestry of minority voices that are critical to stability in the Middle East and are critical to saving civilization itself and stopping this grievous assault on human dignity.

That is why I urged the Secretary to make the declaration of genocide. It was a thoughtful exchange, but we will continue to do so.

I am so grateful to so many of my colleagues who, again, have signed onto this resolution that calls it such, a genocide against the Christian Yazidis and others.

I am also grateful to have some colleagues here, including my good friend, Congressman DAN LIPINSKI of Illinois, who has tirelessly spoken to the issue of human rights and stood for life, stood for stability, stood for justice on the whole spectrum of issues that are facing humanity now.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) so that he may give us his consideration on this essential topic.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I only have a few minutes this afternoon. No matter how busy things get, there has to be time to come here to stand up for basic human rights.

I thank Congressman FORTENBERRY and, also, Congresswoman ESHOO for organizing today's Special Order and for all the work that they have done to speak out on this issue of protecting all of those minority groups who are under threat, so many murdered, driven from their homes.

It is very important that we focus the eyes of Congress and the Nation on this humanitarian tragedy that is happening in Syria and Iraq. I think it is very important. It is really past time, as far as I am concerned, but it is never too late.

We need to stand up and pass H. Con. Res. 75 for this Congress to declare that there is a genocide that is going on. The genocide is against not just Yazidis, but also Christians, Turkmen, and other groups in Syria and Iraq and in the region.

Since 2013, when ISIL began their murderous march through Syria and northern Iraq, the world has witnessed the targeted killing of all of these groups that I have mentioned. As I said, we should have done this a while ago. The United States should have stood up and declared this a genocide.

Now, it seems there are reports, at least, that the United States may be declaring that there is a genocide of the Yazidis. While certainly no one is going to downplay that, as my colleague mentioned, we all remember what happened with the Yazidis trapped on Mount Sinjar and the quick intervention that helped to save so many lives and the continued genocide going on against the Yazidis.

We don't want to downplay that in any way, but I think it is important that we recognize it is not just the Yazidis who are suffering from genocide.

In fact, the State Department's report on International Religious Freedom for 2014 acknowledged that ISIL was systematically targeting religious minorities it considered heretical and that their abuses disproportionately affected religious minorities, with between 100,000 and 200,000 Christians and an estimated 300,000 Yazidis displaced in Iraq.

Now, these numbers have only gotten greater since that time. In Syria, that same report states that ISIL has executed Christians, kidnapped priests, and forced tens of thousands to flee across the desert or face ISIL's genocidal campaign.

Leaders across the world, including the European Union Parliament and Pope Francis, have recognized that genocide is being committed by ISIL against many ethno-religious groups, and the United States must join them in condemning these crimes as a genocide.

Here in Congress, we remain in a critical position to promote religious freedom and ensure that it remains a priority in our foreign policy.

That is why I was an original cosponsor of Congressman FORTENBERRY and Congresswoman ESHOO's H. Con. Res. 75, which expresses that Congress views the attacks on Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and, yes, genocide. We must not wait or be apprehensive about speaking the truth.

The administration and Congress must prioritize religious freedom and protect all minorities in the Middle East from the ongoing genocide. It should begin here in Congress by passing H. Con. Res. 75. I certainly want to ask all of my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this resolution.

Again, we continue to see the horrible crimes being committed in Syria and Iraq. We are not here today to say that there are easy solutions, that any of this is easy to solve.

We have to not look away, but we need to look at what is going on in Syria and Iraq and call it for what it is, a genocide. It is a genocide against a number of groups, including Christians there in Syria and Iraq.

By Congress standing up, it means something. The world takes notice when it happens. We must do more. It is our duty to do more to protect these people, starting out with this declaration of genocide.

I want to again thank Congressman FORTENBERRY for all the work he is doing on this issue and many other human rights issues, standing up for life itself, which is something critically important that we all must do here.

I thank Congressman FORTENBERRY for organizing this Special Order and for all of his work on this issue.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LIPINSKI as well for his tireless commitment to justice, to human dignity, to human flourishing.

Really, ultimately, that is what this resolution is intended to do, to call it what it is, a genocide, in order that there might be the proper settlement, when we finally come to the day when there is a proper security arrangement in the Middle East, when there is a reintegration of the religious minorities who, again, made up the rich diversity of the Middle East in a prior time who are critical to the ongoing stability of Iraq and Syria and other places.

I am grateful as well that the gentleman pointed out the extraordinary work of our colleague, Congresswoman

ANNA ESHOO, a Democrat from California. I am a Republican.

We have other Republicans here who will speak in a time when Congress seems so divided on every issue—again, we have 200 of our colleagues—in a transpartisan initiative to say that this is unjust, this must be stopped.

By our actions of calling it a genocide, we not only elevate international consciousness, but again we create the conditions for the proper redress once we come to some proper settlement in the Middle East.

I am so grateful for the gentleman's time and efforts on this behalf and for his leadership in Congress. I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI.)

Let me turn to my good friend as well, Congressman JODY B. HICE, a new Member of Congress from Georgia, who has shown initiative, entrepreneurial endeavor, integrating quickly as an impact player, if you will, in the proceedings here in Congress. I am grateful for his willingness to speak on this topic, but, more than that, grateful for our growing friendship.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE).

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) for bringing attention to this incredibly important issue and the absolute carnage that is occurring in the Middle East against Christians, Yazidis, and people of other religious faiths and minorities.

You know, the right to practice a chosen religion is a right that I—and I believe all of us—believe should be universal. Yet, the religious persecution, especially by such violent means that is occurring now, is absolutely deplorable.

ISIS has shown its true nature in the treatment of these religious minorities. We have all witnessed in recent months the violent expansion of ISIS in the Middle East as they have single-mindedly persecuted those who adhere to different faiths.

In fact, those who refuse to convert have been driven from their homes, brutally tortured, crucified, raped, murdered, enslaved, and not by just few in number. We are talking thousands that fall under this horrific scenario.

□ 1530

The systematic violence of ISIS toward communities of Yazidis, Christians, Kurds, Turkmen, whatever it may be, as you have well mentioned, goes far beyond war crimes. We are talking absolute genocide.

In looking at all this, it was interesting to me that, when the world came together after the atrocities of the Second World War in an effort to define genocide, they actually defined it as an actor committing certain acts against a designated group with an intent to destroy the group in whole or in part.

ISIS has. They absolutely have the intent to destroy, in whole, Christians, Yazidis, and all religious groups throughout the Middle East. In fact, their entire propaganda even brags about the abhorrent crimes that they are committing, and they show absolutely no signs of willingness to stop these atrocities.

It is clear to me that we have an obligation—not only a moral one, but a legal obligation—to prevent these atrocities from occurring. In fact, 3 weeks from now this administration must fulfill its own legal obligation to make a determination on whether it will name ISIS' crimes as acts of genocide or not.

The time has come. In fact, the time is long past for our Nation and our world to officially recognize these crimes by ISIS for what they truly are and to commit fully to defeating ISIS. We simply cannot ignore this any longer, and we must bring H. Con. Res. 75 to the House floor as soon as possible.

Again, I thank you for yielding this time and thank you for your leadership in this regard.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his thoughtful commentary and leadership as well on this essential issue. In fact, it is not an issue at all. This is an assault on all humanity. This is a threat to civilization itself.

If a group of people can succeed in exterminating another group because they have the power to do so, because they do not believe in another's religion, they violate that sacred space that is essential to all persons and, therefore, the conditions of liberty that are necessary for human flourishing.

This goes beyond the grotesque tragedy in the Middle East. It is a call to the entire responsible community of nations to act, to say that we will not allow eighth-century barbarism that happens to have 21st-century weaponry to rule in a land, destroy, kill, maim, and exterminate entire groups of people because of their religious tradition. It is wrong. It is unjust. If not addressed, all of civilization is at threat. That is the core of the problem here.

I thank you so much for your willingness to spend a little bit of time and your leadership on these critical points. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, again, it is H. Con. Res. 75, House Concurrent Resolution 75. It has been introduced here in the House, and there is a similar resolution in the Senate. It will be forthcoming in the coming weeks. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs will be considering this resolution soon.

I am hopeful that, again, with my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO), and others, who have shown just extraordinary leadership and deep concern and compassion for those who are in need, we can continue to build the numbers and make the case to all of our colleagues and our government that it is time to call this genocide and, by declaring such, again setting the conditions that will be necessary to reintegrate people, those who have survived, back into their ancient lands for which they have a rightful claim.

I heard a story recently from a commander who had been in Mosul during the height of the Iraq war. Part of their obligation and responsibility was to protect the various religious minorities who were there. He talked about seeing the very beautiful Christian church that was there.

All the Christians are gone from Mosul. The remaining ones had the Arabic letter N, Nun, spray-painted on their door in blood red. That is a symbol for the word Nazarene, which some use as a derogatory term to Christians. They were told: Convert, leave, or die. Many had to flee with whatever they had on their back.

Of course, we know the horrific stories of those who gave their life in fidelity to their faith. This is a systematic attempt to wipe certain peoples off the map. It is not fair. It is unjust. It must be countered with a worldwide response.

The designation of genocide is that critical first step, again, toward the possibility of restoring some tranquility of order whenever there is the right type of security and economic and cultural settlement that must come to the Middle East if it has any chance, again, to flourish.

We can lead in this regard. We must lead. Other countries around the world have already taken up this banner. As I said earlier, the European Parliament has declared it so.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the ability to converse today with my colleagues on this threat, this threat to civilization itself, and our need to act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BUCK (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of illness.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2234. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II; to the Committee on Financial Services; in addition to the Committee on House Administration 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.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills

of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 487. An act to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands.

H.R. 890. An act to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Florida.

H.R. 3262. An act to provide for the conveyance of land of the Illiana Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Danville, Illinois.

H.R. 4056. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convey to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs all right, title, and interest of the United States to the property known as ''The Community Living Center'' at the Lake Baldwin Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic, Orlando, Florida.

H.R. 4437. An act to extend the deadline for the submittal of the final report required by the Commission on Care.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on February 23, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 644. To reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 25, 2016, 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:

4425. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Rules of Practice and Procedure; Civil Money Penalty Inflation Adjustment (RIN: 2590-AA77) received February 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4426. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; GA; Redesignation of the Atlanta, GA, 1997 Annual PM2.5 Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0084; FRL-9942-61-Region 4] received February 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4427. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Emissions Inventory and Emissions Statement for the Missouri Portion of the St. Louis MO-IL Ozone Nonattainment Area [EPA-R07-OAR-2015-0438; FRL-9942-76-Region 7] received February 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4428. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Clarification of Requirements for Method 303 Certification Training [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0492; FRL-9940-76-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR97) received February 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4429. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pyriproxyfen; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-1012; FRL-9941-38] received February 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4430. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Triclopyr; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0314 and EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0489; FRL-9941-87] received February 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4431. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Interim Staff Guidance — Clarification of Licensee Actions in Receipt of Enforcement Discretion Per Enforcement Guidance Memorandum EGM 15-002, ''Enforcement Discretion for Tornado-Generated Missile Protection Noncompliance'' [DSS-ISG-2016-01] received February 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4432. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-318, ''Private Security Camera Incentive Program Temporary Act of 2016'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4433. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-317, ''Emery Heights Community Center Designation Act of 2016'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4434. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-316, ''LGBTQ Cultural Competency Continuing Education Amendment Act of 2016'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4435. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-319, ''Marijuana Possession Decriminalization Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2016'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4436. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-315, ''Tip's Way Designation Act of 2016'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4437. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-320, ''Certificate of Good Standing Filing Requirement Temporary Amendment Act of 2016'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4438. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-321, ''Presidential Primary Ballot Access Temporary Amendment Act of 2016'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4439. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-322, ''Wage Theft Prevention Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2016'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4440. A letter from the Federal Register and Regulatory Liaison Officer, Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Discrimination on the Basis of Disability in Federally Assisted and Federally Conducted Programs and Activities [Document No.: NASA-2015-0008] (RIN: 2700-AD85) received February 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4441. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Department of the Treasury Employee Rules of Conduct received February 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4442. A letter from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Interagency Cooperation-Endangered Species Act of 1973, as Amended; Definition of Destruction or Adverse Modification of Critical Habitat [Docket No.: FWS-R9-ES-2011-0072] (RIN: 1018-AX88) received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4443. A letter from the Unified Listing Team Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Consolea corallicola (Florida Semaphore Cactus) and Harrisia aboriginum (Aboriginal Prickly-apple) [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2014-0057; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AZ92) received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4444. A letter from the Acting Unified Listing Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-Eared Bat [Docket No.: FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AY98) received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4445. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Recovery and State Grants, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassifying Hesperocyparis abramsiana (=Cupressus abramsiana) as Threatened [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2013-0092; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AY77) received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4446. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2016 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pollock, Atka Mackerel, and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE367) received February 23, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4447. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Pot Catcher/Processors in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE418) received February 23, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4448. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Island Pelagic Fisheries; Exemption for Large U.S. Longline Vessels To Fish in Portions of the American Samoa Large Vessel Prohibited Area [Docket No.: 150625552-6043-02] (RIN: 0648-BF22) received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4449. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE420) received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4450. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Directed Fishing With Trawl Gear by Fisheries Act Catcher Processors in Bycatch Limitation Zone 1 of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE429) received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4451. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Recovery and State Grants, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; Technical Corrections for Eight Wildlife Species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2016-0006; FXES11130900000C6-167-FF09E42000] (RIN: 1018-BB28) received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4452. A letter from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat; Implementing Changes to the Regulations for Designating Critical Habitat [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2012-0096] [Docket No.: 120106025-5640-03] [4500030114] (RIN: 1018-AX86) (RIN: 0648-BB79) received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4453. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Department of the Treasury Regulations for the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (RIN: 1505-AC44) received February 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4454. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Department of the Treasury Regulations for the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (RIN: 1505-AC44) received February 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4455. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Transition Relief for Certain Section 529 Qualified Tuition Programs Required to File Form 1099-Q, Payments From Qualified Education Programs (Under Sections 529 and 530) [Notice 2016-13] received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); ; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4456. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2016 Cost-of-Living Adjustments for certain items resulting from the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (Rev. Proc. 2016-14) received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4457. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Maximum Vehicle Values for 2016 for Use With Vehicle Cents-Per-Mile and Fleet-Average Valuation Rules [Notice 2016-12] received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4458. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Credit for Indian Coal Production and Inflation Adjustment Factor for Calendar Year 2015 [Notice 2016-11] received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4459. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Timing of Submitting Preexisting Accounts and Periodic Certifications; Reporting of Accounts of Nonparticipating FFIs; Reliance on Electronically Furnished Forms W-8 and W-9 [Notice 2016-08] received February 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3004. A bill to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission (Rept. 114–430). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2880. A bill to redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–431). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 812. A bill to provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–432). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1475. A bill to reauthorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance; with an amendment (Rept. 114–433). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3371. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–434). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3620. A bill to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–435). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 4596. A bill to ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 4597. A bill to provide resources and incentives for the enforcement of immigration laws in the interior of the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 4598. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve the H-1B visa program, to repeal the diversity visa lottery program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 4599. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to permit certain partial fillings of prescriptions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. VELA, and Mr. FARR):

H.R. 4600. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to protect the well-being of soldiers and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK):

H.R. 4601. A bill to transfer the reversionary interest of the United States between certain land in Flagstaff, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 4602. A bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H.R. 4603. A bill to prevent a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in its commission, from obtaining a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. GIBSON):

H.R. 4604. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUM (for himself, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H.R. 4605. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 615 6th Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa as the ''Sgt. 1st Class Terryl L. Pasker Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 4606. A bill to require the Governor of a State to submit to the Attorney General an annual report on the number of individuals who represented themselves in court in criminal matters or juvenile delinquency matters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Mr. DENHAM):

H.R. 4607. A bill to amend the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000 to modify requirements that apply to projects carried out under the estuary habitat restoration program established by the Secretary of the Army, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4608. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish small business savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia):

H.R. 4609. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the provisions governing employment of nonimmigrants under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of that Act to prevent the transfer of knowledge from United States workers for the purpose of facilitating their jobs being moved abroad; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KNIGHT:

H.R. 4610. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in a series of water reclamation projects to provide a new water supply to communities previously impacted by perchlorate contamination plumes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. GALLEGO):

H.R. 4611. A bill to discourage the use of payment of money as a condition of pretrial release in criminal cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H. Res. 624. A resolution directing the Committee on the Budget to hold a public hearing on the President's fiscal year 2017 budget request with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget as a witness; to the Committee on Rules.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 4596.

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 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 4597.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 4598.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 4599.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 4600.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 4601.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause). Under this clause, Congress has the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States. By virtue of this enumerated power, Congress has governing authority over the lands, territories, or other property of the United States- and with this authority Congress is vested with the power to all owners in fee, the ability to sell, lease, dispose, exchange, convey, or simply preserve land. The Supreme Court has described this enumerated grant as one ''without limitation'' Kleppe v New Mexico, 426 U.S. 529, 542–543 (1976) (''And while the furthest reaches of the power granted by the Property Clause have not been definitely resolved, we have repeatedly observed that the power over the public land thus entrusted to Congress is without limitation.'')

Historically, the federal government transferred ownership of federal property to either private ownership or the states in order to pay off large Revolutionary War debts and to assist with the development of infrastructure. The transfer of reversionary interest by this legislation is thus constitutional and necessary to ensure private property owners are able to utilize and control their private property.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 4602.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 4603.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4604.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (''the Commerce Clause'') of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BLUM:

H.R. 4605.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 4606.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution and Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 4607.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations

respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state. [Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution]

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4608.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 4609.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KNIGHT:

H.R. 4610.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of section 8 and clause 7 of section 9 of article I, of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 4611.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 188: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 192: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.

H.R. 303: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 448: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 472: Mr. SIRES, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 546: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 662: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 664: Mr. COHEN, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 726: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 759: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 781: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 816: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 842: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 885: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 953: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BARR, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 969: Mr. BECERRA and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 986: Mr. DENHAM.

H.R. 1117: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 1174: Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1188: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1192: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1197: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. KNIGHT, and Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 1301: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 1309: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 1336: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 1453: Mr. STIVERS, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 1459: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 1588: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.

H.R. 1942: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1945: Ms. LEE and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1948: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2058: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 2059: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 2083: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2093: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 2167: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 2260: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 2698: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. HARDY.

H.R. 2713: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2737: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. VELA, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2759: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2844: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 2858: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2903: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 2908: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 2939: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 2948: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 3012: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 3048: Mr. REED, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 3088: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3099: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 3135: Mr. DENT.

H.R. 3190: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 3323: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 3481: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 3502: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3515: Mr. STEWART, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JONES, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.

H.R. 3520: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 3521: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 3556: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3713: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 3722: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 3723: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3779: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 3808: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 3846: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 3852: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 3952: Mr. ELLISON and Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 3956: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 3970: Mr. BEYER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 4006: Mr. WALKER.

H.R. 4007: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 4087: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 4133: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 4200: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4262: Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 4277: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 4352: Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 4442: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 4447: Mr. HIMES, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 4461: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 4462: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 4469: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4490: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 4514: Mr. ROSKAM and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 4521: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 4522: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 4523: Mr. CHAFFETZ.

H.R. 4540: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 4542: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 4549: Mr. CHAFFETZ.

H.R. 4553: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 4561: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 4562: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 4563: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.J. Res. 55: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H. Res. 207: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H. Res. 541: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H. Res. 551: Mr. FLORES, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. MICA.

H. Res. 600: Ms. KUSTER.

H. Res. 610: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H. Res. 615: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H. Res. 623: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H. Res. 571: Mr. Chabot.

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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, we would rest in You, for You alone can bring order to our world.

Reveal Yourself to our Senators, guiding them on the path of peace. May they place behind them disappointed hopes, fruitless labor, and trivial aims as they lean on You for comfort and strength. Rebuke their doubts. Strengthen the good in them so that nothing may hinder the outflow of Your power in their lives.

Give might to the weak and renew the strength of the strong.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

GUANTANAMO DETAINEES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, President Obama has left the American people to wait for many years for a serious plan—one that poses no additional risk to our Nation or our Armed Forces, for instance—in pursuit of his desire to close a secure detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. Americans have been waiting for 7 long years to find out what the serious plan might look like. They are still waiting today.

What the President sent to Congress yesterday isn't a plan. It is more of a research project than anything. It does call on Congress, however, to act. It turns out we already have. Congress has repeatedly, over and over again, voted to enact clear, bipartisan prohibitions on the very thing the President is again calling for, and that is the transfer of Guantanamo Bay terrorists into our local communities. We have enacted bipartisan prohibitions in Congresses with split party control. We have enacted bipartisan prohibitions in Congresses with massive, overwhelming Democratic majorities. Just a couple of months ago, Members of Congress in both parties expressed themselves clearly one more time—not once, but twice, and on an overwhelming bipartisan basis. President Obama signed these bipartisan prohibitions into law as well. So let's not pretend there is even the faintest of pretenses for some pen-and-phone gambit here.

Congress has acted clearly, repeatedly, and on a bipartisan basis. The President now has the duty to follow the laws he himself signed. It shouldn't be that hard when you consider his admonition yesterday about ''upholding the highest standards of rule of law.'' He said: ''As Americans, we pride ourselves on being a beacon to other nations, a model of the rule of law.'' That is interesting in light of a recent GAO ruling that the administration's detainee swap of Taliban prisoners for Bowe Bergdahl violated the law. It is especially interesting in light of the President's continuing refusal to rule out breaking the law if he doesn't get his way on Guantanamo. President Obama's own Attorney General says he cannot unilaterally do that. It is clear. President Obama's own Defense Secretary says he cannot unilaterally do that. President Obama's own top military officer says he cannot unilaterally do that. In the words of one of our Democratic colleagues, ''He's going to have to comply with the legal restrictions.'' It is as simple as that—''going to have to comply with the legal restrictions.''

Breaking the law as a way to supposedly uphold the rule of law is just as absurd as it sounds. It is time that the President finally ruled that option out categorically, and then he should finally move on from a years-old campaign promise and focus on the real problem that needs solving today.

My own hope is that the Commander in Chief will not put his own chain of command in the position of having to carry out an unlawful direct order.

But, look, closing Guantanamo and transferring terrorists to the United States didn't make sense in 2008, and it makes even less sense today. We are a nation at war. The administration's efforts to contain ISIL thus far have not succeeded. The next President may very well want to pursue operations that target, capture, detain, and interrogate terrorists because that is how terrorist networks are defeated. Why would we take that option away from the next Commander in Chief now?

Let's be clear: The two options on the table are not keeping Guantanamo open or closing it, but keeping Guantanamo terrorists at Guantanamo or moving them to some Guantanamo North based in a U.S. community. Changing the detention center's ZIP Code is not a solution. It is not even serious.

The fact that the President missed a deadline for submitting a plan to defeat ISIL last week—presumably because he was just too busy working on his ancient campaign promise—is completely unacceptable.

Some of the most senior national security officials within President Obama's own administration are already working to better position the next President for the national security challenges we will face in 2017. It is time President Obama finally joined them and us in the serious work of keeping Americans safe in a dangerous world.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we are going to move the confirmation vote back closer to noon in order to accommodate some important hearings that are going on this morning in several of our committees.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The Democratic leader is recognized.

FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday the senior Senator from Iowa, along with other Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee, announced that they won't be holding a hearing on President Obama's eventual nominee to the Supreme Court. They won't give the eventual nominee the common courtesy of even a meeting—no hearings, no meeting—and this was all done even before the President sent a name to us. This is historically unbelievable and historically unprecedented.

Republicans don't know who the nominee will be, and they have already mentioned that. Already they have decided they won't even start the confirmation process. Why? Because the person was nominated by President Obama. Remember, the Republican leader said many years ago that the No. 1 goal he had was to make sure President Obama was not reelected. That failed miserably. The President won by more than 5 million votes. Everything has been done by the Republicans in the Senate to embarrass, obstruct, filibuster—anything that could be done to focus attention on President Obama, none of which has helped the country.

Senator GRASSLEY has surrendered every pretense of independence and let the Republican leader annex the Judiciary Committee into a narrow, partisan mission of obstruction and gridlock—so partisan, in fact, that the senior Senator from Iowa won't respond to a personal invitation from the President inviting him to the White House to discuss the vacancy. Think about that. The President of the United States calls a very senior Senator, and he hasn't even responded to the President. This is a sad day for one of the proudest committees in the Senate. So I ask, is this the legacy he wants? Is this how he wants his committee work remembered—as a chairman who refused his duty and instead allowed the Republican leader to ride roughshod over the Judiciary Committee's storied history?

The strength of committee chairmen in the U.S. Senate has been legendary. No majority leader or minority leader could tell a chair what to do with his committee. That was off bounds, but it doesn't appear so now.

In abdicating this responsibility, which the Senate has always upheld—never in the history of the country has a Senate simply refused to do anything, even meet with the person who has been nominated. So Republicans are setting a dangerous precedent for future nominations, not only for the Supreme Court but for the Senate itself as an institution.

Yesterday the Senate Historian's office reported that the denial of committee hearings for a Supreme Court nominee is unprecedented. If that is unprecedented, how about the fact that he won't even meet with the person who has been nominated? If that is unprecedented, how about the fact that a Member of the Senate won't even go to the White House to talk to the President about filling the Supreme Court seat?

The senior Senator from Iowa will be the first Judiciary Committee chairman ever to refuse to hold a hearing on a Supreme Court nominee. That is quite an achievement, but not one of which he should be proud. That sort of wanton obstruction is not what the American people want. It is not what the people of Iowa want. Last week no fewer than six Iowa newspapers issued scathing editorials calling on Senator GRASSLEY to change course and give the President's Supreme Court nominee the respect he or she deserves.

For example, the Mason City Globe Gazette wrote:

> We were especially disappointed to see Iowa's own Chuck Grassley join the partisan crowd calling for a delay. . . . There is no constitutional or even historical precedent for such flagrant, outrageous, shameful, bald-faced partisanship.

The Gazette in Cedar Rapids, IA, wrote of Senator GRASSLEY's actions:

> It's hard to conclude this is anything but political maneuvering meant to meet partisan objectives at the expense of the Supreme Court, our constitutional process and the common good.

The headline of the Des Moines Register editorial reads, ''Grassley's Supreme Court stance is all about politics.''

Is that the legacy the chairman wants for Iowa and our Nation? I certainly hope not. Does he want to be remembered as the least productive Judiciary Committee chairman in history? At his current pace, he will be remembered as the most obstructive chairman in history.

Instead of studying what the Vice President said a quarter of a century ago, perhaps Senator GRASSLEY should take note of what Senator BIDEN did 25 years ago or generally as a member and chairman of that committee.

In 1992, under Senator BIDEN's leadership, the Judiciary Committee confirmed 64 circuit and district court nominations. All of the judicial nominations were made by a President of the opposite party—President George H.W. Bush. In 2015, Senator GRASSLEY's first year as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the Senate confirmed 11 judicial nominations. That was the fewest judicial nominations confirmed ever. We were a much smaller country, perhaps, so ''ever'' might be a little much, but certainly in the last 50 or 75 years. That is quite a comparison: BIDEN, 64; GRASSLEY, 11.

It gets even worse than that for my friend from Iowa. In the entire 102nd Congress, when JOE BIDEN was chair, the Senate confirmed 120 nominees—120 judicial nominations under BIDEN. Compare that to 16 under Chairman GRASSLEY. The difference is stunning.

I would encourage my friend from Iowa to focus on Vice President BIDEN's actions and results, rather than cherry picking remarks of 25 years ago. The Judiciary Committee of JOE BIDEN honored its constitutional obligations by considering and confirming—even visiting with nominees—in a timely fashion, even though they were a Republican President's nominees. I can't say the same for the committee today. No one can.

As chairman, JOE BIDEN did his constitutional duty and processed four nominations from Republican Presidents to the Supreme Court, including Justice Kennedy—that vote occurred in the last year of President Reagan's Presidency—Souter and Thomas.

Let us focus on Thomas just a little bit. Thomas got 52 votes. He squeaked through the Senate. Any one Senator could have forced a cloture vote. Any one Democrat could have done that. We didn't do that. It was never done until the Republicans showed up here in the last few years.

Now, Bork was a very controversial person, but he received a long, long hearing before the committee and a long debate here in the Senate. He was voted down. That is how this place is supposed to work. Other nominees have been voted down. But we didn't say we are not going to hold a hearing on Bork. We didn't say we are not going to take the committee's actions and just leave it at that. Listen to this: Bork was turned down in the Judiciary Committee by an overwhelming margin. In spite of that, we brought it to the Senate floor and it was debated, and he won by two votes—no filibusters. He was defeated in the committee. We didn't look for an excuse. That is the way it used to be done.

With the Republican leadership now they will not meet with the nominee, even though they do not know who it will be; they won't hold a hearing; and the chairman of the committee will not even go to the White House and visit with the President.

As chairman, Senator BIDEN did his constitutional duty and processed nominations, even though they were Republican nominations. So we don't have to go back to 1988 or 1992 to prove the current Judiciary Committee chairman's ineptness. Look at the spike in judicial emergencies that have occurred on Chairman GRASSLEY's watch just in the past year.

What is an emergency? It means there are not enough judges—too many

cases for a judge to do the work. A vacant judgeship is automatically declared an emergency, as it should be. When the Republicans assumed control of the Senate last year there were 12 emergencies nationwide. Today, a year later, that number has almost tripled to 31.

By nearly every metric, the Judiciary Committee under Chairman GRASSLEY is failing dramatically, setting all records of failure in this great body. The committee is failing the people of Iowa and the Nation.

To the senior Senator from Iowa, I stress, I plead, don't continue down this path. Reject this record-setting obstruction and simply do your job as a powerful chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. President, I see no one on the floor. Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf, of South Carolina, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the confirmation vote scheduled for 11 a.m. this morning be moved until 12 noon, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, every Member of the Senate stands in the well of the Senate when they are elected, takes an oath of office. That oath of office, required by the Constitution, is our statement to not only the people we represent but to the Nation, that we will uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Article II, section 2 of that Constitution empowers the President. Those powers include the President's power to fill vacancies on the Supreme Court. It is not permissive language. The word ''shall'' can be found in this paragraph. It basically says that the President of the United States shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint judges of the Supreme Court.

For the first time in the history of the United States of America, Senate Republicans are prepared to defy this clear statement of the U.S. Constitution. What an irony that filling the vacancy on the Court by the untimely death of Antonin Scalia—filling the vacancy on the Court of a man who prided himself throughout his judicial career as being what he termed an ''originalist,'' sticking to the strict letter of the law, as spelled out in the Constitution—in filling that vacancy, the Senate Republicans have basically decided to reach a new low; in fact, to make history in a very sad way. A seat on the U.S. Supreme Court lies vacant because of the death of Justice Scalia. The President has the constitutional obligation, as I have read, to name a nominee to fill that vacancy. Senate Republicans are now saying they will not even hold a hearing on that nominee.

If the President sends a name—and he will—to the Senate to fill that vacancy, they have said they will not hold a hearing, they will not schedule a vote, and, listen to this, yesterday Senator MCCONNELL said: I will not even meet with that person.

This is a new low. Since the Senate Judiciary Committee started holding hearings on Supreme Court nominees a century ago, the Senate of the United States of America has never—never—denied a hearing to a pending Supreme Court nominee. It has never happened, but that is what Senate Republicans are saying they will do.

This level of obstruction, of ignoring the clear language of the Constitution, is unprecedented, and it is dangerous. This goes beyond any single vote for any Supreme Court nominee. This is an abdication of the Senate's responsibility under article II, section 2 of the Constitution to provide advice and consent on Supreme Court nominations, which the President shall appoint and shall nominate.

Senate Republicans want to keep the Supreme Court seat vacant for more than 1 year. They want this vacancy to continue for more than 1 year. That will encompass two terms of the Supreme Court. This is demeaning to the institution of the Supreme Court, and unfair to millions of Americans who rely on that Court to resolve important legal questions.

In the coming days, the President will name a nominee, as the Constitution requires him to do. Senate Republicans should meet their responsibility under the Constitution, do their jobs, and give the President's nominee a fair hearing and a vote.

Yesterday, the Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee sent a letter to the majority leader, and here is what they said: ''This Committee will not hold hearings on any Supreme Court nominee until after our next President is sworn in on January 20, 2017.''

Why did they take this unusual position in defiance of the Constitution? They said: ''The presidential election is well underway. Americans have already begun to cast their votes. . . . The American people are presented with an exceedingly rare opportunity to decide, in a very real and concrete way, the direction the Court will take over the next generation.''

This argument is specious. The American people have already voted; they voted to elect our President, Barack Obama, and they voted to elect 100 Senators who currently serve in this body. President Obama was elected to a 4-year term, and 11 months remain. The American people voted for each of us to do our jobs for as long as we serve in office. By a margin of 5 million votes, the American people have chosen the President. Did they elect the President for 3 years, or 3 years and 2 months? No. They elected a President for 4 years, and this President's term continues until January 20, 2017.

The Republicans conveniently ignore the obvious. The will of the American people was expressed in that election, and the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States empowers him under the Constitution to fill this vacancy with an appointment. They didn't vote in that election for us to sit on our hands for over a year while the Supreme Court twists in the wind and while the Republican Senators pray every night that President Donald Trump will somehow give America a different Supreme Court nominee. Not a single American, incidentally, has yet cast a vote for President of the United States—not one—in the next election, despite the statement of the Judiciary Committee Republicans that says otherwise.

It is February of this year. The nomination conventions are scheduled for late July. The modern Supreme Court confirmation process has taken an average of 67 days. There is more than adequate time to hold a hearing on this nominee and get this done properly. All we need is for the Senate Republicans to do their jobs.

Yesterday on the Senate floor, I urged my Republican colleagues not to duck a vote on the President's nominee. They could vote yes, they could vote no, but they shouldn't abdicate their constitutional responsibility for political advantage. I am amazed that my Republican colleagues now say that

not only do they want to duck that vote, but they also want to avoid even having a hearing on the nominee. And they are afraid to even meet with this nominee for fear that maybe they might think he or she is a good nominee.

Even more shockingly, the Republican leader and several Republican members of the Judiciary Committee said yesterday they would not even meet with the President's nominee. One of our colleagues in the Senate last night on television was asked pointedly or directly: If the President nominates someone from your State to the Supreme Court vacancy, are you saying you wouldn't meet with that person? My colleague on the other side of the aisle ducked the question. This is stunning.

Remember, the President is obligated by article II, section 2 of the Constitution to send a nominee to the Senate. That is the process the Founding Fathers established. That is the President's responsibility. How can Senate Republicans refuse to even meet with the person selected under this constitutional process? How is that being faithful to the terms of the Constitution? How are Senate Republicans upholding and defending this Constitution by this evasive, historically unprecedented action?

Sadly, it appears that Senate Republicans have calculated it is in their best political interests to keep the nominee out of the spotlight. They were hoping that, with this letter and by saying yesterday we will have nothing to do with it, they are going to turn out the lights on this issue. That is not what is going to happen. This issue is going to be there and remembered, and it is going to be recalled on the floor of the Senate repeatedly. They thought they could close down the government when Senator CRUZ of Texas sat here for, I don't know how many hours, reading Dr. Seuss while we shut down the government, and they thought people would forget Senator CRUZ shutting down the government; they didn't, and he is finding on this campaign trail that a lot of people have remembered that. The American people are not going to forget what Senate Republicans are trying to do with the Supreme Court.

I have served on the Judiciary Committee for the hearings and confirmation votes of four of the eight sitting Supreme Court Justices. Let me state clearly that this Senator is more than happy to meet with the President's Supreme Court nominee, as I have on all such nominees—Republican and Democrat alike—and I will consider that nominee on his or her merits, as I have always tried to do in the past.

Yesterday, Senate Republicans also tried to deflect attention from their unprecedented obstruction by pointing to quotes from some Democrats years ago. But the record is clear: Democrats have never, never blocked a Supreme Court nominee from having a hearing. Republicans are breaking new ground with this obstructionism. The American people deserve better.

The bottom line is there is no excuse for the Senate to fail to do its job. Once the President has named his nominee, the Senate must give that nominee a fair hearing and a timely vote. If the Constitution means anything to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they understand that what they are doing is unprecedented. It has never happened once in American history. We are now finding the obstructionism of Senate Republicans reaching a new low. They are ignoring the clear wording of our Constitution, which they have sworn to uphold and defend, and they are obstructing in a way that we have never seen before in the history of the United States. That is the reality—a reality that will not be lost on the American people.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about a drug abuse problem that is literally hurting millions of Americans. There has been a dramatic rise in the use and misuse of prescription painkillers. These prescription painkillers—and I tell you this as a doctor—are known as opioids.

Between 1999 and 2013, sales of prescription painkillers in the United States have quadrupled. It is no coincidence that over that same number of years overdose deaths from these drugs have also quadrupled. This is how we know there has been a huge shift from the appropriate use to abuse of these medications. People in rural areas like my own are almost twice as likely to overdose on prescription painkillers as people in large cities. Some people think these problems are only a problem in the big cities. That is not the case with these opioids.

I can tell you as a doctor who practiced medicine in Casper, WY, for 25 years, treating pain in our patients is one of the most difficult things we do. When we have a patient who is in pain, we want to help relieve that pain. Opioids are a very effective way to help patients with pain, and doctors use these medications through prescriptions to help manage the pain. It is important that we have the capacity to do that as long as it is done appropriately. This can be a very good option for someone suffering from chronic pain, such as pain from cancer. It can be appropriate for someone who is suffering from acute, temporary pain, such as someone who just had surgery.

The problem is that these are extremely powerful narcotics. Chemically, they are not that different from heroin, and they can become addictive. Some patients have no problem at all taking these painkillers for the proper amount of time, while other patients might develop a problem and actually have trouble getting off the pain pills. As they get accustomed to the drugs, sometimes they may seek out stronger and more addictive drugs to get the same pain relief. That is why doctors have to be very careful about prescribing the right medicine for each patient and each situation. They have to balance the risk of the drug with the reward of easing the patient's pain.

Not every doctor in this country has been as careful as they should be. We didn't get into this difficult situation because of a handful of doctors writing too many prescriptions. These prescriptions are being written by doctors in communities all across the country. It is happening in emergency rooms, with family doctors, with specialists, and even with dentists.

I believe Washington policies have inadvertently contributed to the problem. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid have made payments to hospitals partly based on how well the specific hospital has scored on surveys filled out by the patients—the patients who have been in those hospitals. Here are some examples of questions that are asked on these surveys: During this hospital stay, how often was your pain well controlled? Some patients are asked that. They are also asked: How often did the hospital staff do everything they could to help you with your pain?

Well, you can see how doctors might feel pressure to prescribe more and stronger opioid pain relievers to make sure their hospital doesn't get low scores and get penalized by the bureaucrats here in Washington. The Department of Health and Human Services is looking into whether these surveys are contributing to this rise in prescriptions and what can be done about it.

Earlier this month I was 1 of 26 Senators, Republicans and Democrats alike, who wrote to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make sure she keeps us apprised on the effects these regulations might be having. If these pain relievers are being prescribed inappropriately, they can do more harm than good. That's the problem. Some of these people who get these prescriptions for all the right reasons end up being addicted. When the prescription runs out, they may actually experience withdrawal symptoms, and I have seen it happen.

So what do the people who become addicted to these opioids do? Well, they seek pills on the black market or they turn to other drugs, including heroin. Heroin is often cheaper than the actual prescription opioid and, of course, more deadly.

From 2002 to 2013, heroin use in the United States has nearly doubled. The deaths from heroin overdoses have quadrupled. Why? One of the reasons

seems to be that because heroin has become much cheaper on the street, it has also become a more attractive drug for addicts to buy and use. At the same time, the heroin today is believed to be much more powerful than it used to be, and so it may be that people who use it are much more likely to overdose.

When we see statistics like these—or just talk to people, such as those who work in the emergency room, who have to deal with the drug addictions, 911 calls, opioid abuse, heroin abuse, and see all these problems—it is time for Congress to act. We can't turn a blind eye to Americans who are suffering and dying. That is why I think it is important that the Senate needs to take up action to help stop the damage being done.

Recently the Senate Judiciary Committee passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. It has bipartisan support, and it is one more sign that the Senate has gotten back to work on behalf of the American people. Just as the name of the legislation says, it actually addresses both problems—addiction and recovery. It will increase education and prevention efforts to help keep people from becoming addicted to painkillers in the first place. It is also going to strengthen State programs to monitor prescription drugs and to track when these drugs end up in the wrong hands.

For the people who have already passed from use of the medications to abuse and addiction, this legislation will help to launch treatment programs that are based on actual evidence of what works. There are a lot of treatment programs out there and lots of different opportunities to seek treatment. We want to make sure we can identify the ones that are actually succeeding and helping people and then make sure these programs are available to more people. These are just a few of the positive ideas in the legislation.

Senator KELLY AYOTTE, who is one of the main sponsors of this legislation, has said that we can't arrest our way out of this problem. She is exactly right. The misuse and abuse of these drugs is illegal. We must acknowledge that fact. We must still try to do everything in our power to keep this misuse from turning into addiction and even death. There are States and communities and families suffering because of the abuse of these drugs. We can all be part of the solution, and we must all be part of the solution.

I know that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is looking into another aspect of this subject, as is the Finance Committee. There are lots of ideas out there, and I am glad to see Members taking the issue so seriously. I am glad we are moving forward with bipartisan legislations and solutions.

Senator AYOTTE has been a major force in talking about this problem. Senators WHITEHOUSE, KIRK, PORTMAN, and others have addressed this issue.

Another good, commonsense idea is looking into changing Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage. This legislation has been introduced by Senator PAT TOOMEY of Pennsylvania. I am a cosponsor of that legislation. The bill is called the Stopping Medication Abuse and Protecting Seniors Act. That is it: Stopping Medication Abuse and Protecting Seniors. It allows Part D and Medicare Advantage plans to lock in patients to a single prescriber, a single pharmacy, for their opioid pain medicine. This is going to do a couple of things. It will deal with the issue of doctor shopping. That is when a patient goes to multiple providers to get duplicate prescriptions if they become addicted. Many private insurance companies already do this and so does Medicaid. So we should allow and encourage Medicare to do it as well.

These are all ideas with bipartisan support in the Senate. They are examples of ways that Democrats and Republicans are working together to help Americans who need and deserve help. The abuse of prescription drugs and heroin is happening everywhere in America. It is harming our Nation. Congress must do what it can to stop it.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, our Republican colleagues have decided that the Senate should not hold a hearing or vote on any Supreme Court nominee this year. The reason? It is an election year. That is a breathtakingly candid but utterly irresponsible reason for the Senate not to do its job. That decision may not surprise those who have followed the Senate in recent years, as our Republican colleagues have time and again chosen to obstruct President Obama's agenda.

We can disagree on legislation, we can disagree on policies, we can certainly disagree on judicial nominations, but the idea that the Senate should not take any action on a Supreme Court vacancy is unprecedented.

In the last 100 years, the Senate has taken action on every Supreme Court nominee whether it is an election year or not. The Senate has not only taken action, but the Senate has confirmed more than a dozen Supreme Court Justices in the final year of a Presidency. In fact, a Democratic Senate confirmed Justice Anthony Kennedy in the final year of President Reagan's term. Yet roughly 9 months before the next election, the Republican position is that the Senate should not do its job because 11 months from now, we will have a new President. I ask you, what has that got to do with us doing our jobs?

Under the Republican timeline, the Supreme Court will be left with only eight Justices for over a year. The last time it took so long for the Senate to fill a vacancy on the Court was during the Civil War. The rationale that the Senate should not act because of an upcoming election is not only stunning, but I think most Americans would agree is absurd. In what other workplace can employees announce that they don't plan to fulfill their responsibilities for 9 months and still get paid? But that is exactly what Republicans are saying to the American people.

We work for the American people. The American people elect Senators, Representatives, and Presidents. Through elections, the people shape the direction of our country.

While Republicans may want to forget it, in 2012 the people elected President Obama to a full 4-year term. That term doesn't end for nearly a year. His responsibilities as President don't stop because a Republican Senate says so.

The Constitution requires a President to nominate someone to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court. The Constitution requires the Senate to provide advice and consent on the President's nominee. That is our job as Senators.

The President hasn't nominated anyone to fill the current Supreme Court vacancy. When he does, no Senator is required to vote for that nominee, but what is required is for the Senate to fulfill its constitutional duties. The President's nominee deserves a hearing and a vote. No excuses. Let's do our job.

Mr. President, I wish to now turn to another subject.

(The remarks of Ms. HIRONO pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 373 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday it was my privilege to say a few words honoring Justice Antonin Scalia, known to his friends as ''Nino,'' a man whose intellect, wit, and dedication to our Constitution have served our country for decades. I am pleased that others have said appropriate words honoring his memory and the many ways he helped strengthen our constitutional self-government and our democracy.

As we know, the Constitution gives the Senate an equal role in deciding who eventually is to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States.

President Obama called me and other members of the Judiciary Committee yesterday, saying he intends to exercise his constitutional authority, and I recognize his right to make that nomination. But not since 1932 has the Senate, in a Presidential election year, confirmed a Supreme Court nominee to a vacancy that arose in that Presidential election year. And it is necessary to go even further back—I believe to the administration of Grover Cleveland in 1888—to find an election-year nominee who was nominated and confirmed under a divided government, such as we have now.

So I found it very curious that some of our colleagues across the aisle are effusive in their criticism of our decision to withhold consent until we have a new President and in effect say this ought to be a choice not just confined to the 100 Members of the Senate and the President but to the American people.

We are not saying—we are not foreclosing the possibility that a member of one party or another party would be the one to make that nominee. This isn't a partisan issue. This is about the people having a chance to express their views and raising the stakes and the visibility of the Presidential election to make the point that this isn't just about the next President who will serve 4 years, maybe 8 years; this will likely be about who will serve the next 30 years on the Supreme Court of the United States.

I am going to remind our colleagues of some of the things they have said in the past for which they have so roundly criticized us. People understand when there are differences of opinion. It is a little harder to understand hypocrisy when you have taken just the opposite position when it suited your purposes in the past to the position you take today. So let me just be charitable and say maybe they have just forgotten.

For example, the minority leader, Senator REID of Nevada, the Democratic leader, said on May 19, 2005, when George W. Bush was President of the United States:

> The duties of the Senate are set forth in the U.S. Constitution. Nowhere in that document does it say the Senate has a duty to give Presidential appointees a vote.

That was Senator REID. I agree with him. That is exactly right, but that is not the position he appears to be taking today.

The President has every right to nominate someone, but the Senate has the authority to grant consent or to withhold consent. And what I and the other members of the Judiciary Committee on the Republican side said yesterday in a letter to the majority leader is that we believe unanimously—all the Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee—that we should withhold consent, exercising a right and an authority recognized by Senator REID in 2005.

I have read some of the press clips. People recoil in mock horror: Well, you are not even going to have a hearing? You are not even going to meet with the President's proposed nominee?

Well, that is right, for a very good reason—because it is not about the personality of that nominee. So it would be pretty misleading for us to take the same position that Senator REID has taken and then to say: Well, we are going to go through this elaborate dance of having courtesy meetings, maybe even having a hearing, when we have already decided—as Senator REID acknowledged is the right of the Senate—not to bring up this President's nominee for a vote. And not to preordain who that next nominee will be, whether they will be nominated by a Republican or Democratic President—we don't know what the outcome of the Presidential election is going to be. But this is too important for the Congress and for the Senate to be stampeded into a rubberstamp of President Obama's selection on the Supreme Court as he is heading out the door—a decision that could well have an impact on the balance of power on the Supreme Court for the next 30 years.

I am not through with my charts.

The next Democratic leader in the Senate, Senator SCHUMER—first, I guess you could call this the Reid standard. We call it the Reid rule and the Schumer standard. That rolls off the tongue better.

So this is what Senator SCHUMER said 18 months before President George W. Bush left office. We are only looking at, what, 10 or 11 months until President Obama leaves. In 2007, Senator CHUCK SCHUMER said: ''[F]or the rest of this President's term. . . . We should reverse the presumption of confirmation.''

I, frankly, don't know what he is talking about. The Constitution doesn't talk about a presumption of confirmation. But it is pretty clear to me that he wants a presumption that the nominee will not be confirmed for the next 18 months.

Senator SCHUMER, one of the Democratic leaders, said: ''I will recommend to my colleagues that we should not confirm a Supreme Court nominee except in extraordinary circumstances.''

So what we are doing is what Senator REID and Senator SCHUMER advocated back when it was convenient and served their purposes way back when. They are now taking a different position because, of course, their interests are different. They want to make sure President Obama gets a chance to nominate and the Senate confirm President Obama's nominee, who will serve for perhaps the next quarter of a century or more on the Supreme Court. But it is pretty clear that the Senate is not bound to confirm a Supreme Court nominee or even hold a vote.

Finally, I wish to point out—we will call it the Reid rule, the Schumer standard, and the Biden benchmark.

This is what the Vice President of the United States, JOE BIDEN, said in 1992 when he was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He gave a long speech, of which this is an excerpt. He said: ''[T]he Senate Judiciary Committee should seriously consider not scheduling confirmation hearings on the nomination until after the political campaign season is over.'' He went on to say: ''[A]ction on a Supreme Court nomination must be put off until after the election campaign is over.''

That is the Biden benchmark—the Reid rule, the Schumer standard, and the Biden benchmark.

I read a statement from the Vice President that he issued after he saw that this old news clip and his statement had been made public. He quite conveniently said this was ''not an accurate description of my views on the subject.'' Well, I think the words are very clear. I think what he might have said is ''These are no longer my views on the subject'' because, of course, he would like President Obama to be able to make that nomination.

So I wish to reject this myth that many of our Democratic colleagues are spreading that what we are doing here and now is somehow unprecedented. Quite the contrary. What we are doing is what the Democrats' top leadership has advocated in the past. What do they think we are? They think we are going to abide by a different set of rules than they themselves advocated? How ridiculous would that be? I could not explain that to my constituents back home in Texas. If I were going to say: Well, the Democrats can apply one set of rules, but then when the Republicans are in the majority, the Republicans must apply a different set of rules—well, the fact is, the rule book has been burned by the Democrats, and what we are operating under is the status quo they advocated back in 1992, 2005, and 2007.

The Senate has every right under the Constitution not to have a hearing, and we shouldn't go through some motions pretending like we are or that this is really about the personality of whomever the President nominates. I have confidence that the President will nominate somebody who he thinks is qualified to be on the Supreme Court. I would point out, though, that this nominee will not be confirmed. I don't know many leading lawyers, scholars, and judges who would want to be nominated for the U.S. Supreme Court to a seat that President Obama will never fill.

So during this already very heated election year—and the election is already underway. Democrats are voting in Democratic primaries, and Republicans are voting in Republican primaries and caucuses. The election is already underway, and the Supreme Court can function in the vast majority of cases with eight members. It frequently does anyway because most cases are not decided 5 to 4; most cases are decided on a consensus basis.

But let's say, for the six or so cases in which Justice Scalia was a deciding vote on a 5-to-4 case last year—if there

is a deadlock, those cases can simply be held over until the next year when there is a new Justice or the Court can come up with some other way to dispose of it as it sees fit. That frequently happens. For example, Justice Kagan was Solicitor General of the United States. She was recused from and could not sit on cases that she handled as an advocate for the U.S. Government once she got to the Supreme Court. So the Court operated with eight Justices for a long time because of Justice Kagan's recusal. Similarly, Justice Anthony Kennedy served on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Once he got to the Supreme Court of the United States, he couldn't then sit on those cases and decide them once as a circuit court judge and another time as a Supreme Court Justice. He recused, which means there were eight Justices to decide those cases. That is not extraordinary; that is not uncommon. And it is not going to paralyze the Supreme Court of the United States from doing its job. It has all the tools it needs at its disposal to handle these cases as it sees fit—either to dismiss them as improvidently granted, to hold them over if they are truly deadlocked, or to find some other perhaps more narrow basis upon which to decide the case, which would command a five-vote majority with eight members of the Court.

So Mr. President, I would like our colleagues to come out here and explain this apparent contradiction in the position they took in 2007, 2005, and 1992. Because if they can't explain that, then it looks to me like this is pure hypocrisy—holding Republicans, when we are in the majority, to a different standard than they themselves were willing to embrace when they were in power.

As I said, people may not understand a lot of the nitty-gritty details of this, but they do have a strong sense of fairness and evenhandedness, and they do smell hypocrisy and see it when it is right before their eyes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I come to the floor today with what I think is a pretty simple message—a message the American people have been delivering to me and the people of North Dakota and which reflects exactly why I wanted to come to Washington, DC—which is that Congress needs to do its job. Whether it is legislating on WOTUS or making sure we are moving appointments properly or taking votes that may make some of us uncomfortable, that is our job. That is why the American taxpayers pay us. So I come today to say: Congress, do your job. Senate, do your job.

Every day families across this country go to work and fulfill their responsibilities and obligations. They do their jobs to put food on the table for their family, and they pay their bills. Imagine a construction worker in North Dakota telling his boss he didn't want to do his job for the rest of the year until conditions are probably more favorable. He might get a good laugh. He might be told to go back to work. If he was serious, he wouldn't have a job very long.

Everyone here knows American workers can't go to their jobs and just announce: I don't want to do that today. They can't just say: I am not going to do my job for the rest of the year. I am going to wait to find out who might be the new boss. That is not how it works for the American people, and it is certainly not how it should work for the Senate.

In many ways, I think it is an embarrassment that some of my colleagues would not only ask the President not to do his job—a job our Constitution instructs him to do—but they would also shirk their own duties to provide advice and consent to the President simply because it is not a good political time to do it.

It says something pretty terrible about Congress if the Senate now is making determinations about how a popularly elected President, regardless of political party—regardless of whether that President is popular in this Chamber or not—is no longer allowed to perform the duties of that office and nominate and receive a vote on the Supreme Court nominee of his choosing.

It is a disappointing day when some Senators will tell the President: Don't even bother because we will not even consider or even talk to your nominee. This is before the President has even announced or named a nominee. It is particularly frustrating to those of us who really want the Senate to work that some Senators are willing to hamper the functioning of yet another branch of our Federal Government simply to play politics, with the hope that those politics will benefit one party—to maintain and possibly take control of the other two branches of government.

I don't think anyone can dispute the facts. The Supreme Court considers some of the most critical issues facing our country, and the American people deserve a fully functioning Court. To insist the Court go through potentially two terms without a full slate of Justices is an abdication of our responsibility as Senators. That responsibility is to make sure that America's three branches of government are fully functioning.

Just yesterday, we heard that our colleagues are not even going to entertain the thought of a hearing before the Judiciary Committee for any nominee the President puts forward. I don't know how to explain that decision. I don't know how one can say that for the next 10 months that doesn't matter. I don't know how to explain that to people back in North Dakota.

In the last 100 years, the full Senate has taken action on every pending Supreme Court nominee to fill a vacancy, regardless of whether the nomination was made in a Presidential election year. According to CRS—Congressional Research Service—since 1975 the average number of days from nomination to final Senate confirmation is 67 days or just over 2 months.

Since committee hearings began in 1916, every pending Supreme Court nominee has received a hearing, except nine nominees who were all confirmed within 11 days. In addition to holding hearings on the nominations, the Senate Judiciary Committee has a longstanding bipartisan tradition of sending to the full Senate all pending nominees to the Supreme Court for a Supreme Court vacancy, even when the majority of the committee may not have supported that nominee.

If, in fact, this Supreme Court vacancy is held open until the next President makes the nomination, that will mean it is vacant for well over a year. Not since the Civil War—not since the Civil War—has the Senate taken longer than 1 year to fill a Supreme Court vacancy.

An extended period of time with only eight members of the Supreme Court sitting would delay or prevent justice from being served. There are American citizens across the country who need decisions from the Court on a variety of issues. In fact, what we have done is we have elevated the circuit courts—the courts that have made the decisions that are currently pending—to the position of the Supreme Court of the United States, denying access to those claimants one way or the other—whether the court agreed with them or the court disagreed with them in the circuit courts—denying them access to that final appeal, to that Supreme Court decision.

So I simply want to say: Let's do our job. Let's give the nominee a hearing. Let's vote in committee. Let's all do our job to vet the candidates. Let's not prejudge this. Let's do the responsible thing and vote yes or no. Let's take a look at the candidate to be nominated, and let's get a fully functioning Supreme Court.

I want to close with just one reminder. The last time we went through a very contentious hearing was the hearing for Justice Thomas, and I think my colleague from Washington, who is on the floor, well remembers that, as do a lot of people here remember that. I want to remark that Justice Thomas was sent to this floor without a positive vote out of committee. But his nomination was sent to the floor, and the nomination of Justice Thomas, at the urging of then-majority leader Mitchell, was not filibustered. So probably the most contentious nominee in my lifetime certainly—and it certainly raised some very interesting gender issues—did not even get filibustered.

Let's do our job. Let's do the work the people sent us here to do. Let's vet this candidate, whoever it might be, and let's move forward so that every person who has a case pending before the Supreme Court or will have a case pending before the Supreme Court is given access to justice by providing a fully functioning Supreme Court.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak on behalf of the nomination before the vote for 2 minutes.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the role of the FDA Commissioner is central to the health and safety of every family and community nationwide, from a dad making his daughter's peanut butter sandwich in the morning to a patient headed into an operating room. I know this is a nomination we all take very seriously.

After careful review, I believe Dr. Califf's experience and expertise will allow him to lead the FDA in a way that puts patients and families first and upholds the highest standards of patient and consumer safety. Dr. Califf has led one of our country's largest clinical research organizations, and he has a record of advancing medical breakthroughs on especially difficult-to-treat illnesses.

He has a longstanding commitment to transparency in relationships with industry and to working to ensure academic integrity. He has made clear he will continue to prioritize independence at the FAA as the Commissioner and always put science over politics. His nomination received letters of support from over 128 different physician and patient groups.

He earned the strong bipartisan support of the members of the HELP Committee. There is a lot the FDA needs to get done in the coming months, including building a robust postmarket surveillance system for medical devices, making sure families have access to nutritional information, putting all of the agency's tools to work to stop tobacco companies from targeting our children, and playing a part in addressing the epidemic of opioid abuse that is hurting so many communities so deeply.

I believe Dr. Califf will be a valuable partner to Congress in taking on these challenges and the many others the FDA faces. I am here to encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this nomination. I look forward to continued work with all of the Members on ways to strengthen health and well-being for the families and communities we all serve.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Califf nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 25 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Alexander	Flake	Nelson
Baldwin	Franken	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Gillibrand	Peters
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Booker	Grassley	Reed
Boozman	Hatch	Reid
Boxer	Heinrich	Risch
Brown	Heitkamp	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Rounds
Cantwell	Hirono	Sasse
Capito	Hoeven	Schatz
Cardin	Inhofe	Schumer
Carper	Isakson	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Sessions
Cassidy	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Cochran	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Menendez	Udall
Donnelly	Merkley	Vitter
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Enzi	Moran	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Fischer	Murray	

NAYS—4

Ayotte	Manchin
Blumenthal	Markey

NOT VOTING—7

Corker	McCaskill	Warner
Cruz	Rubio	
Johnson	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Missouri.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to address the Senate in morning business.

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

REMEMBERING JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA AND FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to talk about Judge Scalia for a few minutes, and then I will address the vacancy on the Court.

There is no question that the Supreme Court has lost a strong and thoughtful voice. No matter what issues the Justices on the Court might have disagreed with, or even when there was a disagreement on how to interpret the Constitution, there is no question that Judge Scalia had a unique capacity to get beyond that. He will be missed by the Court for both his intellect and his friendship. He was an Associate Justice on the Court for almost 30 years. He was a true constitutional scholar, both in his work before the Court and on the Court, and he brought a lifetime of understanding of the law to the Court.

He began his legal career in 1961, practicing in private practice. In 1967, he became part of the faculty of the University of Virginia School of Law. In 1972, he joined the Nixon administration as General Counsel for the Office of Telecommunications Policy, and from there he was appointed Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel. He brought a great deal of knowledge to his work and finished the first part of his career as a law professor at the University of Chicago, and that is the point where he became a judge.

In 1982, President Reagan appointed him to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, a court that gets many of the cases that wind up on the Supreme Court. He was on that court for a little more than 4 years.

In 1986, President Reagan nominated him to serve as an Associate Justice. He was an unwavering defender of the Constitution, and as a member of the Supreme Court, he had the ability to debate as perhaps no one had in a long time—and perhaps no one will for a long time. He had a sense of what the Constitution was all about and a sense of what the Constitution meant, and by that he meant what the Constitution meant to the people who wrote it.

There is a way to change the Constitution. If the country and the Congress think that the Constitution is outmoded in the way that it would have been looked at by the people who wrote it, there is a process to do something about that. That process was immediately used when the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution and can still be used if people feel as though the Constitution no longer has the same meaning as what the people who wrote

it and voted on it thought it meant. Justice Scalia had the ability to bring that up in every argument and would sometimes argue against his own personal views. He argued for what the Constitution meant and what it was intended to mean. His opinions were well reasoned, logical, eloquent, and often laced with both humor and maybe a little sarcasm, but they were grounded with the idea that judges should interpret the Constitution the way it was written.

His contributions to the study of law left a profound mark on the legal profession. Lawyers, particularly young lawyers in many cases, talk about the law differently than they did before Justice Scalia began to argue his view of what the Constitution meant and what the Court meant. He had a great legal mind.

He was fun to be with. I will personally miss the opportunity to talk to him about the books we were reading or books the other one should read or maybe books that the other one should avoid reading because of the time required to read it. He had a broad sense of wanting to challenge his own views and was able to challenge other people's views not only in a positive way but in a way that he thought advanced the Constitution and what the Constitution meant to the country.

As I stand here today, I am sure many people all over America and the people who the Scalias came into contact with are continuing to remember his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Maureen, their nine children, and their literally dozens of grandchildren. I am not sure if the number is 36 or 39, but it is an impressive number.

Those who had a chance to see, be there, or read his son's eloquent handling of the funeral service and the eulogy can clearly see the great legacy he and Maureen Scalia left to the country.

I am not a lawyer, which is often the most popular thing I say, so I don't want to pretend to be a lawyer here talking about the law and the Constitution, but you don't really need to be a brilliant lawyer to understand the Constitution or understand what Justice Scalia was going to be.

I was a history teacher before I came here, and I know the Presiding Officer was a university president. I was the first person in my family to graduate from college. I had unbelievable opportunities because of where we live.

We have the Constitution, and there is no magic as to the number of Justices that should be sitting on the Court at any given time. In fact, the Constitution doesn't even suggest what the number should be, and there have been different numbers over time. For some years now the number has been nine, but there have often not been nine Justices sitting. In the event of a recusal or some other reason that a Justice has to leave, such as resigning to do something else, there has often not been nine Justices. In fact, there have often been eight Justices. There has often been a Court that could easily wind up in a 4-to-4 tie. In fact, since World War II, the Court has had only 8 Justices 15 times.

Right after World War II and about a month after Harry Truman became President—when he was a Member of the Senate, he used the desk that I now get to use—he asked Justice Robert Jackson to be the chief prosecutor at Nuremberg. Justice Jackson then went to Nuremberg, and for the better part of a year and a half—from May of 1945 until October of 1946—he was not sitting on the Court and wasn't making decisions on the Court. He was the chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials.

A tie on the Court can do a lot of things. It can uphold a lower court decision. A tied Court can decide to rehear a case, which is also not unusual in the history of the country. Again, you can be tied even if there are nine Justices and one of them, for whatever reason, decides not to participate in that case. When that happens, the Court can do a number of things and will.

This is an important decision, and it is a decision in the shadow of the next election. We are 9 months and a few days away from people getting a chance to vote, and a lifetime appointment on the Court is an important thing.

Justice Scalia was appointed by Ronald Reagan and served for three decades. He served for a quarter of a century after Ronald Reagan left the White House and for a decade after President Reagan died. This is something worth thinking about, and frankly at this moment in history and in other moments in history when a vacancy has occurred in an election year, it has often been the case that the decision is that the American people ought to have a say on who sits in that Supreme Court seat. That is what will happen this time, and I think it is the best thing to happen this time.

There is a lot at stake. The Court has had 5-to-4 votes on decision after decision. What the Court does on the Second Amendment matters, and what the Court does on the First Amendment matters. The first freedom in the First Amendment is freedom of religion. No other country was ever founded on the principle that the right to pursue your conscience and the right to pursue your faith is a principal tenant of the founding of this government. It was a principal tenet in the Revolution. More importantly, it was immediately added to the Constitution when there was some concern that maybe the Constitution was not clear enough about this fundamental principle.

During a time when the Obama administration is suing the Little Sisters of the Poor because the Little Sisters of the Poor doesn't want their health care plan to be a plan that includes things that are different than their faith beliefs, freedom of religion is very important.

That is one of the cases before the Court right now. I don't know how the Court will decide to determine it. I do know there is a reason we should be concerned about freedom of religion, the right of conscience. President Jefferson, in writing to a church that asked him about individual freedom, said to that church—I think it might have been late in his administration, might have been an 1808 letter—of all the rights we have, right of conscience is the one we should hold most dear. The American people need to be thinking about that as they determine the next President, who is likely to not just fill this vacancy but likely to fill more than one vacancy during their time in office.

Mrs. Clinton says if she is elected President, she will not appoint anybody to the Supreme Court who will not reverse the freedom of speech case in Citizens United. Sounds to me as though the Presidential candidates are willing to make the Court a major issue in this campaign. Voters should have the right to make the Court a major issue in this campaign as well—freedom of religion, freedom of speech, the Second Amendment, the Tenth Amendment that says anything the Constitution doesn't say the Federal Government is supposed to do is left to the States. The closer you are to where a problem is, when solving that problem, the more likely you are going to get a commonsense solution. That is why that Tenth Amendment is there and why it needs to be vigorously adhered to.

These are important times. Anytime we have an election in the country, there is always a sense that this may be the most important election we have ever had. They all are and particularly an election where the constitutional principles of government, where Executive overreach, where regulators who are unaccountable and out of control are one of the big concerns in America today. It is an important time to be thinking about the Supreme Court and an important time to be thinking about the responsibilities of citizens and the responsibilities of the next President of the United States. This President has every constitutional right and obligation to nominate somebody to a vacancy on the Supreme Court, but there is a second obligation in the Constitution; that is, the obligation of the Senate to confirm that nomination. I have a view that the answer to that question is not this person, not right now because we are too close to making a big decision about the future of the country to not include this process of what happens to the Supreme Court in that process.

I wish the process of democracy well, the American people well as they think about these things, and the Senate well as we do the other work that the Constitution requires us to do.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

OUR ''WE THE PEOPLE'' DEMOCRACY

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, today I rise to address a topic under the broad notion of the first three words of our Constitution: ''We the People.'' These are the most important three words because they set out the theory, the strategy for our entire Constitution and what it is all about, which is to ensure that we do not have government of, by, and for the most affluent in our society; or government of, by, and for the titans of commerce and industry; but instead a government of, by, and for the people, the citizens. It is within the framework of this Constitution that we find many elements designed to preserve this ''we the people'' purpose.

In recent years, in recent decades, we have had major attacks on the theory of our Constitution, ''we the people.'' We had the Buckley v. Valeo Supreme Court decision 40 years ago that said it is all right for the most affluent citizens in our society to drown out the people in the election process. We had Citizens United, which said the Constitution doesn't say ''we the people''; it says ''we the titans of commerce and industry; we the corporations.'' So the Supreme Court has made several decisions that have taken us far afield, and we see the results of this. We see the impact of policies crafted by a legislature elected with fabulous sums of money from the people at the height of our society, the height of power and influence, of wealth and connections.

Somehow, we have to reclaim our Constitution. In fact, this understanding is something that is way off base, is the foundation of the frustration we see across our Nation. We see it reflected in the Presidential campaigns this year on the Democratic side and on the Republican side. People know that something is wrong when over the last four decades virtually all additional income in our economy has gone to the top 10 percent. People understand that the middle class is being squeezed and crushed. People are starting to see tent cities pop up in cities across our Nation because policies made here are no longer crafted for ''we the people'' but instead for ''we the titans.''

Well, I am going to rise repeatedly to address this challenge that is at the core of who we are as a nation, the core of our Constitution. Our Constitution is being attacked continuously, and we the people must fight back to reclaim it.

The most recent attack has come from colleagues in this body who said they don't want to honor the responsibilities that they took on when they took the oath of office. One of those responsibilities is to give advice and consent on nominations. Recently, we have the majority leader who said: I don't even want to talk to a nominee from the President, let alone take my responsibilities under the Constitution seriously to give advice and consent.

So I thought it might be useful to go back and think a little bit about this advice-and-consent power and how it came to be, what it meant, and what it means for us to honor our responsibility today as Members of the U.S. Senate.

In those days in which the Founders were crafting the Constitution, they had a couple of different theories about how they might possibly create this power, and some said it should go solely to the Executive, solely to the President. Others said that is too much power to concentrate in single hands, that it should go to the body of a legislature, it should go to an assembly.

Some decades after our Constitution was signed, they had a Federalist Paper written by Alexander Hamilton that laid out this discussion. He noted—and I am going to quote at some length here—that the argument for the Executive is as follows:

> The sole and undivided responsibility of one man will naturally beget a livelier sense of duty and a more exact regard to reputation. He will, on this account, feel himself under stronger obligations, and more interested to investigate with care the qualities requisite to the stations to be filled, and to prefer with impartiality the persons who may have the fairest pretensions to them.

So that was the argument for the President to exercise these powers.

In addition, there was discussion of the weaknesses of an assembly, a body like the U.S. Senate having that responsibility all to itself. Again, I will quote Alexander Hamilton:

> Hence, in every exercise of the power of appointing to offices, by an assembly of men, we must expect to see a full display of all the private and party likings and dislikes, partialities and antipathies, attachments and animosities, which are felt by those who compose the assembly. The choice which may at any time happen to be made under such circumstances, will of course be the result either of a victory gained by one party over the other, or of a compromise between the parties. In either case, the intrinsic merit of the candidate will be too often out of sight.

So thus the argument for the Executive over the assembly to have these appointing powers. But there was a concern, and that was, what if the Executive, the President, goes off track? Wouldn't it be useful to have a check on nominations when the Executive goes off track? So Hamilton explained why this check on the President's nomination power was placed into the Constitution.

Once more I quote:

> To what purpose then require the co-operation of the Senate? I answer, that the necessity of their concurrence would have a powerful, though, in general, a silent operation. It would be an excellent check upon a spirit of favoritism in the President, and would tend greatly to prevent the appointment of unfit characters from State prejudice, from family connection, from personal attachment, or from a view to popularity. In addition to this, it would be an efficacious source of stability in the administration.

He goes on to note that the body would be expected to approve most nominations, except when there are special and strong reasons for the refusal.

So that is our job. That is how it is laid out, that we are to make sure the power the President has is not exercised in a way that results in unfit characters being appointed. Thus, this mutual system that took the strengths of the assembly as a check—that is, of the Senate—and the strength of the President in terms of accountability was combined. And Hamilton notes: ''It is not easy to conceive a plan better calculated than this to promote a judicious choice of men for filling the offices of the Union.''

So that is where we fit in. That is our role. We are to make sure that a nomination—an individual has the preparation, the qualifications, the character, if you will, to fill an office effectively. Hamilton points out in his conversation that just the fact that the Senate will be reviewing the nominations will serve as a check for, if you will, off-track nominations, inappropriate nominations.

During the time I have had a chance to be connected to the Senate—and that now spans four decades; it was 1976 when I came here as an intern for Senator Hatfield—I have seen this body operate as envisioned in the Constitution. I saw this body operate as a simple majority, with rare exception. The use of the filibuster was not used to paralyze, and the power of confirmation—of advice and consent of the Constitution—was not used to systematically undermine the President because he simply happened to be of a different party. It was not used to undermine the judiciary by keeping judicial vacancies open. Indeed, when this body starts to operate in that fashion—as it has been during the time I have been here as a Senator, seeing across the aisle the effort to systematically change the makeup of the core by undermining the responsibility to give advice and consent—then we deeply polarize and undermine this important institution that is our judiciary.

I must say, even though I have seen for years the effort to really harness some gain through the strategy of undermining the ability of the President to appoint, I never thought it would come to this.

Article 2, section 2, declares that ''the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States.''

It is a responsibility of the President to nominate. It is a responsibility of the Members of this body to give advice and consent on that nomination. Yet here we are today with the majority of this body saying we do not take seriously our responsibility under the Constitution to give advice and consent.

We have seen the process of really slowing—slow-walking nominations, but this is on a different scale of magnitude.

It is our responsibility to have a committee vet the nominees, our responsibility to have a floor debate on the floor, our responsibility to have a vote, and that certainly is a way the Senate has operated decade after decade, century after century.

I just have to ask each of my colleagues across the aisle, do you find in this beautiful Constitution any phrase that says the President shall nominate but only in the first 3 of the 4 years he or she is in office? Can you find that in the Constitution? Can you truly raise your head and say you are doing your responsibility when you say: I only want to exercise my constitutional responsibility of advice and consent 3 out of every 4 years, and then I will take a year off. I think if you read the Constitution you will find that is not what it says, and the American people know this. They know the Supreme Court is very important to calling the balls and strikes when actions or laws move into areas that are out of bounds. That is what the Supreme Court does. It makes sure our structure of laws and regulations stay within the bounds of the rights and rules of our Constitution.

This is a critical part of the construction of American democracy. The Supreme Court serves as a check on the overreach of the President, the overreach of this body, and the overreach of its regulators. It cannot do its job if it does not have a full set of members.

Not since the Civil War has the Supreme Court been left with a vacancy for more than a year, and of course the Civil War was a very unusual situation. Since the 1980s, every person appointed to the Supreme Court has been given a hearing and a vote within 100 days. Since 1975, on average, it has taken 2 months to confirm Supreme Court nominees.

Despite what some of my colleagues claim, the President's duty to make nominations to the Supreme Court does not disappear during a Presidential election year. Our responsibility to do advice and consent does not disappear in a Presidential year. Let's look to history. More than a dozen Supreme Court Justices have been confirmed in the final year of a Presidency. More recently, Justice Kennedy, who is still on the bench, was confirmed in the last year of President Reagan's final term. That was done by a Senate led by the opposite party. It was a Democratically controlled Senate that honored its responsibility to give advice and consent.

The American people spoke overwhelmingly when they reelected President Obama in 2012 to a 4-year term. They expect him to fulfill his duties for a full 4 years. They expect us to do our duties under the Constitution. The current campaign events do not stop the responsibilities of the U.S. Senate. For the last 200 years, the Senate has carried out its duty to give a fair and timely hearing and a floor vote to the President's Supreme Court nominees. Let us not change that position today, this week or this year. Let's not only honor the tradition, let's honor the constitutional responsibility.

I note it is not only the Supreme Court we have to worry about. Last year the Senate confirmed just 11 Federal judges, the fewest in any year since 1960—in the last 56 years. Only one Court of Appeals judge was confirmed, the lowest in any given year since 1953. The number of judicial emergencies, where there are not enough judges confirmed to do the workload, has nearly tripled over the past year, from 12 in January 2015 to 31 judicial emergencies today.

The obstruction is not limited simply to the judicial branch. The abuse of advice and consent or disregard for the responsibility extends to the executive branch. When we elect a President, the President is not a President of the party, he or she is the President of a nation. Whether you are a Democrat or Republican, the President is our President. Systematically using party politics to undermine the individual because they were elected from the opposite party diminishes the individuals who serve in this body, it diminishes the stature of this institution, and it diminishes the function of our Nation so carefully crafted in our Constitution.

Let's ponder the path forward this year. Let's not diminish this institution by forsaking our responsibility. Let's not politically polarize the Court that is so essential to making sure our laws and regulations and attitudes stay within the bounds of the Constitution. Let's instead restore this institution. Let's restore the Senate. Let it be at least as healthy as it was when we were youngsters serving here as interns, coming to DC for the first time or simply reading about it in a book back home.

Let's restore the effectiveness of our judiciary. When we have judicial emergencies, we have justice delayed, and justice delayed is justice denied, and that does not honor the vision of the role of justice in the United States of America.

So I call on my colleagues to end this obstruction that diminishes your service, diminishes this institution, and damages our Nation. In short, do your jobs. Work together as 100 Senators for the future of our Nation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

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

FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to address the recent vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court and to urge my colleagues to grant swift consideration of the President's eventual nominee.

Make no mistake, the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia came as a great shock. Although Justice Scalia and I did not share a common view of the Constitution or of the country, I recognized that he was a man of great conviction and, it should be said, a man of great humor. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, his friends, his clerks, and his colleagues. But we must now devote ourselves to the task of helping to select his successor.

The Constitution—so beloved by Justice Scalia—provides that the President ''shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . Judges of the supreme Court.''

Let us all remember that each and every Senator serving in this body swore an oath to support and defend that same Constitution. It is our duty to move forward. We must fulfill our constitutional obligation to ensure that the highest Court in the land has a full complement of Justices. Unfortunately, it would seem that some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not agree, and they wasted no time in making known their objections.

Less than an hour after the news of Justice Scalia's death became public, the majority leader announced that the Senate would not take up the business of considering a replacement until after the Presidential elections. ''The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court justice,'' he said.

The only problem with the majority leader's reasoning is that the American people have spoken. Twice. President Barack Obama was elected and then reelected by a solid majority of the American people, who correctly understood that elections have consequences, not the least of which is that when a vacancy occurs, the President of the United States has the constitutional responsibility to appoint a Justice to the Supreme Court. The Constitution does not set a time limit on the President's ability to fulfill this duty, nor, by my reading, does the Constitution set a date after which the President is no longer able to fulfill his

duties as Commander in Chief or to exercise his authority to, say, grant pardons or make treaties. It merely states that the President shall hold office for a term of 4 years, and by my count, there are in the neighborhood of 11 months left.

If we were truly to subscribe to the majority leader's logic and extend it to the legislative branch, it would yield an absurd result. Senators would become ineffective in the last year of their terms. The 28 Senators who are now in the midst of their reelection campaigns and the 6 Senators who are stepping down should be precluded from casting votes in committee or on the Senate floor. Ten committee chairs and 19 subcommittee chairs should pass the gavel to a colleague who is not currently running for reelection or preparing for retirement. Bill introduction and indeed the cosponsorship of bills should be limited to those Senators who are not yet serving in the sixth year of their terms. If the majority leader sincerely believes the only way to ensure that the voice of the American people is heard is to lop off the last year of an elected official's term, I trust he will make these changes, but I suspect he does not. Rather, it seems to me that the majority leader believes the term of just one elected official in particular should be cut short, which begs the question, just how should it be cut? As I said, by my count, approximately 11 months remains in Barack Obama's Presidency. Now, 11 months is a considerable amount of time. It is sizeable. It has heft, but I wouldn't call it vast.

Then again, there is a certain arbitrariness to settling on 11 months. After all, it is just shy of a full year. Perhaps, in order to simplify matters, an entire year would be proper or maybe just 6 months, half a year. It is a difficult decision. If only the American people had a voice in selecting precisely how much time we should shave off the President's term.

Of course, now that I mention it, there is a way to give the American people a voice in this decision. The majority leader could propose a constitutional amendment. It would, of course, have to pass both Houses of Congress with a two-thirds majority, but that is not an insurmountable obstacle. Provided it clears Congress, the amendment would then bypass the President—which, in this case, would be very apt—and be sent to the States for their ratification. So if the majority leader truly wants the voters to decide how best to proceed, our founding document provides a way forward.

Suggesting that the Senate should refuse to consider a nominee during an election year stands as a cynical affront to our constitutional system, and it misrepresents our history. The Senate has a long tradition of working to confirm Supreme Court Justices in election years. One need look no further than sitting Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy, a Supreme Court nominee appointed by a Republican President and confirmed by a Democratic Senate in 1988—President Reagan's last year in office—during an election year. So when I hear one of my colleagues say ''It's been standard practice over the last 80 years to not confirm Supreme Court nominees during a presidential election year,'' I know that is not true.

I am not the only one who knows that is not true. The fact-checking publication PolitiFact recently observed that ''[s]hould Republican lawmakers refuse to begin the process of confirming a . . . nomination, it would be the first time in modern history.'' SCOTUSblog, an indisputable authority on all matters related to the Court, confirmed that the ''historical record does not reveal any instances [in over a century] of the . . . Senate failing to confirm a nominee in a presidential year because of the impending election.''

The fact is that there is a bipartisan tradition—a bipartisan tradition—of giving full and fair consideration to Supreme Court nominees. Since the Judiciary Committee began to hold hearings in 1916, every pending Supreme Court nominee, save nine, has received a hearing. And what happened to those nine nominees? They were confirmed within 11 days of being nominated.

In 2001, during the first administration of President George W. Bush, then-Judiciary Committee Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member HATCH sent a letter to their Senate colleagues making clear that the committee would continue its longstanding, bipartisan practice of moving pending Supreme Court nominees to the full Senate, even when the nominees were opposed by a majority of the committee, but, regrettably, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are leaving that long tradition behind.

Yesterday, every Republican member of the Senate Judiciary Committee sent a letter to the majority leader vowing to deny a hearing to the President's eventual nominee. ''This committee,'' they wrote, ''will not hold hearings on any Supreme Court nominee until after our next President is sworn in on January 20th, 2017.'' This marks a historic dereliction of the Senate's duty and a radical departure not just from the committee's past traditions but from its current practices.

I know that my good friend Chairman GRASSLEY cares a great deal about maintaining the legacy of the Judiciary Committee and the propriety of its proceedings. Under his leadership, we have seen the committee put country before party and move consensus, bipartisan proposals. I had hoped Chairman GRASSLEY would approach the task of confirming our next Supreme Court Justice with the same sense of fairness and integrity. I still hope that. But I was very disappointed to learn that yesterday Chairman GRASSLEY gathered only Republican committee members in a private meeting where they unilaterally decided behind closed doors to refuse consideration of a nominee. The decision to foreclose even holding a hearing for a nominee to our Nation's highest Court is shameful, and I suspect the American people share that view.

The Supreme Court is a central pillar of our democracy. The women and men who sit on that bench make decisions that touch the lives of every single American, regardless of party or political persuasion. Now the Senate must do the same. We must honor our solemn duty to uphold the Constitution and to ensure that Americans seeking justice are able to have their day in court before a full bench of nine Justices.

I urge my colleagues to reject the impulse to put politics before our sworn duty to uphold the Constitution.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor to my colleague from Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was an extraordinary man whose contributions to this country and the American people, whom he faithfully served from the bench, are so prodigious that it will take generations for us to fully comprehend our debt of great gratitude to him. His untimely, recent death is a tragedy, and his legacy is a blessing to friends of freedom throughout this country and everywhere.

Justice Scalia was a learned student of history and a man who relished, perhaps more than any other, a spirited, lively debate, so it is fitting that his passing has sparked a conversation in America, a spirited conversation about the constitutional powers governing the appointment of Supreme Court Justices and the historical record of Supreme Court vacancies that happen to open up during a Presidential election year.

This debate gives the American people and their elected representatives in the Senate a unique opportunity to discuss our Nation's founding charter and history at a time when our collective choices have very real consequences, so it is important that this debate proceed with candor, mutual respect, and deference to the facts. In that spirit, I wish to address and correct a few of the most pernicious errors, inaccuracies, fallacies, and fabrications we have heard from some of the loudest voices in this debate over the last few days.

From the outset, I have maintained that the Senate should withhold its consent of a Supreme Court nomination to fulfill Justice Scalia's seat and wait to hold any hearings on a Supreme Court nominee until the next President, whether it is a Republican or a Democrat, is elected and sworn in. This position is shared by all of my Republican colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee, consistent with the Senate's powers in the appointment of Federal judges and supported by historical precedent.

In response, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and many in the media have resorted to all manner of counterarguments, ranging from the historically and constitutionally inaccurate to the absurd, and in many cases, the claims made by some of my colleagues today flatly contradict their own statements from the past.

I believe the plain meaning of the Constitution and the historical record are sufficiently clear to stand on their own as evidence that there is absolutely nothing unprecedented and absolutely nothing improper about the Senate choosing to withhold its consent of a President's nominee to the Supreme Court, so I would like to focus on one particular allegation offered by some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

With the letter and the spirit of the Constitution, as well as their own words standing against them, many have turned to fearmongering in a last-ditch effort to win the debate. They claim that leaving Justice Scalia's seat vacant until the next President nominates a replacement would somehow inflict a profound institutional injury on the Supreme Court by disrupting the resolution of this term's cases before the Court, a term including important cases on abortion, immigration, religious liberty, and mandatory union dues, among others, ensnaring the Court in endless gridlock with an evenly split eight Justices on the bench and leaving it short-staffed for an unprecedented and potentially prolonged period. Here, the doomsayers are on weak ground, indeed. Let's look at each of these claims in turn.

First, is it true—as many have claimed—that the business of the Supreme Court will be obstructed or otherwise disrupted if the Senate withholds its consent of President Obama's nominee? Absolutely not.

In recent history—in fact, since the nomination of Justice Scalia to the Supreme Court in 1986—it has taken more than 70 days on average for the Senate to confirm or reject a nominee after that nominee has been formally submitted by the President to the Senate for its advice and consent—more than 70 days on average. In many cases, it has taken far longer for the Senate to grant or withhold its consent. It took this body 108 days to reject Judge Robert Bork and 99 days to confirm Justice Clarence Thomas.

Presuming the modern historic average would hold true for any future nominee, even if President Obama were to announce and refer a nominee to the Senate today for our advice and consent, the process would carry through until at least early May. But, significantly, the Supreme Court stops hearing cases in April, which means that even if President Obama were to announce a nominee today, right now, and even if the Senate were to confirm that nominee in a period of time consistent with historical standards, that individual would not be seated in time to hear and rule upon any of the cases that are currently on the Court's docket or any of the cases that are before the Court in this term. In other words, it would be historically anomalous for any of the cases currently pending before the Court to be decided this term by a nine-member Supreme Court no matter what the Senate chooses to do regarding any future nominee.

Let's put this in perspective. In this scenario—a scenario endorsed by Senate Democrats—it is highly unlikely that the nominee to fill Justice Scalia's seat would hear oral arguments until the beginning of October, literally just a few weeks before the Presidential election. This proves that the main argument made by President Obama and his allies is based on a myth. In their telling, the Senate's choice to withhold consent of a nominee would deny President Obama a Supreme Court Justice who will serve during his final year in the White House, but in reality, it is unlikely that the President's nominee will join the Supreme Court until the country is just weeks away from choosing President Obama's replacement. I think most Americans recognize the problem of a President having the ability to reshape the Supreme Court in his image on his way out of office, and that is exactly why the Senate is choosing to withhold its consent in this case. This is the right course not because of anything the Senate does or does not do and not because of anything the President does or does not do, it is simply a function of the unfortunate timing of Justice Scalia's death. Claims to the contrary are flatly contradicted by an empirical analysis of the Court's history.

Second, the Senate's decision to withhold consent will not lead to an intractable impasse or hopeless gridlock, even if the eventual appointee were to miss the entirety of the next term, which starts in October of 2016 and runs until the end of June 2017.

In each of its previous 5 terms, the current Court has decided only 16 cases on average—or 23 percent of its caseload—by a 5-to-4 majority, and Justice Scalia was 1 of the 5 Justices in the majority in those 5-to-4 cases only about half of the time on average. That means that the vacancy left by Justice Scalia would result in about eight cases out of dozens being decided by a 4-to-4 split. In fact, in the last term served by Justice Scalia, the last complete term, he was in the majority in only six of those 5-to-4 cases, and in the year before that, the preceding term, Justice Scalia's second to last term, he was in the majority in only five of the cases decided by a 5-to-4 majority. What does this mean? Well, it means that it is likely that the effect of his absence on the final vote and ultimate disposition of cases will be lower than even the average suggests. Instead of eight cases being decided by a 4-to-4 split in Justice Scalia's absence, it is likely to be closer to five or six, as it has been in the last two full terms of Justice Scalia's service on the Court.

Let's not forget what should be obvious: The sky does not fall when a 4-to-4 split occurs on the Supreme Court; rather, the decision of the lower court is left standing. And if there is the prospect of a 4-to-4 split on a particularly salient matter, the Court always has the option of scheduling or rescheduling the hearing for a later time when the Court will have all nine Justices presiding and hearing the case.

Finally, a vacancy on the Court lasting through the Presidential election season will have no greater effect on the Court's ability to decide cases than any number of instances in the past where the Court has had to decide matters with eight Justices or even fewer.

As recently as the Court's 2010-to-2011 term, the Court had to decide over 30 cases with eight or fewer Justices, almost entirely as a result of recusals arising from Justice Kagan's nomination.

Likewise, following the retirement of Justice Powell in 1987, the Court had to act on 80 cases with 8 or fewer justices. This was a result of Democratic opposition to Judge Bork and the eventual late-February confirmation of Anthony Kennedy, coupled with dozens of recusals by Kennedy and other Justices later in that term.

In the October term of 1945, the Court functioned as an eight-member body while Justice Robert Jackson was serving as a prosecutor in Nuremberg, acting on a full term's caseload without him. Tellingly, when Justice Jackson expressed concern about missing so many cases and actually considered returning early for that reason, Justice Felix Frankfurter wrote to encourage Justice Jackson to stay on as a prosecutor, stating that his absence was not ''sacrificing a single interest of importance.'' Compared to today, the Court had a larger workload and issued many more opinions during that term in which Justice Jackson was absent. This suggests that a vacancy of a similar duration as Jackson's full-term sabbatical would be even less damaging to the Court's functioning than the absence of Justice Jackson—an absence that, to reiterate, did not sacrifice ''a single interest of importance.''

The next President's future nominee is unlikely to miss as many cases as Justices Kennedy or Jackson missed.

These are the facts, Mr. President. They can't be ignored nor can they be wished away. If we are going to have a serious, honest debate about the vacancy left by Justice Scalia's tragic passing, we must proceed on the basis of these facts.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, since the beginning of our Nation, the U.S. Senate has maintained an important bipartisan tradition of giving fair consideration to Supreme Court nominees.

Article II, section 2 of the Constitution is unambiguous about the respective duties and responsibilities of the President and the Senate when there is a Supreme Court vacancy. The Founders did not intend these roles to be optional or something to be disregarded. Article II also states that the President shall hold his office during the term of 4 years, not 3 years or 3 years and 1 month, but 4 full years.

The Constitution plainly says that it is the President's duty to nominate a Supreme Court Justice and it is the Senate's duty to provide advice and consent on that nomination. Throughout our history, Senators have done their constitutional duty by considering and confirming Supreme Court Justices in the final year of a Presidency. In fact, the Senate has done that 14 times, most recently in 1988, when the Senate confirmed Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was President Reagan's nominee to the Supreme Court. He sent that nomination over to the Democratic majority in this body. Almost 28 years ago exactly to the day in February of 1988, the Democratic majority in the Senate confirmed Republican President Ronald Reagan's judicial nomination, Anthony Kennedy, unanimously 97–0. They didn't debate whether it was a Presidential year and whether they could act. It was in the middle of a hard-fought election. It was not at all clear what the outcome of that election was going to be.

Since 1975, the average length of time from nomination to a confirmation vote for the Supreme Court—that is the average length of time; sometimes it has taken longer and sometimes it has been shorter—but since 1975, the average length of time has been 67 days because our predecessors in the Senate recognized how important it is for the Supreme Court to be fully functioning.

Unfortunately, this week we are seeing this bipartisan tradition regarding the Court being put at risk. Yesterday we heard the majority leader say that if the President nominates a person to the Supreme Court—any person, no matter how superbly qualified—there will be no hearings and no vote. We even heard some Senators say they would refuse to meet with any potential nominee. I think that is very unfortunate.

It is unfortunate for a number of reasons, probably first and foremost because the people of the United States expect us to work together here in Washington to do the job of the country—to do the jobs we were elected to do—and because the current President's term ends in January of 2017. That is more than 300 days from now. During that time, the Supreme Court will hear many important cases, but if the majority in the Senate has their way, the Court will do so without a full roster of Justices.

As Brianne Gorod of the Constitution Accountability Center has said, and I quote:

The consequences of the Supreme Court being without all nine justices for so long can hardly be overstated. Most significant, a long-standing vacancy would compromise the Court's ability to perform one of its most important functions, that is, establishing a uniform rule of law for the entire country.

Every Senator here has sworn to support and defend the Constitution—full stop. That is the oath we have taken. Our oath doesn't say to uphold the Constitution most of the time or only when it is not a Presidential election year or only when it is convenient for us or only when we like the ideology that is being presented to us. Our oath says to uphold and defend the Constitution every day, no matter what the issue is that comes before us. The American people expect us as Senators to be faithful to our oath. They also expect us to do our jobs regardless of whether it is a Presidential election year.

I believe we should respect our oath of office. I believe we should do the job we were sent here to do by the American people. I believe we should follow the Constitution. As former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said last week, and I quote again, ''I think we need somebody [on the Supreme Court] now to do the job, and let's get on with it.''

I say, let's get on with it.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I join the Nation in offering my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Justice Scalia, who was an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. For more than three decades, Justice Scalia devoted himself to the rule of law and public service at the highest levels. Whether you agreed or disagreed with his decisions, there is no debate about Justice Scalia's profound impact on the Supreme Court. He served his country with great honor.

I was privileged to serve as a member of the Judiciary Committee when I first joined the Senate. I participated in confirmation hearings for judicial nominees for both President Bush and President Obama, including the hearings for Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

The Constitution spells out quite clearly what happens when a vacancy occurs on the Supreme Court. Article II, section 2, of the Constitution states that the President ''shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . Judges of the supreme Court.''

The American people twice elected President Obama to 4-year terms in office. Their voices have been heard very clearly. Elections have consequences, and President Obama must carry out the constitutional responsibilities and duties of his office by nominating a successor for Justice Scalia. The President is simply doing the job that the American people elected him to do. The President doesn't stop working simply because it is an election year. He has more than 300 days left in office, as do the Senators who will face the voters this November. Congress should not stop working, either, in this election year and should earn their full paycheck.

So my message is clear. Do your job. It is our responsibility to take up the nominations the President will submit to us. And I think the American people will ultimately demand that the Senate do its job and not threaten to stop working simply to coddle and pander to the most extreme fringe elements of its base, as was done when the government shut down a few years ago with the flirtation of a default on the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government.

Just as the President is carrying out his constitutional duties, so should the Senate. My colleagues in the Senate took an oath to support the Constitution. It is only February, leaving the Senate plenty of time before the elections to consider a nomination that President Obama will make in the coming weeks.

I find it disgraceful that my Republican colleagues would try to obstruct the nomination before the nominee has even been named. Our job as Senators is to examine the qualifications of the nominee for the position. The Senate should get to work once President Obama makes his nomination, in a process that usually takes around two months.

If you look over the history of nominations that have been made by a President on Supreme Court nominees in the amount of time the Senate has considered those nominations, the average is 2 to 3 months. Let me remind you, we have almost a year left in this term of Congress. There is plenty of time. The Senate Judiciary Committee has historically reported nominees to the floor even if the nominee did not garner a majority vote in the committee. And then let the Senate work its will to either confirm or reject the President's nominee.

The tradition of the Senate is to allow each Senator to vote yea or nay on a nomination to the Supreme Court of the United States. That has been the tradition of the Senate. Of course, every Senator has the right to vote no. Senators were elected for 6-year terms by the citizens of their State and have the right and obligation to vote. President Obama was elected by the people of the United States for a 4-year term and has the right and obligation to nominate.

History has shown that when the roles were reversed and the Democrats held the majority in the Senate, Supreme Court and judicial nominees for

Republican Presidents were given hearings and up-and-down votes regardless of when the vacancy occurred. Justice Kennedy was confirmed to the Supreme Court in the last year of President Ronald Reagan's final term in 1988. Other examples of Presidential election-year confirmations include Justice Murphy in 1940, Justice Cardozo in 1932, and Justice Brandeis in 1916. And the Democratic-controlled Senate confirmed numerous judicial nominees of President George W. Bush throughout his final year in office, including nearly a dozen judges in September 2008, just weeks before the election of President Obama.

While I might have picked different judges as a Senator, I voted to confirm the vast majority of President Bush's judicial nominations in his final year in office. I will continue to carry out my constitutional responsibilities that I undertook when I became Senator and swore to support the Constitution. In my view, Justice Scalia would expect nothing less than for the President and the Congress to follow the letter and spirit of the Constitution, our Nation's most fundamental legal document. Justice Scalia wrote a 2004 opinion about the importance of having all nine Justices on the Supreme Court. He stated that without a full complement of Justices, the Court—I am quoting from Justice Scalia—''will find itself unable to resolve the significant legal issues'' in pending cases and that a vacancy ''impairs the functioning of the Court.''

Justice Scalia understood the importance to have nine Supreme Court Justices. Are we really going to allow there to be a vacancy for that ninth seat for a year?

Former Justice Rehnquist, when he was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 1972, wrote that the prospect of affirming lower court judgments by an equally divided court was ''undesirable'' because ''the principle of law presented by [each] case is left unsettled.'' When there is a circuit split, Justice Rehnquist continued, ''the prospect of affirmance by an equally divided Court, unsatisfactory enough in a single case, presents even more serious problems where companion cases reaching opposite results are heard together here. . . . [A]ffirmance of each of such conflicting results by an equally divided Court would lay down 'one rule in Athens, and another rule in Rome' with a vengeance.''

What Justice Rehnquist was saying is when we have different appellate court decisions—one circuit ruling one way and another circuit ruling another way—they come to the Supreme Court, we have conflicting interpretations, and we have the Supreme Court of the United States to resolve that difference.

What happens if there is a 4-to-4 vote? We have different rules in the Fourth Circuit than in the Third Circuit. That is why we have a Supreme Court. And for a year-plus we are going to say we are not going to allow the full complement to be there?

I am also privileged to serve as the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the ranking member and former chair of the Helsinki Commission. I must tell my colleagues, as I meet with heads of foreign governments, parliamentarians and judges overseas, I feel great pride in that America has created independent judges where a neutral fact-finder decides the case based on the law and the facts and cannot be fired for making a decision that offends the government or the politically powerful. I really do believe the Supreme Court and Federal judiciary are some of the crown jewels of our American system of government and the envy of the world. That is why I am so disgusted and disappointed today with the majority's attempt to abdicate their responsibilities as Senators and as Americans by not doing their job and simply obstructing the operation of good governance for partisan political purposes. I say that because the Republican members of the Judiciary Committee have written a letter saying they are not even going to take up this nomination. There will not even be any hearings.

Do your job. Our job is to consider a nomination that is submitted by the President.

What the Republicans are effectively trying to do is to temporarily shrink the Supreme Court from nine to eight Justices and shorten the term of the President from 4 years to 3 years. That is not in the Constitution. This is disgraceful and indefensible. Frankly, it reminds me of the arguments Republicans used in 2013 when they accused President Obama of trying to pack the court when they announced they would not support further nominees to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. No, President Obama was not trying to pack the court by changing the number of seats on the court. He was merely nominating individuals to existing vacancies on the court that were authorized by Congress by an enacted statute. That is the President's responsibility.

Let me remind my colleagues that Congress has the authority to pass a statute that is signed into law by the President or by overriding his veto. What Congress cannot and the Senate should not do is purport to shrink the size of the court, be it the Supreme Court or district court or circuit court, by simply refusing to even consider a nominee until the next President takes office.

If this decision by the Republicans is allowed to stand, it would create an artificial vacancy for over a full year, spanning two terms of the Court, which would be unprecedented since the Civil War. We recall that after the last century, Supreme Court nominees have received timely hearings and considerations by the Senate Judiciary Committee and the full Senate.

It matters if the Supreme Court is not fully operational and gridlocks in 4-to-4 ties. Under that scenario, the division of the lower court stands, even when there is a split among the circuits where only the Supreme Court could and should clarify the law. This will lead to more uncertainty, litigation, wasted time and resources, and ultimately delay and deny justice for the American people.

It would be a great tragedy—and potentially do long-term damage to the Supreme Court and the independent judiciary—if the Republican strategy of delay and obstruction prevails. I urge my colleagues: Do your job. Do your job. When the President submits the nomination for the Supreme Court vacancy created by the death of Justice Scalia, schedule a timely hearing and establish a reasonable schedule for the Senate and each of its 100 Members to vote yea or nay on the person the President submits as a nominee for the Supreme Court. That is our responsibility. We need to do our job.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, former Chief Justice Warren Burger once explained the historical significance of the U.S. Constitution as follows. He wrote that ''in the last quarter of the 18th century, no nation in the world was governed with separated and divided powers providing checks and balances on the exercise of authority by those who governed.''

The Chief Justice went on to call the Constitution ''a remarkable document—the first of its kind in all of human history.''

Chief Justice Burger was right. The Constitution is remarkable, and it is remarkable not only for what it says but how it says it.

In some places the Constitution speaks in poetry, like the Preamble that begins with ''We the People of the United States,'' and talks of ''a more perfect Union'' and ''the Blessings of Liberty.''

In other places, the Constitution is simple prose, but given the importance of every single word in the text of the Constitution, the Founding Fathers wrote in plain, concise, and understandable language.

That clarity can be found in the advice and consent clause of article II, section 2. Its words could not be clearer. It simply states that the President of the United States ''shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and Judges of the supreme Court.''

There is no ambiguity there. It is not an invitation to reinterpretation. The President's obligation under the Constitution is crystal clear. He shall nominate someone to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court.

President Obama has stated that he will fulfill his obligation and send the Senate an eminently qualified nominee to fill the vacancy created by the unfortunate passing of Justice Antonin Scalia.

When President Obama does that, it will be the Senate's turn to fulfill its obligation under the Constitution.

The text of the Constitution on the Senate's responsibility is similarly clear. The Senate is to provide its advice and consent. Let me repeat that. The Senate is to provide its advice and consent.

Advice and consent does not mean the Senate disregards the Constitution and ignores a nomination to the Supreme Court. It is advice and consent, not avoid and contempt.

The advice and consent clause is not the constitutional equivalent of Roger Maris's home run statistics. There is no asterisk in the Constitution that directs readers to small print that says ''except in an election year.'' There is no fine print in the Constitution that says the Senate is to give its advice and consent except in the last year of a President's term.

Despite the clear constitutional instruction on how the executive and legislative branches are to handle a vacancy on the Supreme Court, the Republicans on the Judiciary Committee yesterday unilaterally decided they would not hold a hearing on a Supreme Court nominee to fill Justice Scalia's seat until after the upcoming Presidential election. This partisan decision to obstruct is a drastic departure from long-established practice and procedure in filling Supreme Court vacancies. The Senate has routinely confirmed Supreme Court Justices in the final year of a Presidency. In fact, it has happened more than a dozen times, most recently with the confirmation of Justice Anthony Kennedy during the last year of Ronald Reagan's second term as President. In the last 100 years, the Senate has taken action on every Supreme Court nominee regardless of whether the nomination was made in a Presidential election year.

So the American people now have to deal with two vacancies: one on the Supreme Court and the other in the judgment of Senate Republicans because they seem willing to go to unprecedented lengths to stop this constitutionally mandated process from moving forward.

Republican Senators' reading words into the Constitution to reach the result they want is no different from the so-called judicial activism on the bench they routinely decry.

The Republicans would rather shirk their constitutional responsibility than let President Obama appoint another Justice to the Court. They would rather deprive the country of a fully functioning Supreme Court than fulfill their constitutional duty, not just for the remainder of this term but for the next term of the Supreme Court as well.

Now, why is that? Well, because a Justice of the Supreme Court has only one vote, but a single seat on the Court and a single vote that comes with it can carry enormous significance. We need only look at this divided Supreme Court's recent 5-to-4 decisions to understand why Republicans prefer a vacancy on the Supreme Court. With only eight justices instead of nine, the Court's decisions can deadlock with a 4-to-4 vote. A tie vote leaves in place the lower court decision that has been appealed to the Supreme Court. A 4-to-4 deadlock can have far-reaching consequences.

Take Bush v. Gore, the 2000 decision that stopped Florida's vote recount in the 2000 Presidential election. Bush v. Gore was decided by a 5-to-4 vote. If a seat on the Supreme Court had been vacated, resulting in a 4-to-4 vote, then the outcome of that election could have been different.

So that is pretty much the consequence here. It is going to have, without question, some impact on how these decisions are going to be made, but it is without any full comprehension of what that change could be, only because nine human beings are involved, but there is a responsibility that we have in the Senate to ensure that we, in fact, have a full Supreme Court.

The President shall nominate. That is without question the duty he has. We shall provide advice and consent. That is our duty. We don't have to give consent at the end of the day. We can have a vote on the Senate floor to determine whether someone is, in fact, going to be confirmed, but we have that constitutional responsibility.

There is still ample time for the President to submit a nomination, for the Judiciary Committee to hold hearings on it, and for the full Senate to vote on it.

The U.S. Constitution remains a remarkable document. Let us treasure it, not twist it. Let us respect it, not run from it. Let us fulfill our constitutional obligations and have a hearing on the President's nominee and a vote by the Senate. In other words, to the U.S. Senate: Do your job. It is in the Constitution. There is no way you can run from a clear interpretation of what the Constitution requires us to do once the President has nominated a new candidate for the Supreme Court. There are direct instructions for the President in the Constitution and there are direct instructions for us in the Senate.

Let us hope that after the President nominates a candidate, that this body deliberates, listens to all the testimony, and then has a vote on whether that person is qualified to serve on the Supreme Court, but the only way that is going to happen is if this body does its job. So we ask the Members of the majority to ensure that happens.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here today to urge this body to fulfill its constitutional duty and take action on the Supreme Court nominee who shortly will be submitted by President Obama. I come here not only as a U.S. Senator but also as a former Federal prosecutor, a U.S. attorney in Connecticut from 1977 to 1981, a former State attorney general for 20 years, and a veteran of four arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court. I am also here as a former law clerk to Justice Harry Blackmun, and I share with the Presiding Officer the experience of having had that supremely important and formative experience, and, of course, it shapes my view as well of the Court.

I have immense respect and awe for the position and power and eminence of the U.S. Supreme Court, its role in our democracy, and its history of scholarship and public service. I have the same admiration for Justice Antonin Scalia, and I take this moment to remember his uniquely American life.

As the son of an immigrant, he was a dedicated public servant, a gifted writer, and a powerful speaker. I heard him speak on a number of occasions and argued before him in the Court in a number of memorable exchanges. His sense of humor and his quickness of wit and insight remain with me now. As all of my colleagues will attest, he dedicated his life to serving the public, which can be demanding and difficult at times, but his life showed, as we know, that the difficulties and the demands are well worth the rewards. My thoughts are with his wife Maureen and his entire family.

My personal view, speaking only for myself, is that one way to honor Justice Scalia is to adhere to the Constitution, to follow its words, which are very explicit on the topic of nominating and confirming a Supreme Court Justice and which give us the role of advising and consenting after the President has nominated. I hope we will fulfill our constitutional duty to advise and consent—to do our job, literally, to do our job as we were elected and took an oath of office to do. That is what we are paid to do—our job as prescribed by the Constitution. I fundamentally reject the notion that the Senate's refusal to act, as laid out in no uncertain terms by my Republican colleagues, fulfills this obligation. In fact, the abdication of responsibility through this rejection is disrespectful to that document and to the Court itself.

President Obama has indicated that he is currently engaged in a thoughtful and deliberative process, working to select a nominee with the intellect and integrity that will persuade the American public and hopefully also the Senate to support his suggestion. His nomination would allow the Supreme Court to function again with the nine members who are essential to its deliberation.

The conclusions my colleagues advance during such a process will, of course, be to each of them to decide. I will be, in fact, among the most exacting and demanding of our colleagues who question that nominee in a hearing, who seek answers in screening and researching the expertise and experience of that person. In no way should the Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, or the U.S. Senate, where we all serve, act as a rubberstamp. No way. No rubberstamp. We must advise as well as consent, and advising means being demanding and careful. But I think we have an obligation to go through that process. We can't just say, sight unseen, no. We can't say that we are going to leave it to the next elected Senate or the next elected President. We have been elected and he has been elected to do our job.

The Supreme Court must have a full complement of Justices to effectively address some of the most complex issues and consequential legal challenges our Nation faces today. Put aside the merits of each—whether it is immigration or affirmative action, women's reproductive rights, voting rights—decisions are needed. The lack of decision has consequences, just as elections have consequences.

Obstruction has consequences, too, and we cannot afford to weaken the Federal judiciary's capacity for effective governance. We can't allow a manufactured crisis in the Senate to plunge another branch of government into gridlock and to plague the judiciary with the same partisan paralysis that is so detested by the American people. In fact, the rejection of our constitutional responsibility to do our job would epitomize the gridlock and partisan contention that America finds so abhorrent today. Like my colleagues, I go around the State of Connecticut, and what people say to me more commonly than anything else is ''Why can't you do your job? Why can't you get stuff done?'' Let's get this done.

Statements by Majority Leader MCCONNELL and Chairman GRASSLEY, as well as a number of my other colleagues, have indicated that President Obama's nominee to the highest Court in the land should not even be considered, but turning our backs on that constitutional obligation to act would be equivalent to shutting down the government. It is of exactly the same kind of consequence. It may not be as far-reaching in its immediate effect, but it has the same long-term consequences, which are not merely to prevent decisions and actions from happening—necessary decisions and actions—but also to undermine credibility and faith and trust in our government.

When it comes to the Congress or the President, maybe that credibility is of lesser importance, but it is a chief asset of our judiciary. The Supreme Court of the United States has no armies or police force. It commands the Nation's respect through its credibility. It enforces obeyance by virtue of that credibility.

This posture by my Republican colleagues threatens to drag a vital, nonpartisan institution into the morass of procedural gamesmanship and electoral mudslinging—the kind of game playing and gamesmanship that has so disillusioned and dismayed Americans more broadly.

As I have discussed this process with the people of Connecticut, I have heard outrage over this attempt to hamstring the Supreme Court, which looks like the recent, similarly illogical process of shutting down the government.

If my Republican colleagues want to reject a nominee, that is their right. After a hearing, they can vote no. They may have reason, and those reasons may be subjective or fact-based and objective. But to simply deny any consideration—even a meeting with a nominee—is stark obstructionism. It is an extreme version of the phenomenon that has frozen this body for much too long.

The majority campaigned in 2014 on restoring law and getting things done. They promised Americans everywhere that the new Senate majority would usher in an end to gridlock on Capitol Hill. We made some progress—too slow, too little—but moving in the right direction will be forestalled, if not doomed, by this obstructionism, and these promises would be broken if the Senate refuses to act.

At this critical time, we cannot hold the highest level of an entire branch of government hostage because of political gamesmanship. That is not what the American people elected us to do, and it is not what the American people deserve. Doing so would dishonor the bipartisan tradition of providing a hearing and a vote for a Supreme Court nominee, which is our constitutional obligation and has been followed by past Senates.

Even when a nominee during President Reagan's Presidency was nominated 14 months before the election and even though the vote came during the last year of that President's term in office, Justice Kennedy was confirmed. We should do the same. Why not? There is plenty of time between now and then to give deliberate due consideration to the President's nominee.

I hope that the outrage and outcry from the American people will persuade my colleagues to reconsider, reflect, and reverse this disastrous course. In fact, I believe they will relent because this course is dangerous to the Court, damaging to our Nation, and ultimately destructive to our democracy.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, we are here on this conflict we have over a Supreme Court nominee, which has turned into a considerable, unprecedented fuss, I believe, for a fairly simple reason. The elephant, so to speak, in the room is that the Court has become a political actor under Chief Justice Roberts. The rightwing bloc on the Court delivered politically because it had a 5-to-4 majority. Now their rightwing majority is gone, and Republicans are predictably upset.

Justice Frankfurter admonished:

> But it is not the business of this Court to pronounce policy. It must observe a fastidious regard for limitations on its own power, and this precludes the Court's giving effect to its own notions of what is wise or politic.

Well, that was then. The five-judge bloc on the Roberts Court, of which Justice Scalia was an essential part, systematically and predictably pronounced policy in favor of three things: No. 1, conservative ideology; No. 2, the welfare of big corporations; and No. 3, the electoral well-being of the Republican Party. And people noticed. Linda Greenhouse wrote that it is ''impossible to avoid the conclusion that the Republican-appointed majority is committed to harnessing the Supreme Court to an ideological agenda.'' Other noted Court watchers, such as Norm Ornstein and Jeffrey Toobin, agree. As Jeffrey Toobin noted, the pattern of decisions ''has served the interests, and reflected the values, of the contemporary Republican party.'' Columnist Dana Milbank observed of a recent decision that ''the Roberts Court has found yet another way to stack the deck in favor of the rich.'' The Court has become so political that Justices Scalia and Thomas have attended the Koch brothers' secretive annual political conference. Just this week, Ms. Greenhouse wrote, ''[T]he conservative majority is permitting the court to become an agent of partisan warfare to an extent that threatens real damage to the institution.''

It is not just the Court watchers who have noticed; less than one-third of Americans have confidence in the Supreme Court. Americans massively oppose its Citizens United decision—80 percent against, with 71 percent strongly opposed. Most tellingly, by a ratio of 9 to 1, Americans now believe the Court treats corporations more favorably than individuals. Even conservative Republicans agree, by a 4-to-1 margin, that this Court treats corporations more favorably than individuals.

Let's take a look at the Court's decisions in these three areas: election politics, corporate interests, and the conservative social agenda.

In elections decisions, the Court's Republican-appointed majority always seems to come down on the side that helps the election prospects of the Republican Party.

The Voting Rights Act, for example, protects minority access to the ballot,

and in States that had long histories of discriminating against minority voters, it required preclearance of voting restrictions. In the 5-to-4 Shelby County decision, the Republican-appointed Justices gutted that preclearance requirement. Predictably, the result was almost immediate enactment across many States of voter-suppression laws. The Washington Post described, for instance, the ''surgical precision with which North Carolina Republicans approved certain forms of photo IDs for voting and excluded others.'' Texas, for another instance, allowed gun permits for voting but not State university IDs. And even where these voter-suppression laws ultimately fail in court, Republicans still gain the benefit of fewer Democrats in the electorate while they are litigated.

The conservative judges' decisions on gerrymandering are a second example. ''Gerrymandering'' is named after Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry and his efforts to shape the district of a State senator he needed to protect. A clever modern variant of gerrymandering has emerged—bulk gerrymandering—which looks at the whole congressional delegation of a State. This tactic isolates Democrats into small, supersaturated Democratic districts so that majority-Republican districts can be created out of the remainder of the State.

By manipulating the districts this way through its so-called REDMAP project, Republicans delivered congressional delegations that didn't reflect the State's popular vote, over and over. For instance, when Pennsylvania voters went to the polls in 2012, Democratic votes for Congress outnumbered Republican votes by a little over 80,000. Pennsylvania also reelected President Obama that year and our colleague, Democratic Senator BOB CASEY. But Pennsylvania at that ballot sent a House delegation to Congress of 5 Democrats and 13 Republicans—more votes for Democrats, more Republicans in the delegation by 13 to 5.

This was not just a Pennsylvania fluke. In 2012, Ohio voted for Barack Obama for President and returned our Democratic colleague SHERROD BROWN to the Senate but sent 12 Republicans to Congress and only 4 Democrats. Wisconsin voted for Obama in 2012 and elected progressive Senator TAMMY BALDWIN to the Senate but sent five Republicans and only three Democrats to Congress.

The Republican organization behind REDMAP bragged of this achievement. I will quote REDMAP's memo:

> [A]ggregated numbers show voters pulled the lever for Republicans only 49 percent of the time in congressional races, [but] Republicans enjoy a 33-seat margin in the U.S. House seated yesterday in the 113th Congress, having endured Democratic successes atop the ticket and over one million more votes cast for Democratic House candidates than Republicans.

This gerrymandering ran wild because in a Supreme Court case called Vieth v. Jubelirer, four Republican Justices announced that they would no longer question whether gerrymandering interfered with any constitutional voting rights. One, Justice Kennedy, left a glimmer of light, but the practical effect was to announce open season for gerrymandering. As the American Bar Association's publication on redistricting has noted, ''The Court's recent decisions appear to give legislators leeway to preserve partisan advantage as zealously as they like when drawing district lines.'' In practice, gerrymandering of Congress squarely benefited Republicans.

A third example is campaign finance decisions, the most noticeable being Citizens United, but a constellation of decisions surrounds Citizens United, beginning with Justice Powell's 1978 opinion in First National Bank of Boston v. Belloti. The careful work of Republican appointees on the Court over many years to open American politics to corporate spending has conferred obvious political advantage to the Republican Party, and, as many news outlets reported, it was Republicans who cheered the Citizens United decision.

So, in elections, it is three for three in favor of the Republican Party.

Turning from elections to the conservative agenda on social issues, such as religion and abortion and gun control, let's start with the District of Columbia v. Heller decision, a Second Amendment decision in which this same five-man bloc created, for the first time in our history, an individual right to keep firearms for self-defense. As recently as 1991, this doctrine was such a fringe theory that it was publicly described by retired Chief Justice Warren Burger as ''one of the greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word 'fraud,' on the American public by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime.'' That was the theory which five on the Court adopted. As one author noted, ''Five Justices on the Supreme Court were able to reinterpret, by some standards radically, the Second Amendment's right to keep and bear arms as a personal, not a collective right in Heller.''

At the wall separating church and state, the bloc of five chipped steadily away: Christian crosses in public parks, Federal tax credits funding religious schools, Christian prayer at legislative meetings. As constitutional scholar Erwin Chemerinsky summed it up: ''Rather than obliterating the wall separating church and state all at once, the Roberts Court's opinions are dismantling it brick by brick.''

Four decades ago, Roe v. Wade recognized a wall of privacy in the Constitution between the government and a woman's private medical decisions. In this context, the court has long required State laws barring late-term abortions to have an exception to protect the health of the mother. Then the Roberts Court upheld a ban on the procedure that had no exception for the health of the mother.

As Justice Ginsburg stated in her dissent: ''[T]he Act and the Court's defense of it cannot be understood as anything other than an effort to chip away at a right declared again and again by this Court—and with increasing comprehension of its centrality to women's lives.''

If the conservative win rate in the Court is striking, the corporate one is even more so. A recent study found the Roberts Court more favorable to business interests than its predecessors, with all five members of the recent rightwing bloc among the top 10 most business-friendly judges in the last 65 years. Chief Justice Roberts was No. 1 and Justice Alito No. 2.

Studies showed the Roberts Court following the legal position of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which is a de facto organ of the National Republican Party, 69 percent of the time, up from 56 percent during the Rehnquist Court and 43 percent during the Burger Court. Connect the dots. The Republicans are the party of the corporations, the judges are the appointees of the Republicans, and the judges are delivering for the corporations. It is being done in plain view.

Many Chamber victories were significant, such as making employment discrimination harder to prove, letting manufacturers and distributors fix minimum prices for retail goods, letting mutual funds advisers include misstatements made by others in the documents they prepare for investors, and even Hobby Lobby, where the Court put the religious rights of corporate entities over the rights of employees.

Big corporations hate being hauled into court and having to face juries, and the five Republican appointees protected them by raising pleading standards for victims, letting companies push disputes into corporate-favored arbitration, restricting Americans' ability to press cases of large-scale wrongdoing in class actions, making it more difficult for workers to hold employers accountable for workplace harassment, and making it harder for consumers with serious side effects to sue the drug companies.

Now before the Court is a case the five-man bloc has pursued for some time. It was expected that the five would use it to deal a significant blow to the political and economic clout of unions, a great boon for the big corporations. It also looked like the five were teeing up for the fossil fuel industry, a big victory against the President's Clean Power Plan.

There was a lot at stake in that fifth vote. There was a lot that was delivered because of that fifth vote. At 4 to 4, the circuit court decision below

stands. At 4 to 4, the challenged regulation ordinarily prevails.

I will close with the big sockdolager: Citizens United. It was once the opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court that ''to subject the state governments to the combined capital of wealthy corporations [would] produce universal corruption.'' No more. The five judges behind Citizens United opened the floodgates for unlimited anonymous corporate spending in elections. They found that corporate corruption of elections was near impossible, and they caused a tsunami of slime—to use a phrase that I borrow—that we have seen in recent election cycles. Such a brute role for big corporations in our American Government would shock the Founding Fathers who foresaw no important role in our Republic for the corporations of the time.

To unleash that corporate power in our elections, the five conservative justices had to go through some remarkable contortions. They had to reverse previous decisions where the Court had said the opposite. They had to make up facts that were then predictably and are now demonstrably wrong. They had to create a make-believe world of independence and transparency in election spending that present experience belies, and they had to maneuver their own judicial procedures to forestall a factual record belying the facts they were making up.

It was a dirty business with a lot of signs of intent, and it has produced evil results that we live with every day. All of this—Republican election advantage, corporate welfare, the conservative social agenda—is because the activists, corporatists, and rightwing bloc had a fifth vote. That bloc of five did more for the far right, for the Republican Party, and for its corporate backers than all of the Republicans in the House and Senate have been able to do. They delivered. Now it is 4 to 4 and that advantage is gone; hence the panic on the Republican side; hence the departure from plain constitutional text.

Imagine any other constitutional duty of the President that he failed to do that would not cause uproar and outrage. There would be nobody on the floor here because everybody would have run off to FOX News to get their talking headshot in and talk about what a terrible thing the President had done by violating his constitutional duty. Well, the President has a constitutional duty—he shall nominate.

They are in a political pickle, but the Constitution doesn't care about the politics. From the Constitution's point of view, the politics are just too darn bad. The Constitution directs the President to make the appointment, and he should do his job. The Constitution gives the Senate the job of advice and consent to the President's nominee. We should do our job just as the Constitution provides.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING WILLIAM USHER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the life and legacy of a distinguished Kentuckian who has sadly passed away. William ''Bill'' Usher of Paducah died this February 14, 2016, after a short illness. He was 86 years old.

Bill was the owner and manager for many years of Usher Transport, a family-owned and operated Kentucky business founded in the 1940s. He was well known in Paducah and western Kentucky as a community leader, and he was a friend of mine whom I saw often in my travels through Paducah.

Bill gave generously of his time and resources to many organizations, charities, and causes. He served as both president and chairman of the Greater Paducah Chamber of Commerce. He served with Greater Paducah Industrial Development, the Paducah Rotary Club, the Kentucky Motor Transport Association, and National Tank Truck Carriers.

Bill was a board member of Citizens Bank and helped found Paducah's first industrial development group. He was the chairman of the Barkley Regional Airport board of directors. He was also the chairman of the Board of Exhibit Management in Louisville.

Bill understood what it means to serve from a young age. While studying at the University of Kentucky, he was named outstanding cadet of the Air Force ROTC. Upon graduation in 1952, he served as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force and Air Force Reserves for several years, retiring as a major.

While in the military, he served as an air combat and gunner instructor at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, AZ, and with the 417th Tactical Fighter Squadron based in France and Germany flying F–100s. He was awarded the Commendation Medal. In the 1960s, he moved back to Paducah to help build the family business.

Bill was a native of Graves County and attended the First United Methodist Church in Mayfield, KY.

He leaves behind his wife Virginia ''Ginger'' Sabel Usher; two sons, William A. Usher, Jr., and Alan W. Usher; a stepdaughter, Karen Elizabeth Reed Alpers; a stepson, James Boone Reed; three grandsons, Ryan Lunsford Usher, William Patrick Usher, and William A. Usher III; three stepgrandsons, David Roscoe Reed II, William Murphy Reed, and Ely E. Mazmanians; a stepgranddaughter, Avary Frazier; extended family members Gabriel Vieira, Kathleen Overlin, Sabel Overlin, Max Overlin, Elise Overlin, and Stacy Overlin; and many more beloved family members and friends.

The Paducah Sun recently published an article highlighting the impact Bill Usher had on his friends, family, and community. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Paducah Sun, Feb. 15, 2016]

BILL USHER REMEMBERED AS BENEVOLENT PUBLIC SERVANT

(By Kaylan Thompson)

Paducah leaders and friends remember William ''Bill'' Usher as a driving force of leadership and benevolence throughout the area and say his impact will be felt throughout the community for years to come.

''He's a rare breed of community leader in Paducah,'' said Bill Bartleman, McCracken County commissioner and friend of Usher for nearly 40 years. ''He was the old kind of leadership, the behind-the-scenes leader that we used to have, the kind of people who weren't in the limelight. They just did what they thought was right for the community.''

Usher died early Sunday morning at Morningside Assisted Living. He was 86.

Bartleman, a former legislative reporter with The Sun, first got to know Usher while covering community and political movements in the 1970s. During that time, Usher proved a helpful source and political liaison.

''He was a major force for our community,'' Bartleman said. ''He did a lot to help the community and did it quietly. He had contacts with political leaders, and he worked with them to get benefits for the community. He did things that people probably didn't know about and would have been hard to document because he worked so humbly.''

Usher's political and civic resume includes an array of titles, including chairman of the McCracken County Democratic Party, president of the Greater Paducah Chamber of Commerce, president of the Paducah Rotary Club, and chairman of the Barkley Regional Airport Board of Directors.

''He was always supportive and always encouraged good government,'' Bartleman said. ''He wanted people to do the right thing. He didn't use his influence to benefit himself, he used it solely to benefit the community through the bureaucracy of government.''

During Bartleman's campaign for political office, he added, Usher often reached out to him.

''He said he was supportive of me as long as I would do what's right for the community and the people,'' he said. ''Even in his senior years he was involved in politics and wanted things done right, not to see people elected to help himself, but to see people elected who would do good government.''

That inspiration, Bartleman said, is the torch Usher passed on to him and others, encouraging them to lead with humility.

''What I learned from him is to just do the right thing and don't seek publicity,'' Bartleman said. ''In the long run you'll be rewarded, at least in knowing you benefited the community. Your involvement in anything should be to do what's right and not seek self-gratification.''

Usher, a Mayfield native, was a graduate of Mayfield High School and the University of Kentucky.

He came to Paducah in 1960 following eight years of service in the U.S. Air Force, then taking on the family business, Usher Transportation Co., as president.

In recent years, he strongly supported several charitable organizations and the Paducah Police Department.

While most of his work remained anonymous, his chief involvement with the department was with Christmas Cops, a program

engaging police with area families and youth through shopping for gifts and necessities.

''Bill, being a huge supporter of the mission of the police department to build relationships with the community and the children, has been instrumental in affecting many, many lives in this community positively by either financial support or being there to support our efforts,'' said Paducah Police Chief Brandon Barnhill, a friend of his for many years.

Usher's support of the department began when he initiated an annual fundraiser in support of the program in the 1990s. His efforts remained largely anonymous until the early 2000s, when he became a member of the Christmas Cops board.

''Whether it was financial or moral, he was always there in a supporting nature,'' Barnhill said. ''He was a big driving force behind much of what we do during the Christmas season. He was a well-grounded individual, and he stayed true to his principles. He would give you the shirt off his back if that's what it took, and that's putting it lightly.''

A healthy community with thriving individuals was Usher's goal, believing connections and relationships were key to achieving it.

''He fully understood the value of mentoring and fostering a positive relationship with the police and youth,'' said Stacey Grimes, retired assistant chief of criminal investigations with the Paducah Police Department. ''We're not always arresting people or writing tickets, and he wanted them to see us in a different light.''

Grimes met Usher in 1994 at a Christmas Cops fundraiser, then called Shop with a Cop.

''He and his wife didn't want any praise or publicity for hosting the fundraiser,'' Grimes said. ''He was extremely humble and was probably the most benevolent man that I've ever met. He never sought praise for what he did, not even a pat on the back.''

''He always worked everything behind the scenes. His work helped ensure the program is sustainable for the future. Because of what Bill set up, I think it will be there for generations to come.''

Usher's friends agree that helping others was always his top priority.

''The hardest part of this is that we will never know how many lives Bill has positively affected,'' Barnhill said. ''But we do know there are many, many out there. It's just the person that he was.''

TRIBUTE TO LESLIE PROLL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Leslie Proll, the director of policy for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., for her years of excellent public service as she begins a new chapter in her career. Since 1998, Leslie has served as policy director at LDF, where she has advocated for the organization's policy and legislative priorities. She has brought her expertise to bear on advancing important Federal civil rights legislation and advocating for well-qualified, diverse nominees to serve in our Federal judiciary and the executive branch.

My staff has worked closely with her over the years, and she has been steadfast and unwavering in her commitment to civil rights. Leslie provided invaluable support when Congress reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 2006 and passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009. Her contributions to these two critical legislative initiatives, along with the civil rights community, proved instrumental in moving these two bills through Congress.

Leslie has been an effective and tireless advocate in promoting diversity in our Federal judiciary so that our courts are more representative of the citizenry they serve. Our justice system has been made a better one because of her contributions. I commend Leslie for her years of service and wish her the best as she moves forward in her career.

CONFIRMATION OF ROBERT CALIFF

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Robert Califf on his confirmation today as Food and Drug Administration, FDA, Commissioner. Dr. Califf is a well-respected cardiologist that hails from Anderson, SC,—very close to where I grew up. He has served our country and its medical needs in a variety of capacities. As a faculty member and professor at Duke University, he founded the Duke Clinical Research Institute and served as vice chancellor for clinical research. In addition to his accomplishments during his tenure at Duke, he is an active member of several professional organizations, including committees of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies and the FDA.

In 2015, Dr. Califf was named Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco for the FDA. In this role, Dr. Califf is responsible for overseeing and directing the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, and the Center for Tobacco Products. He also oversees the Office of Special Medical Programs.

The broad bipartisan support for Dr. Califf's nomination is testament to his strong, transparent leadership and record of advancing medical breakthroughs. The FDA has been operating without a confirmed Commissioner for the past year, and I applaud the Senate's confirmation of Dr. Califf. I look forward to working with Dr. Califf as he brings his expertise to addressing challenges facing the FDA and our Nation.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today the Senate voted on the confirmation of Dr. Robert Califf to serve as Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. While I was unable to vote today, I would have supported Dr. Califf's nomination, just as I supported proceeding to cloture on his nomination in Monday evening's vote.

The Food and Drug Administration has lacked a permanent Commissioner for almost a year, despite its role overseeing the safety of 25 percent of goods sold in the United States, including food, drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, and vitamin supplements.

I believe that Dr. Califf, a Duke cardiologist and clinical trial researcher endorsed by over 100 physician and patient groups, is well qualified to oversee this critical mission.

I look forward to working with Dr. Califf to implement key public health priorities, including examining ways to tackle rising prescription drugs prices, improve clinical trials, and combat the opioid epidemic.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for today's vote on the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

I would have voted nay.●

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for February 2016. The report compares current law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts provided in the conference report to accompany S. Con. Res. 11, the budget resolution for fiscal year 2016. This information is necessary to determine whether budget points of order lie against pending legislation. It has been prepared by the Republican staff of the Senate Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, CBA.

This is the second scorekeeping report for this calendar year but the sixth report I have made since adoption of the fiscal year 2016 budget resolution on May 5, 2015. My last filing can be found in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on January 11, 2016. The information contained in this report is current through February 22, 2016.

Table 1 gives the amount by which each Senate authorizing committee is below or exceeds its allocation under the budget resolution. This information is used for enforcing committee allocations pursuant to section 302 of the CBA. Over the fiscal year 2016–2025 period, which is the entire period covered by S. Con. Res. 11, Senate authorizing committees have spent $147.9 billion more than the budget resolution calls for.

Table 2 gives the amount by which the Senate Committee on Appropriations is below or exceeds the statutory spending limits. This information is used to determine points of order related to the spending caps found in section 312 and section 314 of the CBA. On December 18, 2015, the President signed H.R. 2029, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, P.L. 114–113, into law. This bill provided regular appropriations equal to the levels set in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, P.L. 114–74, specifically $548.1 billion in budget authority for defense accounts, revised

security category, and $518.5 billion in budget authority for nondefense accounts, revised nonsecurity category.

Table 3 gives the amount by which the Senate Committee on Appropriations is below or exceeds its allocation for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism, OCO/GWOT, spending. This separate allocation for OCO/GWOT was established in section 3102 of S. Con. Res. 11 and is enforced using section 302 of the CBA. The consolidated appropriations bill included $73.7 billion in budget authority and $32.1 billion in outlays for OCO/GWOT in fiscal year 2016. This level is equal to the revised OCO/GWOT levels that I filed in the RECORD on December 18, 2015.

The budget resolution established two new points of order limiting the use of changes in mandatory programs in appropriations bills, CHIMPS. Tables 4 and 5 show compliance with fiscal year 2016 limits for overall CHIMPS and the Crime Victims Fund CHIMP, respectively. This information is used for determining points of order under section 3103 and section 3104, respectively. Enacted CHIMPS are under both the broader CHIMPS limit, $1.3 billion less, and the Crime Victims Fund limit, $1.8 billion less.

In addition to the tables provided by the Senate Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting additional tables from CBO that I will use for enforcement of budget levels agreed to by the Congress.

For fiscal year 2016, CBO estimates that current law levels are $138.9 billion and $103.6 billion above the budget resolution levels for budget authority and outlays, respectively. Revenues are $155.2 billion below the level assumed in the budget resolution. Finally, Social Security outlays are at the levels assumed in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2016, while Social Security revenues are $23 million below assumed levels for the budget year.

CBO's report also provides information needed to enforce the Senate's pay-as-you-go rule. The Senate's pay-as-you-go scorecard currently shows deficit reduction of $20.4 billion over the fiscal year 2015–2020 period and $95.7 billion over the fiscal year 2015–2025 period. Over the initial 6-year period, Congress has enacted legislation that would increase revenues by $17 billion and decrease outlays by $3.3 billion. Over the 11-year period, Congress has enacted legislation that would increase revenues by $36.8 billion and decrease outlays by $59 billion. The Senate's pay-as-you-go rule is enforced by section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21, the fiscal year 2008 budget resolution.

All years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables be printed in the RECORD.

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

TABLE 1.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—ENACTED DIRECT SPENDING ABOVE (+) OR BELOW (−) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

(In millions of dollars)

	2016	2016–2020	2016–2025
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Armed Services			
Budget Authority	−66	−518	−1,117
Outlays	−50	−476	−1,099
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation			
Budget Authority	130	650	1,300
Outlays	0	0	0
Energy and Natural Resources			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Environment and Public Works			
Budget Authority	2,880	19,432	9,459
Outlays	252	1,147	−8,801
Finance			
Budget Authority	365	41,116	152,815
Outlays	365	41,116	152,815
Foreign Relations			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	−1	0
Judiciary			
Budget Authority	−3,358	5,962	4,833
Outlays	1,713	5,862	4,082
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions			
Budget Authority	0	208	278
Outlays	0	208	278
Rules and Administration			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Intelligence			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Veterans' Affairs			
Budget Authority	−2	−1	−1
Outlays	388	644	644
Indian Affairs			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Small Business			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	1	2	2
Total			
Budget Authority	−51	66,849	167,567
Outlays	2,669	48,502	147,921

TABLE 2.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS [1]

(Budget authority, in millions of dollars)

	2016	
	Security [2]	Nonsecurity [2]
Statutory Discretionary Limits	548,091	518,491
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0	21,750
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	5,101	50,621
Defense	514,000	136
Energy and Water Development	18,860	18,325
Financial Services and General Government	44	23,191
Homeland Security	1,705	39,250
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0	32,159
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	0	162,127
Legislative Branch	0	4,363
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	8,171	71,698
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0	37,780
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	210	57,091
Current Level Total	548,091	518,491
Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (−) Statutory Limits	0	0

[1] This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(b)(2) of BBEDCA.

[2] Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

TABLE 3.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS

(In millions of dollars)

	2016	
	BA	OT
OCO/GWOT Allocation [1]	73,693	32,079
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	0	0
Defense	58,638	27,354
Energy and Water Development	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	0	0
Homeland Security	160	128
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	0	0
Legislative Branch	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	0	0
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	14,895	4,597
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	0	0
Current Level Total	73,693	32,079
Total OCO/GWOT Spending vs. Budget Resolution	0	0

BA = Budget Authority; OT = Outlays

[1] This allocation may be adjusted by the Chairman of the Budget Committee to account for new information, pursuant to section 3102 of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

TABLE 4.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)

(Budget authority, millions of dollars)

	2016
CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2016	19,100
Senate Appropriations Subcommittees	
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	600
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	9,458
Defense	0
Energy and Water Development	0
Financial Services and General Government	725
Homeland Security	176
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	28
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	6,799
Legislative Branch	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	0
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	0
Current Level Total	17,786
Total CHIMPS Above (+) or Below (−) Budget Resolution	−1,314

TABLE 5.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAM (CHIMP) TO THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND

(Budget authority, millions of dollars)

	2016
Crime Victims Fund (CVF) CHIMP Limit for Fiscal Year 2016	10,800
Senate Appropriations Subcommittees	
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	9,000
Defense	0
Energy and Water Development	0
Financial Services and General Government	0
Homeland Security	0
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	0
Legislative Branch	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	0
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	0
Current Level Total	9,000
Total CVF CHIMP Above (+) or Below (−) Budget Resolution	−1,800

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, February 24, 2016.

Hon. MIKE ENZI,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2016 budget and is current through February 22, 2016. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

Since our last letter dated January 11, 2016, the Congress has cleared for the President's signature the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (H.R. 644). That act would affect budget authority, outlays, and revenues for fiscal year 2016.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016, AS OF FEBRUARY 22, 2016

(In billions of dollars)

	Budget Resolution	Current Level [a]	Current Level Over/ Under (−) Resolution
On-Budget			
Budget Authority	3,069.8	3,208.7	138.9
Outlays	3,091.2	3,194.9	103.6
Revenues	2,676.0	2,520.7	−155.2
Off-Budget			
Social Security Outlays [b]	777.1	777.1	0.0
Social Security Revenues	794.0	794.0	0.0

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

a. Excludes emergency funding that was not designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

b. Excludes administrative expenses paid from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016, AS OF FEBRUARY 22, 2016

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted [a]			
Revenues	n.a,	n.a.	2,676,733
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,968,496	1,902,345	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	500,825	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−784,820	−784,879	n.a.
Total, Previously Enacted	1,183,676	1,618,291	2,676,733
Enacted Legislation:			
An act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes (P.L. 114–25)	0	20	0
Defending Public Safety Employees' Retirement Act & Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–26)	0	0	5
Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–27)	445	175	−766
Steve Gleason Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–40)	5	5	0
Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–41) [b]	0	0	99
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114–53)	700	775	0
Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–55)	130	0	0
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–58)	−2	368	0
Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act (P.L. 114–60)	0	0	40
Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–74)	3,424	4,870	269
Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–88)	0	1	0
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (P.L. 114–92)	−66	−50	0
Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (P.L. 114–94)	2,880	252	471
Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–105)	269	269	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114–113) [b]	2,008,016	1,563,177	−156,107
Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act (P.L. 114–115)	32	32	0
Total, Enacted Legislation	2,015,833	1,569,894	−155,989
Passed, Pending Signature:			
Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (H.R. 644)	20	20	−7
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	9,170	6,674	0
Total Current Level [c]	3,208,699	3,194,879	2,520,737
Total Senate Resolution [d]	3,069,829	3,091,246	2,675,967
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	138,870	103,633	n.a.
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	155,230
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2016–2025:			
Senate Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	31,755,050
Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	32,233,099
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	478,049

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

a. Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016: the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014 (P.L. 114–1); the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 114–4), and the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–10).

b. Emergency funding that was not designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not count for certain budgetary enforcement purposes. These amounts, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–41)	0	917	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114–113)	−2	0	0
Total	−2	917	0

c. For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the resolution, as approved by the Senate, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

d. Periodically, the Senate Committee on the Budget revises the budgetary levels in S. Con. Res. 11, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution. The Initial Senate Resolution total below excludes $6,872 million in budget authority and $344 million in outlays assumed in S. Con. Res. 11 for disaster-related spending. The Revised Senate Resolution total below includes amounts for disaster-related spending:

Initial Senate Resolution:	3,032,343	3,091,098	2,676,733
Revisions:			
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 4311 of S. Con. Res. 11	445	175	−766
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and S. Con. Res. 11	700	700	0
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and S. Con. Res. 11	0	1	0
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 4313 of S. Con. Res. 11	269	269	0
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 3404 of S. Con. Res. 11	36,072	−997	0
Revised Senate Resolution	3,069,829	3,091,246	2,675,967

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS, AS OF FEBRUARY 22, 2016

(In millions of dollars)

	2015–2020	2015–2025
Beginning Balance [a]	0	0

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS, AS OF FEBRUARY 22, 2016—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

	2015–2020	2015–2025
Enacted Legislation:[b c d]		
Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–17)	n.e.	n.e.
Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (P.L. 114–19)	20	20
Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–22)	1	2
Uniting and Strengthening America by Fulfilling Rights and Ensuring Effective Discipline Over Monitoring Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–23)	*	*
An act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado (P.L. 114–25)	150	150
Defending Public Safety Employees' Retirement Act & Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–26)	−1	5
Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–27)	−640	−52
Boys Town Centennial Commemorative Coin Act (P.L. 114–30)	0	0
Steve Gleason Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–40)	13	28
Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–41)	−1,552	−6,924
Agriculture Reauthorizations Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–54)	*	*
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–58)	624	624
Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act (P.L. 114–60)	−32	−2
Gold Star Fathers Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–62)	*	*
Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–63)	*	*
Adoptive Family Relief Act (P.L. 114–70)	*	*
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–73)	*	*
Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–74)	−15,050	−71,315
Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–81)	*	*
A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify waiver authority regarding programs for all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE programs) (P.L. 114–85)	*	*
Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–88)	2	2
Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act (P.L. 114–89)	*	*
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (P.L. 114–92)	−194	−10
Equity in Government Compensation Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–93)	*	*
Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (P.L. 114–94)[g]	−3,845	−18,144
Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act (P.L. 114–97)	*	*
Breast Cancer Research Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–99)	−1	0
Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–102)	*	*
Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–104)	*	*
Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–105)	−14	−13
Securing Fairness in Regulatory Timing Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–106)	*	*
National Guard and Reservist Debt Relief Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–107)	*	*
Federal Improper Payments Coordination Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–109)	*	*
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114–113)[h]	2	4
Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act (P.L. 114–115)	36	−1
District of Columbia Courts, Public Defender Service, and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–118)	*	*
International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders (P.L. 114–119)	*	*
Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–120)	*	*
North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–122)	*	*
Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (H.R. 644)	104	−116
Judicial Redress Act of 2015 (H.R. 1428)	*	*
To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Florida. (H.R. 890)	*	*
Current Balance	−20,377	−95,742
Memorandum:		
Changes to Revenues	17,037	36,750
Changes to Outlays	−3,340	−58,992

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
Notes: n.e. = not able to estimate; P.L. = Public Law.
* = between −$500,000 and $500,000.
[a] Pursuant to S. Con. Res. 11, the Senate Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard was reset to zero.
[b] The amounts shown represent the estimated impact of the public laws on the deficit. Negative numbers indicate an increase in the deficit; positive numbers indicate a decrease in the deficit.
[c] Excludes off-budget amounts.
[d] Excludes amounts designated as emergency requirements.
[e] P.L. 114–17 could affect direct spending and revenues, but such impacts would depend on future actions of the President that CBO cannot predict. (http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/s615.pdf)
[f] P.L. 114–30 will cause a decrease in spending of $5 million in 2017 and an increase in spending of $5 million in 2019 for a net impact of zero over the six-year and eleven-year periods.
[g] The budgetary effects associated with the Federal Reserve Surplus Funds are excluded from the PAYGO Scorecard in P.L. 114–94 pursuant to section 232(b) of H.C. Res. 290, the Concurrent Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001 (106th Congress).
[h] The budgetary effects of divisions M through Q are not reflected in the PAYGO Scorecard pursuant to section 1001(b) of Title X of Division O of P.L. 114–113.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUDGE DAN KEMP NALL

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Judge Dan Kemp Nall of Sheridan, AR, who passed away on Sunday, February 14, 2016.

Judge Nall was a beloved husband, brother, father, and grandfather. He was also a dedicated public servant, especially to his friends and neighbors in Grant County where he served as county judge for 10 terms after serving for 20 years on the Grant County Quorum Court. He was also active in many civic organizations, including the Jaycees and the Sheridan Rotary Club, further demonstrating his commitment to the people of his community. A graduate of the University of Arkansas, Judge Nall was a dedicated Razorback fan.

I admire his dedication to serving his lifelong home of Grant County. I know his leadership, dedication, and commitment to the community will be missed by many. I join with them in praying for comfort for Judge Nall's friends and loved ones. We will remember the valuable contributions he made which enriched the lives of those he served, and we honor his enduring legacy as a public servant.●

TRIBUTE TO TOM KUNTZ

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Tom Kuntz of Red Lodge, MT, for his company's generous donations to nonprofits throughout Carbon County.

Tom is the owner of local pizza shop Red Lodge Pizza Co., which contributed $11,700 of its profits to 20 various nonprofits to help support their goals and missions. His contributions make up the largest portion of $34,000 raised during this year's third annual charitable contribution program on behalf of the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation.

His generous giving is not just a one-time occurrence. Throughout his 20 years in business, Red Lodge Pizza Co. has made supporting community organizations a priority.

Some of the organizations profiting from Red Lodge Pizza Co.'s donations include Boys and Girls of Carbon County, Domestic & Sexual Violence Services, Red Lodge Public Schools Foundation, Beartooth Humane Alliance, and Bridger Community Food Bank.

Tom is also the Red Lodge fire chief and was gracious enough to give me a tour of an area fire discussing fuels reduction in August of 2013. I am grateful for Tom's dedication to his hometown, his generosity and selfless actions benefitting the people and organizations that make up his community. It's people like Tom that make me proud to call Montana home. I agree with Tom when he says ''it is great to give back to people that make this place so wonderful.''●

RECOGNIZING ROSECRANCE HEALTH NETWORK

● Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Rosecrance Health Network for providing 100 years of high-quality care for Illinois residents. As the Senate considers legislation to address the heroin and opioid epidemic, including S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which I was proud to introduce with Senators WHITEHOUSE, PORTMAN, KLOBUCHAR, AYOTTE, and COONS, we

should consider successful organizations like Rosecrance who have been treating individuals with addiction for decades.

Rosecrance Memorial Home for Children was established in 1916 to care for neglected and dependent children in New Milford, IL. In 1982, after moving to Rockford, IL, in the 1970s, they recognized growing substance abuse rates among teenagers and created a first-of-its-kind chemical dependency treatment program in northern Illinois specifically for this population. In 1992, this program expanded to serve adults as well.

Five years ago, they recognized the importance of integrating addiction and mental health treatment and merged with the Janet Wattles Center in Rockford. This has enabled them to treat individuals with co-occurring disorders that require behavioral health and addiction treatment more effectively. They now provide critical services for over 22,000 children, adolescents, adults, and families at over 40 locations in Illinois and Wisconsin annually.

I congratulate Rosecrance Health Network on a century of success and look forward to working with them to address substance abuse in my State.●

TRIBUTE TO BUFFALO GALS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Buffalo Gals, a monthly gathering of women in the Rapid City, SD, area that are hosts of the International Women's Day celebration starting on March 4, 2016, in Rapid City.

The Buffalo Gals are a motivated group of over 100 women who have gathered once a month in Rapid City over the past year. Their mission is to create a community of driven, like-minded women who share their experiences with one another and act as role models for people of all ages. This inspirational group spreads awareness of worthy causes and empowers its members to accomplish their goals, which benefits the community as a whole.

This year's theme for the International Women's Day celebration is ''Celebrate our Legacy.'' This exciting 2-day event will honor the accomplishments and promising futures of the Buffalo Gals and women everywhere, and it will feature guest speakers, meals, and a live concert that will inspire women to continue to be leaders that seek to address complex community and family challenges.

These remarkable women have achieved a great deal in the past year, and I am excited to see what they do in the future. I wish them continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JULIA BROECHER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Julia Broecher from my hometown of Murdo, SD, as she celebrates her 100th birthday. Julia was born in Kimball, SD, to Thomas and Sophia Lebeda. At the age of 3, her family moved to Murdo, where she has lived ever since. Julia is the oldest of 14 children, and five of her siblings are still living today.

Julia married Carroll Broecher in 1937. The couple had four children, three girls and one boy. Today, Julia has 15 grandchildren and numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren.

In her youth, Julia worked as a country school teacher for several years, and later in life, she was the head custodian for the Jones County courthouse and a well-known restaurant in Murdo.

Over the years, Julia has had a significant impact on the Murdo community and has been a fixture at school and community functions. She is a charter member of the Community Bible Church where she taught Sunday school to many children. One of those children was me. She was known in the area as being a master seamstress, making many wedding and prom dresses for young women, as well as teaching young women how to sew. Julia loves to fish and play cards and dominoes with family at the Murdo Senior Center.

Julia has always welcomed challenges with a loving and caring attitude and is the embodiment of the American values of faith, family, friends and freedom.

Happy birthday, Julia.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE MODIFICATION AND CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CUBA AND OF THE EMERGENCY AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF THE ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS, AS AMENDED—PM 42

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 1 of title II of Public Law 65–24, ch. 30, June 15, 1917, as amended (50 U.S.C. 191), sections 201, 202, and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report that I have issued a Proclamation to modify and continue the national emergency declared in Proclamations 6867 and 7757.

The Proclamation recognizes that certain descriptions of the national emergency set forth in Proclamations 6867 and 7757 no longer reflect the international relations of the United States related to Cuba. Further, the Proclamation recognizes the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba, and that the United States continues to pursue the progressive normalization of relations while aspiring toward a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic Cuba.

The Proclamation clarifies the national emergency related to Cuba and specifically provides the following statements related to U.S. national security and foreign policy:

● It is U.S. policy that a mass migration from Cuba would endanger the security of the United States by posing a disturbance or threatened disturbance of the international relations of the United States.

● The unauthorized entry of vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States into Cuban territorial waters is in violation of U.S. law and contrary to U.S. policy.

● The unauthorized entry of U.S.-registered vessels into Cuban territorial waters is detrimental to U.S. foreign policy, and counter to the purpose of Executive Order 12807, which is to ensure, among other things, safe, orderly, and legal migration.

● The possibility of large-scale unauthorized entries of U.S.-registered vessels would disturb the international relations of the United States by facilitating a possible mass migration of Cuban nationals.

I have directed the Secretary of Homeland Security (the ''Secretary'') to make and issue such rules and regulations as the Secretary may find appropriate to regulate the anchorage and movement of vessels, and authorize and approve the Secretary's issuance of such rules and regulations, as authorized by the Act of June 15, 1917.

I am enclosing a copy of the Proclamation I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 24, 2016.*

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:40 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2109. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop an integrated plan to reduce administrative costs under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 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. 3584. An act to authorize, streamline, and identify efficiencies within the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4398. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for requirements relating to documentation for major acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4402. An act to require a review of information regarding persons who have traveled or attempted to travel from the United States to support terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4408. An act to require the development of a national strategy to combat terrorist travel, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 620. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 113. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the ''Borinqueneers''.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:56 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 487. An act to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands.

H.R. 890. An act to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Florida.

H.R. 3262. An act to provide for the conveyance of land of the Illiana Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Danville, Illinois.

H.R. 4056. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convey to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs all right, title, and interest of the United States to the property known as ''The Community Living Center'' at the Lake Baldwin Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic, Orlando, Florida.

H.R. 4437. An act to extend the deadline for the submittal of the final report required by the Commission on Care.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3584. An act to authorize, streamline, and identify efficiencies within the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4398. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for requirements relating to documentation for major acquisition programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4402. An act to require a review of information regarding persons who have traveled or attempted to travel from the United States to support terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4408. An act to require the development of a national strategy to combat terrorist travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following resolution was ordered held at the desk, by unanimous consent:

S. Res. 374. Resolution relating to the death of Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

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–4455. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pyriproxyfen; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9941–38–OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4456. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Triclopyr; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9941–87–OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4457. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's proposed fiscal year 2017 budget; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4458. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting, authorization of Lieutenant General John W. Nicholson, Jr., United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4459. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4460. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Libya declared in Executive Order 13566; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4461. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rules of Practice and Procedure; Civil Money Penalty Inflation Adjustment'' (RIN2590–AA77) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4462. A communication from the Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Bank Enterprise Award Program'' ((RIN1505–AA91) (12 CFR Part 1806)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4463. A communication from the Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Community Development Financial Institutions Program'' ((RIN1505–AA92) (12 CFR Part 1805)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4464. A communication from the Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Capital Magnet Fund'' (RIN1559–AA00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4465. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Annual Update of Filing Fees'' ((RIN1902–AF17) (Docket No. RM16–2–000)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4466. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Review of New Sources and Modifications in Indian Country: Extension of Permitting and Registration Deadlines for True Minor Sources Engaged in Oil and Natural Gas Production in Indian Country'' ((RIN2060–AS27) (FRL No. 9942–64–OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4467. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Regulation to Limit Nitrogen Oxides Emissions from Large Non-Electric Generating Units'' (FRL No. 9942–59–Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4468. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Interstate Pollution Transport Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide Standards'' (FRL No. 9942–58–Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4469. 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; Revision to the Milwaukee-Racine-Waukesha 2006 24-Hour Particulate Matter Maintenance Plan'' (FRL No. 9942–56–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4470. 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; Indiana; Particulate Matter Emissions Limits Revision'' (FRL No. 9942–54–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4471. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Clarification of Requirements for Method 303 Certification Training'' ((RIN2060–AR97) (FRL No. 9940–76–OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4472. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Emissions Inventory and Emissions Statement for the Missouri Portion of the St. Louis-MO–IL Ozone Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9942–76–Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4473. 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 and Air Quality Designation; GA; Redesignation of the Atlanta, GA, 1997 Annual PM2.5 Nonattainment Area to Attainment'' (FRL No. 9942–61–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4474. A communication from the Acting Unified Listing Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-Eared Bat'' (RIN1018–AY98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4475. A communication from the Acting Unified Listing Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat; Implementing Changes to the Regulations for Designating Critical Habitat'' (RIN1018–AX86 and RIN0648–BB79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4476. A communication from the Acting Unified Listing Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Consolea Corallicola (Florida Semaphore Cactus) and Harrisia aboriginum (Aboriginal Prickly-apple)'' (RIN1018–AZ92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4477. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Clarification of Licensee Actions in Receipt of Enforcement Discretion Per Enforcement Guidance Memorandum EGM 15–002, 'Enforcement Discretion for Tornado-Generated Missile Protection Noncompliance' '' (DSS–ISG–2016–01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4478. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Bogue Banks project in Carteret County, North Carolina; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4479. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a project for Flagler County, Florida; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4480. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a project for Edisto Beach, Colleton County, South Carolina; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4481. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; Technical Corrections for Eight Wildlife Species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife'' (RIN1018–BB28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4482. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassifying Hesperocyparis abramsiana (=Cupressus abramsiana) as Threatened'' (RIN1018–AY77) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4483. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Department of the Treasury Regulations for the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund'' ((RIN1505–AC44) (31 CFR Part 34)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4484. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Maximum Vehicle Values for 2016 for Use With Vehicle Cents-Per-Mile and Fleet-Average Valuation Rules'' (Notice 2016–12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4485. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2015 Inflation Adjustment Factor for the Indian Coal Production Credit'' (Notice 2016–11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4486. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Timing of Submitting Preexisting Accounts and Periodic Certifications'' (Notice 2016–08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4487. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2016 Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Certain Items Resulting from the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015'' (Rev. Proc. 2016–14) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4488. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Transition Relief for Certain Section 529 Qualified Tuition Programs Required to File Form 1099–Q'' (Notice 2016–13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4489. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Department of the Treasury Employee Rules of Conduct'' (31 CFR Part 0) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4490. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS–2016–0164); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4491. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS–2016–0112); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4492. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS–2016–0167); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4493. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS–2016–0111); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4494. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15–123); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4495. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period August 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4496. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Economic Report of the President together with the 2016 Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers; to the Joint Economic Committee.

EC–4497. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Review and Reclassification Procedures for Biological Products Licensed Prior to July 1, 1972'' (Docket No. FDA–2015–N–2103) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 16, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4498. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) annual report on Drug Shortages for Calendar Year 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4499. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Fiscal Year 2014 Report on the Preventive Medicine and Public Health Training Grant and Integrative Medicine Programs''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4500. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Implementation of the Short-Time Compensation (STC) Program Provisions in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4501. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA–3374–EM in the State of Missouri having exceeded the $5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4502. A communication from the Secretary of the Board of Governors, U.S. Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4503. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''The Durability of Police Reform: The Metropolitan Police Department Use of Force: 2008–2015'' ; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4504. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual reports of the Attorney General relative to enforcement actions taken by the Department of Justice under the Lobbying Disclosure Act for the periods beginning on January 1, 2012; July 1, 2012; January 1, 2013; July 1, 2013; January 1, 2014; July 1, 2014; and January 1, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–4505. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to grants made under the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–4506. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Size Standards: Inflation Adjustments to Monetary Based Size Standards'' (RIN3245–AG60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–4507. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Size Standards: Industries With Employee Based Size Standards Not Part of Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, or Retail Trade'' (RIN3245–AG51) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–4508. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Size Standards for Manufacturing'' (RIN3245–AG50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–4509. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Size Standards: Employee Based Size Standards in Wholesale Trade and Retail Trade'' (RIN3245–AG49) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–4510. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Grants Management, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Awarding Agency Regulatory Implementation of Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards'' (RIN3245–AG62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 17, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–4511. A communication from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Notification and Reporting of Aircraft Accidents or Incidents and Overdue Aircraft, and Preservation of Aircraft Wreckage, Mail, Cargo, and Records'' (RIN3147–AA11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4512. A communication from the Federal Register and Regulatory Liaison Officer, Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Discrimination on the Basis of Disability in Federally Assisted and Federally Conducted Programs and Activities'' (RIN2700–AD85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 16, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4513. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf, and South Atlantic; Aquaculture'' (RIN0648–AS65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4514. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Island Pelagic Fisheries; Exemption for Large U.S. Longline Vessels To Fish in Portions of the American Samoa Large Vessel Prohibited Area'' (RIN0648–BF22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4515. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program'' (RIN0648–BF68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4516. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustment for the Common Pool Fishery'' (RIN0648–XE398) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4517. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Greater Amberjack'' (RIN0648–XE397) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4518. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 in the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XE420) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4519. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Directed Fishing With Trawl Gear by Fisheries Act Catcher Processors in Bycatch Limitation Zone 1 of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XE429) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4520. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Pot Catcher/Processors in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XE418) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 18, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4521. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2016 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pollock, Atka Mackerel, and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts'' (RIN0648–XE367) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4522. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2015–2016 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648–BF63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4523. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2016 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pollock, Atka Mackerel, and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts'' (RIN0648–XE367) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2276. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide enhanced safety in pipeline transportation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–209).

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 659. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–210).

S. 1024. A bill to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative , and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–211).

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1674. A bill to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship (Rept. No. 114–212).

S. 2143. A bill to provide for the authority for the successors and assigns of the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company to maintain and operate a toll bridge across the Rio Grande near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–213).

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. PORTMAN:

S. 2570. A bill to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules and consideration of the least burdensome regulatory alternative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 2571. A bill to provide for the eligibility for airport development grants of airports that enter into certain leases with components of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2572. A bill to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of increasing the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2573. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for taxpayers who remove lead-based hazards; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2574. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to adopt a centralized electronic system to help expedite the placement of children in foster care or guardianship, or for adoption, across State lines, and to provide grants to aid States in developing such a system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 2575. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for property owners who remove hazards relating to lead, asbestos, and radon; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 2576. A bill to permit the Attorney General to authorize a temporary transfer of funds from Department of Justice accounts in the amount necessary to restore Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program equitable sharing payments to participating law enforcement agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2577. A bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2578. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to permit certain partial fillings of prescriptions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, Mr. BURR, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2579. A bill to provide additional support to ensure safe drinking water; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 30. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Pakistan of F–16 Block 52 aircraft; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. REID, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BURR, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 372. A resolution celebrating Black History Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 373. A resolution recognizing the historical significance of Executive Order 9066 and expressing the sense of the Senate that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066 and contrary to the values of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS,

Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 374. A resolution relating to the death of Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; ordered held at the desk.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 239

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 239, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes.

S. 353

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 353, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments.

S. 441

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, supra.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1131

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1131, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

S. 1358

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1358, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inter in national cemeteries individuals who supported the United States in Laos during the Vietnam War era.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1890

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1890, a bill to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

S. 1913

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1913, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish programs to prevent prescription drug abuse under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2041

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2041, a bill to promote the development of safe drugs for neonates.

S. 2185

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2185, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer.

S. 2268

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2268, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dust Off crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and lifesaving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2276

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2276, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide enhanced safety in pipeline transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 2426

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2426, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes.

S. 2427

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 2455

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2455, a bill to expand school choice in the District of Columbia.

S. 2474

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2474, a bill to allow for additional markings, including the words ''Israel'' and ''Product in Israel,'' to be used for country of origin marking requirements for goods made in the geographical areas known as the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

S. 2512

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2512, a bill to expand the tropical disease product priority review voucher program to encourage treatments for Zika virus.

S. 2531

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2531, a bill to authorize State and local governments to divest from entities that engage in commerce-related or investment-related boycott, divestment, or sanctions activities targeting Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2540

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2540, a bill to provide access to counsel for unaccompanied children and other vulnerable populations.

S. 2558

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2558, a bill to expand the prohibition on misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and for other purposes.

S. 2559

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from

West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2559, a bill to prohibit the modification, termination, abandonment, or transfer of the lease by which the United States acquired the land and waters containing Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

S. 2563

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2563, a bill to affirm the importance of the land forces of the United States Armed Forces and to authorize fiscal year 2016 end-strength minimum levels for the active and reserve components of such land forces, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 21

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 21, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 346

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 346, a resolution expressing opposition to the European Commission interpretive notice regarding labeling Israeli products and goods manufactured in the West Bank and other areas, as such actions undermine the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2577. A bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 2577

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 ''Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016''.

SEC. 2. CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS.

(a) RESTITUTION DURING SUPERVISED RELEASE.—Section 3583(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence by inserting '', that the defendant make restitution in accordance with sections 3663 and 3663A, or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution,'' after ''supervision''.

(b) COLLECTION OF RESTITUTION FROM DEFENDANT'S ESTATE.—Section 3613(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: ''The liability to pay restitution shall terminate on the date that is the later of 20 years from the entry of judgment or 20 years after the release from imprisonment of the person ordered to pay restitution. In the event of the death of the person ordered to pay restitution, the individual's estate will be held responsible for any unpaid balance of the restitution amount, and the lien provided in subsection (c) of this section shall continue until the estate receives a written release of that liability.''.

(c) VICTIM INTERPRETERS.—Rule 28 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure is amended in the first sentence by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', including an interpreter for the victim''.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR GRANTS FOR CRIME VICTIMS.

(a) CRIME VICTIMS LEGAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—Section 103(b) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405; 118 Stat. 2264) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009'' and inserting ''2017 through 2021'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009'' and inserting ''2017 through 2021'';

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking ''2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009'' and inserting ''2017 through 2021'';

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking ''2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009'' and inserting ''2017 through 2021''; and

(5) in paragraph (5), by striking ''2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009'' and inserting ''2017 through 2021''.

(b) CRIME VICTIMS NOTIFICATION GRANTS.—Section 1404E(c) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10603e(c)) is amended by striking ''2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009'' and inserting ''2017 through 2021.''.

SEC. 4. REDUCING THE RAPE KIT BACKLOG.

Of the amounts made available to the Attorney General for a DNA Analysis and capacity enhancement program and for other local, State, and Federal forensic activities under the heading ''STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT'' under the heading ''OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS'' under the heading ''DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'' in a fiscal year—

(1) not less than 75 percent of such amounts shall be provided for grants for direct testing activities described under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of section 2(a) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135(a)); and

(2) not less than 5 percent of such amounts shall be provided for grants for law enforcement agencies to conduct audits of their backlogged rape kits, including through the creation of a tracking system, under section 2(a)(7) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135(a)(7)), and to prioritize testing in those cases in which the statute of limitation will soon expire.

SEC. 5. SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINERS.

Section 304 of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) PREFERENCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In reviewing applications submitted in accordance with a program authorized, in whole or in part, by this section, the Attorney General shall give preference to any eligible entity that certifies that the entity will use the grant funds to—

''(A) operate or expand forensic nurse examiner programs in a rural area or for an underserved population, as those terms are defined in section 4002 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13925);

''(B) hire full-time forensic nurse examiners to conduct activities under subsection (a); or

''(C) sustain or establish a training program for forensic nurse examiners.

''(2) DIRECTIVE TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, the Attorney General shall coordinate with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to inform Federal Qualified Health Centers, Community Health Centers, hospitals, colleges and universities, and other appropriate health-related entities about the role of forensic nurses and existing resources available within the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services to train or employ forensic nurses to address the needs of communities dealing with sexual assault, domestic violence, and elder abuse. The Attorney General shall collaborate on this effort with nongovernmental organizations representing forensic nurses.''.

SEC. 6. PROTECTING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT.

Section 8(e)(1)(A) of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (42 U.S. 15607(e)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

''(iii) the program is not administered by the Office on Violence Against Women of the Department of Justice.''.

SEC. 7. CLARIFICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT HOUSING PROTECTIONS.

Section 41411(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e–11(b)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting ''or resident'' after ''any remaining tenant''; and

(2) in the second sentence, by inserting ''or resident'' after ''tenant'' each place it appears.

SEC. 8. STRENGTHENING THE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (42 U.S.C. 15601 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 6(d)(2) (42 U.S.C. 15605(d)(2)), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A)(i) include the certification of the chief executive that the State receiving such grant has adopted all national prison rape standards that, as of the date on which the application was submitted, have been promulgated under this Act; or

''(ii) demonstrate to the Attorney General, in such manner as the Attorney General shall require, that the State receiving such grant is actively working to adopt and achieve full compliance with the national

prison rape standards described in clause (i);''; and

(2) in section 8(e) (42 U.S.C. 15607(e))—

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

''(2) ADOPTION OF NATIONAL STANDARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, any amount that a State would otherwise receive for prison purposes for that fiscal year under a grant program covered by this subsection shall be reduced by 5 percent, unless the chief executive officer of the State submits to the Attorney General proof of compliance with this Act through—

''(i) a certification that the State has adopted, and is in full compliance with, the national standards described in subsection (a); or

''(ii) an assurance that the State intends to adopt and achieve full compliance with those national standards so as to ensure that a certification under clause (i) may be submitted in future years, which includes—

''(I) a commitment that not less than 5 percent of such amount shall be used for this purpose; or

''(II) a request that the Attorney General hold 5 percent of such amount in abeyance pursuant to the requirements of subparagraph (E).

''(B) RULES FOR CERTIFICATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A chief executive officer of a State who submits a certification under this paragraph shall also provide the Attorney General with—

''(I) a list of the prisons under the operational control of the executive branch of the State;

''(II) a list of the prisons listed under subclause (I) that were audited during the most recently concluded audit year;

''(III) all final audit reports for prisons listed under subclause (I) that were completed during the most recently concluded audit year; and

''(IV) a proposed schedule for completing an audit of all the prisons listed under subclause (I) during the following 3 audit years.

''(ii) AUDIT APPEAL EXCEPTION.—Beginning on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, a chief executive officer of a State may submit a certification that the State is in full compliance pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i) even if a prison under the operational control of the executive branch of the State has an audit appeal pending.

''(C) RULES FOR ASSURANCES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A chief executive officer of a State who submits an assurance under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall also provide the Attorney General with—

''(I) a list of the prisons under the operational control of the executive branch of the State;

''(II) a list of the prisons listed under subclause (I) that were audited during the most recently concluded audit year;

''(III) an explanation of any barriers the State faces to completing required audits;

''(IV) all final audit reports for prisons listed under subclause (I) that were completed during the most recently concluded audit year;

''(V) a proposed schedule for completing an audit of all prisons under the operational control of the executive branch of the State during the following 3 audit years; and

''(VI) an explanation of the State's current degree of implementation of the national standards.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—A chief executive officer of a State who submits an assurance under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I) shall, before receiving the applicable funds described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(I), also provide the Attorney General with a proposed plan for the expenditure of the funds during the applicable grant period.

''(iii) ACCOUNTING OF FUNDS.—A chief executive officer of a State who submits an assurance under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I) shall, in a manner consistent with the applicable grant reporting requirements, submit to the Attorney General a detailed accounting of how the funds described in subparagraph (A) were used.

''(D) SUNSET OF ASSURANCE OPTION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, subclause (II) of subparagraph (A)(ii) shall cease to have effect.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL SUNSET.—On the date that is 6 years after the date of enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall cease to have effect.

''(iii) EMERGENCY ASSURANCES.—

''(I) REQUEST.—Notwithstanding clause (ii), during the 2-year period beginning 6 years after the date of enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, a chief executive officer of a State who certifies that the State has audited not less than 90 percent of prisons under the operational control of the executive branch of the State may request that the Attorney General allow the chief executive officer to submit an emergency assurance in accordance with subparagraph (A)(ii) as in effect on the day before the date on which that subparagraph ceased to have effect under clause (ii) of this subparagraph.

''(II) GRANT OF REQUEST.—The Attorney General shall grant a request submitted under subclause (I) within 60 days upon a showing of good cause.

''(E) DISPOSITION OF FUNDS HELD IN ABEYANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the chief executive officer of a State who has submitted an assurance under subparagraph (A)(ii)(II) subsequently submits a certification under subparagraph (A)(i) during the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, the Attorney General will release all funds held in abeyance under subparagraph (A)(ii)(II) to be used by the State in accordance with the conditions of the grant program for which the funds were provided.

''(ii) RELEASE OF FUNDS.—If the chief executive officer of a State who has submitted an assurance under subparagraph (A)(ii)(II) is unable to submit a certification during the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, but does assure the Attorney General that ⅔ of prisons under the operational control of the executive branch of the State have been audited at least once, the Attorney General shall release all of the funds of the State held in abeyance to be used in adopting and achieving full compliance with the national standards, if the State agrees to comply with the applicable requirements in clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (C).

''(iii) REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—If the chief executive officer of a State who has submitted an assurance under subparagraph (A)(ii)(II) is unable to submit a certification during the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 and does not assure the Attorney General that ⅔ of prisons under the operational control of the executive branch of the State have been audited at least once, the Attorney General shall redistribute the funds of the State held in abeyance to other States to be used in accordance with the conditions of the grant program for which the funds were provided.

''(F) PUBLICATION OF AUDIT RESULTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, the Attorney General shall request from each State, and make available on an appropriate Internet website, all final audit reports completed to date for prisons under the operational control of the executive branch of each State. The Attorney General shall update such website annually with reports received from States under subparagraphs (B)(i) and (C)(i).

''(G) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL STANDARDS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, the Attorney General shall issue a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on the status of implementation of the national standards and the steps the Department, in conjunction with the States and other key stakeholders, is taking to address any unresolved implementation issues.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR AUDITORS.—An individual seeking certification by the Department of Justice to serve as an auditor of prison compliance with the national standards described in subsection (a) shall, upon request, submit fingerprints in the manner determined by the Attorney General for criminal history record checks of the applicable State and Federal Bureau of Investigation repositories.''.

SEC. 9. ADDITIONAL REAUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) DNA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Section 305(c) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136b(c)) is amended by striking ''$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021''.

(b) FBI DNA PROGRAMS.—Section 307(a) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405; 118 Stat. 2275) is amended by striking ''$42,100,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021''.

(c) DNA IDENTIFICATION OF MISSING PERSONS.—Section 308(c) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136d(c)) is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2017 through 2021''.

SEC. 10. PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

(a) GRANTS.—Part BB of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797j) is amended—

(1) in section 2802(2) (42 U.S.C. 3797k(2)), by inserting after ''bodies'' the following: ''and is accredited by an accrediting body that is a signatory to an internationally recognized arrangement and that offers accreditation to forensic science conformity assessment bodies using an accreditation standard that is recognized by that internationally recognized arrangement, or attests, in a manner that is legally binding and enforceable, to use a portion of the grant amount to prepare and apply for such accreditation not more than 2 years after the date on which a grant is awarded under section 2801'';

(2) in section 2803(a) (42 U.S.C. 3797l(a))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''Seventy-five percent'' and inserting ''Eighty-five percent''; and

(ii) by striking ''75 percent'' and inserting ''85 percent'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Twenty-five percent'' and inserting ''Fifteen percent''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''0.6 percent'' and inserting ''1 percent'';

(3) in section 2804(a) (42 U.S.C. 3797m(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting ''impression evidence,'' after ''latent prints,''; and

(ii) by inserting ''digital evidence, fire evidence,'' after ''toxicology,'';

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''and medicolegal death investigators'' after ''laboratory personnel''; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following:

''(4) To address emerging forensic science issues (such as statistics, contextual bias, and uncertainty of measurement) and emerging forensic science technology (such as high throughput automation, statistical software, and new types of instrumentation).

''(5) To educate and train forensic pathologists in the United States.

''(6) To work with the States and units of local government to direct funding to medicolegal death investigation systems to facilitate accreditation of medical examiner and coroner offices and certification of medicolegal death investigators.''; and

(4) in section 2806(a) (42 U.S.C. 3797o(a))—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' at the end;

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

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

''(4) the progress of any unaccredited forensic science service provider receiving grant funds toward obtaining accreditation; and''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 1001(a)(24) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3793(a)(24)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.''.

SEC. 11. IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF REPRESENTATION IN STATE CAPITAL CASES.

Section 426 of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14163e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', or upon a showing of good cause, and at the discretion of the Attorney General, the State may determine a fair allocation of funds across the uses described in sections 421 and 422''.

SEC. 12. POST-CONVICTION DNA TESTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3600 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''under a sentence of'' in each place it appears and inserting ''sentenced to'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)(i), by striking ''death''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''and the applicant did not—'' and all that follows through ''knowingly fail to request'' and inserting ''and the applicant did not knowingly fail to request'';

(3) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) order the Government to—

''(i) prepare an inventory of the evidence related to the case; and

''(ii) issue a copy of the inventory to the court, the applicant, and the Government.'';

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) RESULTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The results of any DNA testing ordered under this section shall be simultaneously disclosed to the court, the applicant, and the Government.

''(B) RESULTS EXCLUDE APPLICANT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If a DNA profile is obtained through testing that excludes the applicant as the source and the DNA complies with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's requirements for the uploading of crime scene profiles to the National DNA Index System (referred to in this subsection as 'NDIS'), the court shall order that the law enforcement entity with direct or conveyed statutory jurisdiction that has access to the NDIS submit the DNA profile obtained from probative biological material from crime scene evidence to determine whether the DNA profile matches a profile of a known individual or a profile from an unsolved crime.

''(ii) NDIS SEARCH.—The results of a search under clause (i) shall be simultaneously disclosed to the court, the applicant, and the Government.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''the National DNA Index System (referred to in this subsection as 'NDIS')'' and inserting ''NDIS''; and

(5) in subsection (g)(2)(B), by striking ''death''.

(b) PRESERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE.—Section 3600A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''under a sentence of'' and inserting ''sentenced to''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), respectively.

SEC. 13. KIRK BLOODSWORTH POST-CONVICTION DNA TESTING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 413 of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136 note) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2017 through 2021''; and

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

''(2) for eligible entities that are a State or unit of local government, provide a certification by the chief legal officer of the State in which the eligible entity operates or the chief legal officer of the jurisdiction in which the funds will be used for the purposes of the grants, that the State or jurisdiction—

''(A) provides DNA testing of specified evidence under a State statute or a State or local rule or regulation to persons sentenced to imprisonment or death for a State felony offense, in a manner intended to ensure a reasonable process for resolving claims of actual innocence that ensures post-conviction DNA testing in at least those cases that would be covered by section 3600(a) of title 18, United States Code, had they been Federal cases and, if the results of the testing exclude the applicant as the source of the DNA, permits the applicant to apply for post-conviction relief, notwithstanding any provision of law that would otherwise bar the application as untimely; and

''(B) preserves biological evidence, as defined in section 3600A of title 18, United States Code, under a State statute or a State or local rule, regulation, or practice in a manner intended to ensure that reasonable measures are taken by the State or jurisdiction to preserve biological evidence secured in relation to the investigation or prosecution of, at a minimum, murder, nonnegligent manslaughter and sexual offenses.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 412(b) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136e(b)) is amended by striking ''$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021''.

SEC. 14. ESTABLISHMENT OF BEST PRACTICES FOR EVIDENCE RETENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405; 118 Stat. 2278) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 414. ESTABLISHMENT OF BEST PRACTICES FOR EVIDENCE RETENTION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institute of Justice, in consultation with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and government laboratories, shall—

''(1) establish best practices for evidence retention to focus on the preservation of forensic evidence; and

''(2) assist State, local, and tribal governments in adopting and implementing the best practices established under paragraph (1).

''(b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the National Institute of Justice shall publish the best practices established under subsection (a)(1).

''(c) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or obligate compliance with the best practices established under subsection (a)(1).''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405; 118 Stat. 2260) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 413 the following:

''Sec. 414. Establishment of best practices for evidence retention.''.

SEC. 15. EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Effective Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015''.

(b) STRATEGIC PLANNING.—Section 502 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3752) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''To request a grant''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) A comprehensive Statewide plan detailing how grants received under this section will be used to improve the administration of the criminal justice system, which shall—

''(A) be designed in consultation with local governments, and representatives of all segments of the criminal justice system, including judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, corrections personnel, and providers of indigent defense services, victim services, juvenile justice delinquency prevention programs, community corrections, and reentry services;

''(B) include a description of how the State will allocate funding within and among each of the uses described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 501(a)(1);

''(C) describe the process used by the State for gathering evidence-based data and developing and using evidence-based and evidence-gathering approaches in support of funding decisions;

''(D) describe the barriers at the State and local level for accessing data and implementing evidence-based approaches to preventing and reducing crime and recidivism; and

''(E) be updated every 5 years, with annual progress reports that—

''(i) address changing circumstances in the State, if any;

''(ii) describe how the State plans to adjust funding within and among each of the uses described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 501(a)(1);

''(iii) provide an ongoing assessment of need;

''(iv) discuss the accomplishment of goals identified in any plan previously prepared under this paragraph; and

''(v) reflect how the plan influenced funding decisions in the previous year.

''(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) STRATEGIC PLANNING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall begin to provide technical assistance to States and local governments requesting support to develop and implement the strategic plan required under subsection (a)(6).

''(2) PROTECTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall begin to provide technical assistance to States and local governments, including any agent thereof with responsibility for administration of justice, requesting support to meet the obligations established by the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall include—

''(A) public dissemination of practices, structures, or models for the administration of justice consistent with the requirements of the Sixth Amendment; and

''(B) assistance with adopting and implementing a system for the administration of justice consistent with the requirements of the Sixth Amendment.

''(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to carry out this subsection.''.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The requirement to submit a strategic plan under section 501(a)(6) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by subsection (b), shall apply to any application submitted under such section 501 for a grant for any fiscal year beginning after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 16. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

All grants awarded by the Department of Justice that are authorized under this Act shall be subject to the following:

(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—Beginning in fiscal year 2016, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this Act to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

(2) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this Act that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this Act during the 2 fiscal years beginning after the 12-month period described in paragraph (5).

(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this Act, the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible entities that, during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this Act, did not have an unresolved audit finding showing a violation in the terms or conditions of a Department of Justice grant program.

(4) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this Act during the 2-fiscal-year period in which the entity is barred from receiving grants under paragraph (2), the Attorney General shall—

(A) deposit an amount equal to the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

(B) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

(5) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ''unresolved audit finding'' means an audit report finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within a 12-month period beginning on the date when the final audit report is issued.

(6) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section and the grant programs described in this Act, the term ''nonprofit organization'' means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(B) PROHIBITION.—The Attorney General shall not award a grant under any grant program described in this Act to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a grant under a grant program described in this Act and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees and key employees, shall disclose to the Attorney General, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Attorney General shall make the information disclosed under this subsection available for public inspection.

(7) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Unless otherwise explicitly provided in authorizing legislation, not more than 7.5 percent of the amounts authorized to be appropriated under this Act may be used by the Attorney General for salaries and administrative expenses of the Department of Justice.

(8) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice under this Act may be used by the Attorney General or by any individual or organization awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this Act, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than $20,000 in Department funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General or the appropriate Assistant Attorney General, Director, or principal deputy as the Deputy Attorney General may designate, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host a conference.

(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food and beverages, audio/visual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and any entertainment.

(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all conference expenditures approved by operation of this paragraph.

(9) PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under this Act may not be utilized by any grant recipient to—

(i) lobby any representative of the Department of Justice regarding the award of grant funding; or

(ii) lobby any representative of a Federal, State, local, or tribal government regarding the award of grant funding.

(B) PENALTY.—If the Attorney General determines that any recipient of a grant under this Act has violated subparagraph (A), the Attorney General shall—

(i) require the grant recipient to repay the grant in full; and

(ii) prohibit the grant recipient from receiving another grant under this Act for not less than 5 years.

SEC. 17. NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF FORENSIC LABORATORIES.

(a) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2018, the Attorney General shall conduct a study and submit a report to the Committee of the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on the status and needs of the forensic science community.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) examine the status of current workload, backlog, personnel, equipment, and equipment needs of public crime laboratories and medical examiner and coroner offices;

(2) include an overview of academic forensic science resources and needs, from a broad forensic science perspective, including nontraditional crime laboratory disciplines such as forensic anthropology, forensic entomology, and others as determined appropriate by the Attorney General;

(3) consider—

(A) the National Institute of Justice study, Forensic Sciences: Review of Status and Needs, published in 1999;

(B) the Bureau of Justice Statistics census reports on Publicly Funded Forensic Crime Laboratories, published in 2002, 2005, 2009, and 2014;

(C) the National Academy of Sciences report, Strengthening Forensic Science: A Path Forward, published in 2009; and

(D) the Bureau of Justice Statistics survey of forensic providers recommended by the National Commission of Forensic Science and approved by the Attorney General on September 8, 2014;

(4) provide Congress with a comprehensive view of the infrastructure, equipment, and personnel needs of the broad forensic science community; and

(5) be made available to the public.

SEC. 18. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) the authority of the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime under section 1404 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10603) includes funding ongoing projects that provide services to victims of crime on a nationwide basis or Americans abroad who are victims of crimes committed outside of the United States; and

(2) the proposed rule entitled ''VOCA Victim Assistance Program'' published by the Office of Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice in the Federal Register on August 27, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 52877) is consistent with section 1404 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10603).

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I am proud to introduce the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 with Senator CORNYN. The Justice for All Act, originally enacted in 2004, was an unprecedented bipartisan piece of criminal justice legislation. It has improved many aspects of our criminal justice system, and this reauthorization includes critical updates to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the American justice system.

The bill builds on the work I began in 2000, when I introduced the Innocence Protection Act. That measure was designed to ensure that defendants receive competent representation in

criminal cases and have access to post-conviction DNA testing in those cases where the system got it wrong. The Innocence Protection Act became a key component of the Justice for All Act, and is reauthorized in the bill we introduce today.

We know our justice system is imperfect and that innocent people are sometimes convicted, and even sentenced to death. There were 149 people exonerated just last year, the highest number on record. They spent an average of 15 years in prison before their names were cleared. There have been 337 post-conviction DNA exonerations in the United States since 1989. Twenty of them were sentenced to death.

The first person exonerated from a death row crime by DNA evidence was a man named Kirk Bloodsworth. Kirk was a young man just out of the Marines when he was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to death for a heinous crime that he did not commit. Now the Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program is a cornerstone of the Justice for All Act. This program provides grants to States for testing in cases like Kirk's where someone has been convicted, but where significant DNA evidence was not tested.

This bill expands access to post-conviction DNA testing so that more innocent people will have a chance at the redemption they deserve. For example, this reauthorization will permit individuals to access DNA testing even if they previously waived their right to testing as part of a guilty plea. This change is critical because we know that people sometimes pled guilty or confess to crimes they did not commit. In fact, of the 337 people who have been freed based on DNA evidence, 88 falsely confessed or pled guilty. That is almost 30 percent of DNA exonerations. Had it not been for DNA testing, they would likely still be behind bars, or worse.

The bill also takes steps to encourage prosecutors to search for additional leads when the DNA evidence tested excludes an individual. Under the legislation, the government must run that DNA through the national database to see if it matches someone else in the system who might be the actual perpetrator. Unfortunately, this is not always done. This commonsense measure will increase public safety by getting the true criminals off the street.

Even in cases that do not involve DNA, it is imperative that every criminal defendant, including those who cannot afford a lawyer, receive effective representation. This bill requires the Department of Justice to assist states in developing a proficient system of indigent defense. I know as a former prosecutor, that the system only works as it should when each side is well represented by competent and well-trained counsel. This helps prevent wrongful convictions in the first place.

The Justice for All Reauthorization Act also increases resources for public forensic laboratories. Prosecutors and police officers depend on the efficient and accurate testing of evidence to solve cases. Putting more resources into forensic testing will also help reduce rape kit backlogs and ensure that survivors of this terrible crime are able to see their cases prosecuted and begin to feel safe again.

This bill further addresses the needs of sexual assault survivors by directing grants to forensic exam programs, prioritizing those that operate in rural areas or provide assistance to underserved populations. Timely access to forensic exams is a critical first step in ensuring perpetrators are held accountable and taken off the streets. We must also ensure that the evidence collected from these exams in the form of rape kits are processed quickly. To help with that effort, the bill also provides support for law enforcement to create evidence tracking systems for rape kits, so their processing can be monitored and accounted for.

Finally, we must ensure that law enforcement and victim services programs have the resources they need to move these cases through our justice system and assist these survivors.

This bill also strengthens some key provisions of the Prison Rape Elimination Act, a bill I strongly supported when it was enacted in 2003. Specifically, changes imposed by this bill will require that states comply with regulations designed to prevent sexual assaults in our jails and prisons or lose Federal grant money. The Department of Justice will work with the states to assist them, but ultimately states will be penalized if they do not act. This bill imposes the true accountability required to eradicate this awful crime.

This reauthorization also expands rights for victims of all crime. It builds upon the success of the Crime Victims' Rights Act by making it easier for crime victims to have an interpreter present during court proceedings and to obtain court-ordered restitution.

I firmly believe that improving our criminal justice system is a priority and a place we should not be afraid to invest additional resources. There are parts of this legislation that I would like to see receive more funding, but this bill, like most legislation, is a compromise. As a result, this bill does reduce the total authorized funding under the Justice for All Act, but I believe it does so responsibly. I also believe that many of the changes advanced by this legislation will help states, communities, and the federal government save money in the long term.

The programs created by the Justice for All Act have had an enormous impact, and it is crucial that we reauthorize and improve them. It has been 12 years since this law was updated, and we must work together to address the challenges currently facing our Nation's justice system.

I thank the many law enforcement and criminal justice organizations that have helped to pinpoint the needed improvements that this law attempts to solve and I appreciate their ongoing support in seeing it passed.

Today, we rededicate ourselves to building a criminal justice system in which the innocent remain free, the guilty are punished, and all sides have the resources they need to advance justice. Americans deserve a criminal justice system which keeps us safe, ensures fairness, and fulfills the promise of our constitution. This bill will bring us closer to that goal.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 372—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. REID, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BURR, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 372

Whereas in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that ''all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness . . .'';

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of America as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas in 2016, inequalities and injustices in the society of the United States continue to exist;

Whereas in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African Americans and others;

Whereas African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe Jr., James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Lena Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Rosa Parks, Walter Payton, Bill Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves,

Hiram Revels, Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, and the Tuskegee Airmen, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancements of the United States;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition they deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;

Whereas African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of business, government, and the military;

Whereas the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the ''Father of Black History'', to enhance knowledge of Black history through the Journal of Negro History, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland;

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievement of Black people of the United States;

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated: ''We have a wonderful history behind us. . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, 'You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.' '';

Whereas since the founding of the United States, the Nation has imperfectly progressed toward noble goals; and

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach those ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure, before committing to trying again: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that all people of the United States are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture;

(2) recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead;

(3) acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity to commemorate the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States;

(4) encourages the celebration of Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people in the United States to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(5) agrees that, while the United States began as a divided country, the United States must—

(A) honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States; and

(B) move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation ''indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 373—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT POLICIES THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL BASED ON THE ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED RACE, ETHNICITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR RELIGION OF THAT INDIVIDUAL WOULD BE A REPETITION OF THE MISTAKES OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 AND CONTRARY TO THE VALUES OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 373

Whereas on December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy launched a surprise attack against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, which led to—

(1) increased prejudice and suspicion toward Japanese Americans; and

(2) calls from civilians and public officials to remove Japanese Americans from the west coast of the United States;

Whereas on February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 (7 Fed. Reg. 1407; relating to authorizing the Secretary of War to prescribe military areas) (referred to in this preamble as ''Executive Order 9066''), which led to—

(1) the exclusion of 120,000 Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens from the west coast of the United States; and

(2) the incarceration of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents of Japanese ancestry in incarceration camps during World War II;

Whereas President Gerald Ford formally rescinded Executive Order 9066 in Presidential Proclamation 4417, dated February 19, 1976 (41 Fed. Reg. 7741) (referred to in this preamble as ''Presidential Proclamation 4417'');

Whereas Presidential Proclamation 4417—

(1) states that Japanese Americans were and are loyal people of the United States who have contributed to the well-being and security of the United States;

(2) states that the issuance of Executive Order 9066 was a grave mistake in United States history; and

(3) resolves that actions such as the actions authorized by Executive Order 9066 shall never happen again;

Whereas in 1980, Congress established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to investigate the circumstances surrounding the issuance of Executive Order 9066;

Whereas in 1983, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians issued a report entitled ''Personal Justice Denied'' in which the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians concluded that—

(1) the promulgation of Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity; and

(2) the decision to issue Executive Order 9066 was shaped by ''race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership'';

Whereas on August 10, 1988, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (Public Law 100–383; 102 Stat. 903) was enacted—

(1) to apologize for ''fundamental violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals of Japanese ancestry''; and

(2) to establish the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, to ensure that ''the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal, and incarceration of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered, and so that the causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood'';

Whereas the terrorist attacks carried out in the United States on September 11, 2001, have led to heightened levels of suspicion and hate crimes, xenophobia, and bigotry directed toward the Arab, Middle Eastern, South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu American communities, including—

(1) on August 5, 2012, an attack on the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, which led to several injuries and the death of 6 Sikh Americans; and

(2) on February 10, 2015, the execution-style shooting of 3 Muslim American students in Chapel Hill, North Carolina;

Whereas the terrorist attacks carried out in Paris, France, on November 5, 2015, have led to renewed calls from public officials and figures to register Muslim Americans and bar millions from entering the United States based solely on the religion of those individuals, repeating the mistakes of 1942: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historical significance of February 19, 1942, as the date on which President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 (7 Fed. Reg. 1407; relating to authorizing the Secretary of War to prescribe military areas) (referred to in this resolving clause as ''Executive Order 9066''), which restricted the freedom of Japanese Americans;

(2) recognizes the historical significance of February 19, 1976, as the date on which President Gerald Ford issued Presidential Proclamation 4417 (41 Fed. Reg. 7741), which formally terminated Executive Order 9066;

(3) supports the goals of the Japanese American community in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance to increase public awareness about the unjust measures taken to restrict the freedom of Japanese Americans during World War II;

(4) expresses the sense that the National Day of Remembrance is an opportunity—

(A) to reflect on the importance of upholding justice and civil liberties for all people of the United States; and

(B) to oppose hate, xenophobia, and bigotry;

(5) recognizes the positive contributions that people of the United States of every race, ethnicity, religion, and national origin have made to the United States;

(6) steadfastly confirms the dedication of the Senate to the rights and dignity of all people of the United States; and

(7) expresses the sense that policies that discriminate against any individual based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion of that individual would be—

(A) a repetition of the mistakes of Executive Order 9066; and

(B) contrary to the values of the United States.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, 74 years ago, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. That order led to the mass internment of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans. Executive Order 9066 is an example of what can happen when a government acts out of fear.

Today I am submitting a resolution that recognizes this dark chapter and calls for the Senate and all Americans to uphold the lessons learned from the issuance of Executive Order 9066.

In the wake of the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, Americans of Japanese ancestry living in the United States became a target of paranoia, suspicion, and fear. Without any evidence of subterfuge, the government classified Japanese Americans as ''enemy aliens'' based purely on race and removed Japanese families from the west coast in the name of national security. These were families like yours and mine—farmers, students, shop owners, Buddhist priests, and teachers, parents and grandparents working toward the American dream of giving their children a better future. The majority were American citizens. These families were forced to abandon or sell for a pittance homes and businesses they had spent decades building. Many destroyed family treasures that could link them to Japan.

Thousands of college students had their educations cut short when they were forced to leave school for the internment camps.

One University of Washington student who was forced to leave school, Gordon Hirabayashi, would go on to challenge the legality of the internment all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Gordon's parents had emigrated from Japan and settled in Washington State, where they were farmers.

Upon the signing of Executive Order 9066 and subsequent orders, the Hirabayashi family and tens of thousands of other Japanese American families were forced to pack up only what they could carry for a long train ride to unknown destinations. Upon arriving at barren and isolated internment camps, including Honouliuli Internment Camp in Waipahu, Oahu, these families passed through barbed-wire fences and armed guards. They settled in cramped, hastily constructed shanties that let in the elements. There was little privacy. And until these internment camps were built, many families were forced to live in horse stalls. The shame and humiliation were extreme. Nearly 120,000 men, women, and children did the best they could under harsh circumstances, persevering through what at the time seemed unbearable.

Despite this treatment at the hands of their own government, the time came when many joined the war effort. From behind barbed wire, these young Japanese American men fought for their country and in the process, in doing so, proved their loyalty to the United States.

The Army agreed to form the segregated 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service. Thousands of men in Hawaii and across the internment camps, including our late colleague Senator Daniel K. Inouye, volunteered to take on the most dangerous missions in Europe. Today, the 442nd and the 100th Battalion remain the most decorated units in the Army's history. These units, as well as the Military Intelligence Service, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011.

After the war ended, for all of the sacrifice Japanese Americans were forced to make, for all they had to give up, each internee was then given $25 and a train ticket to their prewar residences. Many of them never returned to their homes because there was nothing to return to.

It was not until 34 years later, due to the work of the Japanese American Citizens League and other individuals and groups, that President Gerald Ford issued Proclamation 1447, which formally terminated the authority of Executive Order 9066. The Ford proclamation read, in part, ''I call upon the American people to affirm with me this American Promise . . . to treasure liberty and justice for each individual American, and resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated.''

While the internment is now recognized as one of the darkest periods in our Nation's history, we must not forget that Executive Order 9066 had widespread support at the time. The fight for formal recognition of these injustices has been a long and challenging road that continues to this day.

I wish to recognize the efforts of three Japanese Americans—Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui, and Fred Korematsu—who were convicted and imprisoned while bravely challenging the constitutionality of internment during the war. They were right, but it took decades of work to achieve justice for these individuals who took their cases all the way to the Supreme Court.

In the majority opinion of Korematsu v. U.S. in 1944, the Supreme Court found that the internment was justified during a time of war—a ruling that further underscores what can only be characterized as the rampant fear and racism at the time.

I had the privilege of meeting Fred Korematsu and his family several times before his passing in 2005. After the war, he, Gordon, and Minoru continued to fight for others' civil rights their whole lives. Fred's work is carried on by his daughter, Karen Korematsu, through the Korematsu Institute. These three individuals were years later awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and in Minoru Yasui's case, only last year.

It was not until the 1980s—almost 40 years after internment ended—that a new generation of attorneys and scholars took up their fight. They uncovered evidence that the government hid information that proved that Japanese Americans were not a threat to the United States. Gordon, Minoru, and Fred appealed their earlier convictions, and the Ninth Circuit Court vacated all of their convictions in the 1980s.

Gordon said after the Ninth Circuit overturned his earlier conviction:

There was a time when I felt that the Constitution failed me. But with the reversal in the courts and in public statements from the government, I feel that our country has proven that the Constitution is worth upholding. The U.S. Government admitted it made a mistake. A country that can do that is a strong country. I have more faith and allegiance to the Constitution than I ever had before.

Today, I call upon all of my colleagues to uphold Gordon's faith in our Constitution.

Undoubtedly, the U.S. Government must keep people safe. However, as we learned with the internment, a government gripped by fear and hysteria can make terrible mistakes. Not one American of Japanese ancestry who was interned has ever been found guilty of sabotage or espionage.

Focusing on the most vulnerable of targets—usually a minority group—does not make our Nation safe or more secure. Actions like the internment betray our values and undermine our strength as a people.

We are often reminded to learn from history. That presumes we are aware of the relevant history. The story of internment remains one still unfamiliar to many Americans—for instance, Mayor David Bowers of Roanoke, VA, who used the internment as justification to suspend assistance to Syrian refugees. He later apologized. More recently, George Takei's play ''Allegiance,'' which just ended its Broadway run, depicted the shock, humiliation, anger, and resolve of one family—the Kimuras—who were interned in Heart Mountain, WY. Their internment was like that of thousands of other Japanese Americans, and, like too many others, the internment didn't end for the Kimuras when World War II ended. Their family relations were irreparably damaged.

Yet, despite efforts to educate a new generation of Americans through efforts like ''Allegiance,'' today we hear echoes of the sentiments of 1942 directed toward members of the South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Arab, and Middle Eastern communities. There are reports of children from these communities beaten up in schools, families being threatened in their homes, and houses of worship vandalized and set on fire. We hear calls from public figures and officials to racially profile and conduct surveillance on Muslim Americans, as well as to bar their entry into our country.

While the security of the American people is a top priority, divisive proposals to ban all Muslims, for example, from entering the United States do nothing to make us safer; rather, they take us back to a time when our policies were guided by fear, stereotypes, and mistrust.

Now is not the time to turn on one another. Now is the time to stand together against the hate and fear that divides our country.

In affirming our commitment to liberty and justice for all, let us remember that the United States is a diverse

country in which individuals of all backgrounds have and continue to make positive contributions to the well-being and security of our Nation. It is important to speak out against hateful rhetoric and divisive policy proposals that prey on people's fears and instead promote our American values that are rooted in compassion, respect for others, justice, and equality.

I am joined today in the Gallery by advocates from the Asian American and Pacific Islander and Muslim communities. Mahalo to all of you for the work you do every day to advance equality, liberty, and justice for all. These values are the strength of America.

Let's stand together in solidarity, that in this new century, we will not give in to old fears, old prejudices, and unjustified actions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 374—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF ANTONIN SCALIA, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was ordered held at the desk:

S. RES. 374

Whereas Antonin Scalia, the late Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, was born in Trenton, New Jersey, to Salvatore Eugene Scalia and Catherine Panaro Scalia and raised in Queens, New York;

Whereas Antonin Scalia enrolled in Georgetown University, where he graduated valedictorian and summa cum laude and earned a bachelor's degree in history;

Whereas Antonin Scalia graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was a notes editor for the Harvard Law Review;

Whereas Antonin Scalia married Maureen McCarthy, with whom he raised 9 children, Ann, Eugene, John, Catherine, Mary Claire, Paul, Matthew, Christopher, and Margaret;

Whereas Antonin Scalia was an accomplished attorney in Cleveland, Ohio, and a law professor at the University of Virginia and the University of Chicago;

Whereas President Richard Nixon selected Antonin Scalia to be General Counsel for the Office of Telecommunications Policy;

Whereas Antonin Scalia served as chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States;

Whereas President Richard Nixon selected Antonin Scalia to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice, and President Gerald Ford resubmitted the nomination of Antonin Scalia to serve in that position;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan nominated Antonin Scalia to be a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan nominated Antonin Scalia to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States;

Whereas Antonin Scalia had a profound love for hunting and the arts, in particular opera;

Whereas Antonin Scalia was a man of enormous intellect, incisive analytical skill, and tremendous wit, a combination reflected in the clarity of his judicial opinions;

Whereas the record of Antonin Scalia illustrates a belief in judicial restraint, judicial independence, and the rule of law;

Whereas Antonin Scalia moved public discussion toward a greater appreciation of the text and original meaning of the Constitution as a basis for interpreting the terms of the Constitution;

Whereas Antonin Scalia enforced the separation of powers contained in the Constitution as a bulwark for individual freedom;

Whereas Antonin Scalia raised the level of the quality of oral argument and judicial decisionmaking;

Whereas Antonin Scalia was highly regarded by each of his colleagues, including colleagues with a judicial philosophy that differed from his own;

Whereas Antonin Scalia served with distinction on the Supreme Court for more than 29 years;

Whereas Antonin Scalia was 1 of the most influential and memorable Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States;

Whereas Antonin Scalia was the embodiment of each of the ideal qualities of a judge: fairness, openmindedness, and above all commitment to intellectual rigor in application of the Constitution and the rule of law;

Whereas Antonin Scalia will be remembered as 1 of the great Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States;

Whereas Antonin Scalia passed away on February 13, 2016; and

Whereas the nation is deeply indebted to Antonin Scalia, a truly distinguished individual of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Antonin Scalia;

(2) acknowledges the lifetime of service of Antonin Scalia to the United States as a talented attorney, a learned law professor, a dedicated public servant, a brilliant jurist, and 1 of the great Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States; and

(3) commends Antonin Scalia for the 29-year tenure on the Supreme Court of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3312. Mr. UDALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3313. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3314. Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3315. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3316. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3317. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3318. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3319. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3320. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3321. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3322. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3323. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, Mr. BURR, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4470, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to the requirements related to lead in drinking water, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3312. Mr. UDALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms.

MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CLEAN ENERGY VICTORY BONDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit a report to Congress that provides recommendations for the establishment, issuance, and promotion of Clean Energy Victory Bonds by the Department of the Treasury (referred to in this section as the ''Clean Energy Victory Bonds Program'').

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of subsection (a), the Clean Energy Victory Bonds Program shall be designed to—

(1) ensure that any available proceeds from the issuance of Clean Energy Victory Bonds are used to finance clean energy projects (as defined in subsection (c)) at the Federal, State, and local level, which may include—

(A) providing additional support to existing Federal financing programs available to States for energy efficiency upgrades and clean energy deployment, and

(B) providing funding for clean energy investments by the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies,

(2) provide for payment of interest to persons holding Clean Energy Victory Bonds through such methods as are determined appropriate by the Secretary of the Treasury, including amounts—

(A) recaptured from savings achieved through reduced energy spending by entities receiving any funding or financial assistance described in paragraph (1), and

(B) collected as interest on loans financed or guaranteed under the Clean Energy Victory Bonds Program,

(3) issue bonds in denominations of not less than $25 or such amount as is determined appropriate by the Secretary of the Treasury to make them generally accessible to the public, and

(4) collect not more than $50,000,000,000 in revenue from the issuance of Clean Energy Victory Bonds for purposes of financing clean energy projects described in paragraph (1).

(c) CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT.—The term ''clean energy project'' means a project which provides—

(1) performance-based energy efficiency improvements, or

(2) clean energy improvements, including—

(A) electricity generated from solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, and hydrokinetic energy sources,

(B) fuel cells using non-fossil fuel sources,

(C) advanced batteries,

(D) next generation biofuels from non-food feedstocks, and

(E) electric vehicle infrastructure.

SA 3313. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 42___. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON ACCELERATING ENERGY INNOVATION.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) although important progress has been made in cost reduction and deployment of clean energy technologies, accelerating clean energy innovation will help meet critical competitiveness, energy security, and environmental goals;

(2) accelerating the pace of clean energy innovation in the United States calls for—

(A) supporting existing research and development programs at the Department and the world-class National Laboratories (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)); and

(B) exploring and developing new pathways for innovators, investors, and decision-makers to leverage the resources of the Department for addressing the challenges and comparative strengths of geographic regions;

(3) the energy supply, demand, policies, markets, and resource options of the United States vary by geographic region;

(4) a regional approach to innovation can bridge the gaps between local talent, institutions, and industries to identify opportunities and convert United States investment into domestic companies; and

(5) Congress and the Secretary should advance efforts that promote international, domestic, and regional cooperation on the research and development of energy innovations that—

(A) provide clean, affordable, and reliable energy for everyone;

(B) promote economic growth; and

(C) are critical for energy security.

SA 3314. Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 359, strike line 7 and insert the following:

SEC. 4204. AGREEMENTS FOR COMMERCIALIZING TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITION OF NATIONAL LABORATORY.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ''National Laboratory'' means a nonmilitary national laboratory owned by the Department.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''National Laboratory'' includes—

(A) Ames Laboratory;

(B) Argonne National Laboratory;

(C) Brookhaven National Laboratory;

(D) Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory;

(E) Idaho National Laboratory;

(F) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory;

(G) National Energy Technology Laboratory;

(H) National Renewable Energy Laboratory;

(I) Oak Ridge National Laboratory;

(J) Pacific Northwest National Laboratory;

(K) Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory;

(L) Savannah River National Laboratory;

(M) Stanford Linear Accelerator Center;

(N) Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility; and

(O) any laboratory operated by the National Nuclear Security Administration, with respect to the civilian energy activities conducted at the laboratory.

(b) AGREEMENTS FOR COMMERCIALIZING TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the Agreements for Commercializing Technology pilot program of the Department, as announced by the Secretary on December 8, 2011, in accordance with this subsection.

(2) TERMS.—Each agreement entered into pursuant to the pilot program referred to in paragraph (1) shall provide to the contractor of the applicable National Laboratory, to the maximum extent determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, increased authority to negotiate contract terms, such as intellectual property rights, indemnification, payment structures, performance guarantees, and multiparty collaborations.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), any National Laboratory may enter into an agreement pursuant to the pilot program referred to in paragraph (1).

(B) AGREEMENTS WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—To carry out subparagraph (A) and subject to subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall permit the directors of the National Laboratories to execute agreements with non-Federal entities, including non-Federal entities already receiving Federal funding that will be used to support activities under agreements executed pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(C) RESTRICTION.—The requirements of chapter 18 of title 35, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Bayh-Dole Act'') shall apply if—

(i) the agreement is a funding agreement (as that term is defined in section 201 of that title); and

(ii) at least 1 of the parties to the funding agreement is eligible to receive rights under that chapter.

(4) SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY.—Each affected director of a National Laboratory shall submit to the Secretary, with respect to each agreement entered into under this subsection—

(A) a summary of information relating to the relevant project;

(B) the total estimated costs of the project;

(C) estimated commencement and completion dates of the project; and

(D) other documentation determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

(5) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall require the contractor of the affected National Laboratory to certify that each activity carried out under a project for which an agreement is entered into under this subsection—

(A) is not in direct competition with the private sector; and

(B) does not present, or minimizes, any apparent conflict of interest, and avoids or neutralizes any actual conflict of interest, as a result of the agreement under this subsection.

(6) EXTENSION.—The pilot program referred to in paragraph (1) shall be extended for a term of 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(7) REPORTS.—

(A) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date described in paragraph (6), the Secretary, in coordination with directors of the National Laboratories, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that—

(i) assesses the overall effectiveness of the pilot program referred to in paragraph (1);

(ii) identifies opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the pilot program;

(iii) assesses the potential for program activities to interfere with the responsibilities of the National Laboratories to the Department; and

(iv) provides a recommendation regarding the future of the pilot program.

(B) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Annually, the Secretary, in coordination with the directors of the National Laboratories, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on

Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that accounts for all incidences of, and provides a justification for, non-Federal entities using funds derived from a Federal contract or award to carry out agreements entered into under this subsection.

(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section abrogates or otherwise affects the primary responsibilities of any National Laboratory to the Department.

SEC. 4205. MICROLAB TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION.

SA 3315. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 67, lines 3 and 4, strike ''not less than''.

SA 3316. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title II, add the following:

SEC. 23___. MODEL GUIDANCE FOR COMBINED HEAT AND POWER SYSTEMS AND WASTE HEAT TO POWER SYSTEMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADDITIONAL SERVICES.—The term ''additional services'' means the provision of supplementary power, backup or standby power, maintenance power, or interruptible power to an electric consumer by an electric utility.

(2) WASTE HEAT TO POWER SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''waste heat to power system'' means a system that generates electricity through the recovery of waste energy.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''waste heat to power system'' does not include a system that generates electricity through the recovery of a heat resource from a process the primary purpose of which is the generation of electricity using a fossil fuel.

(3) OTHER TERMS.—

(A) PURPA.—The terms ''electric consumer'', ''electric utility'', ''interconnection service'', ''nonregulated electric utility'', and ''State regulatory authority'' have the meanings given those terms in the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), within the meaning of title I of that Act (16 U.S.C. 2611 et seq.).

(B) EPCA.—The terms ''combined heat and power system'' and ''waste energy'' have the meanings given those terms in section 371 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6341).

(b) REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other appropriate entities, shall review existing rules and procedures relating to interconnection service and additional services throughout the United States for electric generation with nameplate capacity up to 20 megawatts to identify barriers to the deployment of combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems.

(2) INCLUSION.—The review under this subsection shall include a review of existing rules and procedures relating to—

(A) determining and assigning costs of interconnection service and additional services; and

(B) ensuring adequate cost recovery by an electric utility for interconnection service and additional services.

(c) MODEL GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other appropriate entities, shall issue model guidance for interconnection service and additional services for use by State regulatory authorities and nonregulated electric utilities to reduce the barriers identified under subsection (b)(1).

(2) CURRENT BEST PRACTICES.—The model guidance issued under this subsection shall reflect, to the maximum extent practicable, current best practices to encourage the deployment of combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems while ensuring the safety and reliability of the interconnected units and the distribution and transmission networks to which the units connect, including—

(A) relevant current standards developed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers; and

(B) model codes and rules adopted by—

(i) States; or

(ii) associations of State regulatory agencies.

(3) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In establishing the model guidance under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into consideration—

(A) the appropriateness of using standards or procedures for interconnection service that vary based on unit size, fuel type, or other relevant characteristics;

(B) the appropriateness of establishing fast-track procedures for interconnection service;

(C) the value of consistency with Federal interconnection rules established by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(D) the best practices used to model outage assumptions and contingencies to determine fees or rates for additional services;

(E) the appropriate duration, magnitude, or usage of demand charge ratchets;

(F) potential alternative arrangements with respect to the procurement of additional services, including—

(i) contracts tailored to individual electric consumers for additional services;

(ii) procurement of additional services by an electric utility from a competitive market; and

(iii) waivers of fees or rates for additional services for small electric consumers; and

(G) outcomes such as increased electric reliability, fuel diversification, enhanced power quality, and reduced electric losses that may result from increased use of combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems.

SA 3317. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 42___. RESTORATION OF LABORATORY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

The Secretary shall ensure that laboratory operating contractors do not allocate costs of general and administrative overhead to laboratory directed research and development.

SA 3318. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 42___. RESTORATION OF LABORATORY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

The Secretary shall ensure that the laboratory operating contractors for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories do not allocate costs of general and administrative overhead to laboratory directed research and development.

SA 3319. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 3017 and insert the following:

SEC. 3017. WOODY BIO-POWER.

Section 803 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17282) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''paragraph (5)'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''this subsection''; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or to receive any form of Federal assistance under subsection (c)'' after ''paragraph (1)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''a grant under this section'' and inserting ''a grant under this subsection or any form of Federal assistance under subsection (c)'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as paragraph (5), and indenting appropriately;

(3) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''this subsection''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) WOODY BIO-POWER.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) WOODY BIOMASS.—The term 'woody biomass' means any material derived from trees and brush in forest ecosystems that is considered to be biomass (as defined in section 203(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852(b))).

''(B) WOODY BIOMASS-DERIVED THERMAL ENERGY.—The term 'woody biomass-derived thermal energy' means the use of woody biomass—

''(i) to generate heat; or

''(ii) for cooling purposes.

''(C) WOODY BIO-POWER.—The term 'woody bio-power' means the use of woody biomass to generate electricity.

''(2) WOODY BIO-POWER AND WOODY BIOMASS-DERIVED THERMAL ENERGY.—The Secretary shall coordinate research and development

activities relating to woody bio-power and woody biomass-derived thermal energy projects with other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

''(3) WOODY BIO-POWER AND WOODY BIOMASS-DERIVED THERMAL ENERGY GRANTS.—

''(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall establish a program under which the Secretary shall provide grants to support innovation, market development, and expansion for woody bio-power and woody biomass-derived thermal energy in the commercial, institutional, industrial, and residential bioenergy sectors.

''(B) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph, the owner or operator of a relevant project shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(C) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts appropriated each fiscal year to carry out this paragraph, the Secretary shall not provide more than—

''(i) $15,000,000 for projects that develop innovative techniques to preprocess woody biomass for use in woody bio-powered and woody biomass-derived thermal energy and for lowering the costs of—

''(I) distributed preprocessing technologies, including technologies designed to promote densification, torrefaction, and the broader commoditization of bioenergy feedstocks; and

''(II) transportation;

''(ii) $15,000,000 for woody bio-power and woody biomass-derived thermal development projects, including—

''(I) district energy projects;

''(II) combined heat and power;

''(III) small-scale gasification;

''(IV) innovation in the transportation of woody biomass; and

''(V) projects addressing the challenges of retrofitting existing electricity generation facilities, including coal-fired facilities, to use biomass; and

''(iii) $5,000,000 for research and development of residential wood heaters towards meeting all targets established by the most recent standards of performance established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under section 111 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7411).

''(D) REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION.—In selecting projects to receive grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, diverse geographical distribution among the projects.

''(E) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a project carried out using a grant under this paragraph shall be 50 percent.

''(F) DUTIES OF RECIPIENTS.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this paragraph, the owner or operator of a relevant project shall—

''(i) participate in the applicable working group under subparagraph (G);

''(ii) submit to the Secretary a report that includes—

''(I) a description of the project and any relevant findings; and

''(II) such other information as the Secretary determines to be necessary to complete the report of the Secretary under subparagraph (H); and

''(iii) carry out such other activities as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

''(G) WORKING GROUPS.—The Secretary shall establish 3 working groups to share best practices and collaborate in project implementation, of which—

''(i) 1 shall be comprised of representatives of projects that receive grants under subparagraph (C)(i);

''(ii) 1 shall be comprised of representatives of projects that receive grants under subparagraph (C)(ii); and

''(iii) 1 shall be comprised of representatives of projects that receive grants under subparagraph (C)(iii).

''(H) REPORTS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing—

''(i) each project for which a grant has been provided under this paragraph;

''(ii) any findings as a result of those projects; and

''(iii) the state of market and technology development, including market barriers and opportunities.

''(I) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2026, to remain available until expended.

''(4) PROMOTING BIOENERGY IN FEDERAL FACILITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to fund woody bio-power and woody biomass-derived thermal energy system installations for new or existing Federal facilities $20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

''(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary and the Administrator of General Services shall consult regularly to ensure optimal success of the activities described in subparagraph (A).

''(5) DOE CHP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIPS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partnerships of the Department $5,000,000 to increase the capacity and expertise of the Department to provide technical and other assistance for combined heat and power systems that use wood as a fuel source.

''(6) DOE RESEARCH ON SMALL GASIFIER SYSTEMS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $5,000,000 to assess and develop market opportunities for small gasifiers, turbines, and other small-scale thermal energy and combined heat and power systems that use wood as a fuel source.

''(7) WOOD ENERGY WORKS PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appropriated to carry out this paragraph, the Secretary shall grant funding to a non-Federal organization to create and deliver an initiative for the purpose of providing free assistance from the design phase through the construction phase for wood energy projects and education, training, and resources related to the design of wood energy systems for a wide range of building types including mid-rise, multi-residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings.

''(B) REPORTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A non-Federal organization described in subparagraph (A) shall report quarterly to the Secretary on the progress and accomplishments of the initiative.

''(ii) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—For each fiscal year in which funding is appropriated to carry out this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the progress and accomplishments of the funded initiatives.

''(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph—

''(i) $2,000,000 for fiscal year 2017; and

''(ii) $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2027.

''(8) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO CREATE INTERAGENCY WOOD ENERGY POLICY REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies, shall conduct an evaluation of Federal policies as of the date of enactment of this subsection and make recommendations on how Congress can better support the industrial, commercial, and residential wood energy sectors in the United States.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the evaluation conducted and recommendations made under subparagraph (A).

''(C) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph $1,000,000.

''(9) REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a regional woody biomass energy program that provides technical assistance to install woody bio-power or woody biomass-derived thermal energy systems for heating, cooling, or electricity at new or existing facilities.

''(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph $75,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

''(10) STRATEGIC ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting jointly with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall establish a woody biomass thermal and woody bio-power research program—

''(i) the costs of which shall be divided equally between the Department and the Environmental Protection Agency;

''(ii) to carry out projects and activities to advance research and analysis on the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the United States woody bio-power and woody biomass-derived thermal energy industries, including—

''(I) full accounting of greenhouse gas emissions;

''(II) net energy analysis; and

''(III) advanced modeling of future climate impacts coupled with land use changes on future forest health and biomass production;

''(iii) to provide recommendations for policy and investment in those areas; and

''(iv) to identify and assess, through a joint effort between the Secretary and the regional combined heat and power groups of the Department and the Environmental Protection Agency, the feasibility of thermally led district wood energy opportunities in all regions, including by conducting—

''(I) broad regional assessments; and

''(II) feasibility studies and preliminary engineering assessments for individual facilities.

''(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency—

''(i) $2,000,000 to carry out clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) $1,000,000 to carry out subparagraph (A)(iv).''.

SA 3320. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 3009 and insert the following:

SEC. 3009. LARGE-SCALE GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.

Section 803 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17282) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''paragraph (5)'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''this subsection''; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or to receive a grant under subsection (c)'' after ''paragraph (1)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''a grant under this section'' and inserting ''a grant under this subsection or subsection (c)'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as paragraph (5), and indenting appropriately;

(3) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''this subsection''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) LARGE-SCALE GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.—

''(1) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this subsection are—

''(A) to improve the components, processes, and systems used for geothermal heat pumps and the direct use of geothermal energy; and

''(B) to increase the energy efficiency, lower the cost, increase the use, and improve and demonstrate the applicability of geothermal heat pumps to, and the direct use of geothermal energy in, large buildings, commercial districts, residential communities, and large municipal, agricultural, or industrial projects.

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) DIRECT USE OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.—The term 'direct use of geothermal energy' means systems that use water that is at a temperature between approximately 38 degrees Celsius and 149 degrees Celsius directly or through a heat exchanger to provide—

''(i) heating to buildings; or

''(ii) heat required for industrial processes, agriculture, aquaculture, and other facilities.

''(B) GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP.—The term 'geothermal heat pump' means a system that provides heating and cooling by exchanging heat from shallow ground or surface water using—

''(i) a closed loop system, which transfers heat by way of buried or immersed pipes that contain a mix of water and working fluid; or

''(ii) an open loop system, which circulates ground or surface water directly into the building and returns the water to the same aquifer or surface water source.

''(C) LARGE-SCALE APPLICATION.—The term 'large-scale application' means an application for space or process heating or cooling for large entities with a name-plate capacity, expected resource, or rating of 10 or more megawatts, such as a large building, commercial district, residential community, or a large municipal, agricultural, or industrial project.

''(3) PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program of research, development, and demonstration for geothermal heat pumps and the direct use of geothermal energy.

''(B) AREAS.—The program may include research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of—

''(i) geothermal ground loop efficiency improvements through more efficient heat transfer fluids;

''(ii) geothermal ground loop efficiency improvements through more efficient thermal grouts for wells and trenches;

''(iii) geothermal ground loop installation cost reduction through—

''(I) improved drilling methods;

''(II) improvements in drilling equipment;

''(III) improvements in design methodology and energy analysis procedures; and

''(IV) improved methods for determination of ground thermal properties and ground temperatures;

''(iv) installing geothermal ground loops near the foundation walls of new construction to take advantage of existing structures;

''(v) using gray or black wastewater as a method of heat exchange;

''(vi) improving geothermal heat pump system economics through integration of geothermal systems with other building systems, including providing hot and cold water and rejecting or circulating industrial process heat through refrigeration heat rejection and waste heat recovery;

''(vii) advanced geothermal systems using variable pumping rates to increase efficiency;

''(viii) geothermal heat pump efficiency improvements;

''(ix) use of hot water found in mines and mine shafts and other surface waters as the heat exchange medium;

''(x) heating of districts, neighborhoods, communities, large commercial or public buildings (including office, retail, educational, government, and institutional buildings and multifamily residential buildings and campuses), and industrial and manufacturing facilities;

''(xi) geothermal system integration with solar thermal water heating or cool roofs and solar-regenerated desiccants to balance loads and use building hot water to store geothermal energy;

''(xii) use of hot water coproduced from oil and gas recovery;

''(xiii) use of water sources at a temperature of less than 150 degrees Celsius for direct use;

''(xiv) system integration of direct use with geothermal electricity production; and

''(xv) coproduction of heat and power, including on-site use.

''(C) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall identify and mitigate potential environmental impacts in accordance with section 614(c).

''(4) GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants available to State and local governments, institutions of higher education, nonprofit entities, utilities, and for-profit companies (including manufacturers of heat-pump and direct-use components and systems) to promote the development of geothermal heat pumps and the direct use of geothermal energy.

''(B) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to proposals that apply to large buildings (including office, retail, educational, government, institutional, and multifamily residential buildings and campuses and industrial and manufacturing facilities), commercial districts, and residential communities.

''(C) NATIONAL SOLICITATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall conduct a national solicitation for applications for grants under this paragraph.

''(5) REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on progress made and results obtained under this subsection to develop geothermal heat pumps and direct use of geothermal energy.

''(B) AREAS.—Each of the reports required under this paragraph shall include—

''(i) an analysis of progress made in each of the areas described in paragraph (3)(B); and

''(ii)(I) a description of any relevant recommendations made during a review of the program; and

''(II) any plans to address the recommendations under subclause (I).''.

SA 3321. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE VI—SPORTSMEN AND WILDLIFE

SEC. 601. TARGET PRACTICE AND MARKSMANSHIP.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to facilitate the construction and expansion of public target ranges, including ranges on Federal land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) DEFINITION OF PUBLIC TARGET RANGE.—In this section, the term ''public target range'' means a specific location that—

(1) is identified by a governmental agency for recreational shooting;

(2) is open to the public;

(3) may be supervised; and

(4) may accommodate archery or rifle, pistol, or shotgun shooting.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669a) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (3) through (9), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) the term 'public target range' means a specific location that—

''(A) is identified by a governmental agency for recreational shooting;

''(B) is open to the public;

''(C) may be supervised; and

''(D) may accommodate archery or rifle, pistol, or shotgun shooting;''.

(2) EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.—Section 8(b) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669g(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''(b) Each State'' and inserting the following:

''(b) EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each State'';

(B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by striking ''construction, operation,'' and inserting ''operation'';

(C) in the second sentence, by striking ''The non-Federal share'' and inserting the following:

''(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share'';

(D) in the third sentence, by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary''; and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as designated by subparagraph (A)) the following:

''(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding the limitation described in paragraph (1), a State may pay up to 90 percent of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.''.

(3) FIREARM AND BOW HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY PROGRAM GRANTS.—Section 10 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h–1) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—Of the amount apportioned to a State for any fiscal year under section 4(b), the State may elect to allocate not more than 10 percent, to be combined with the amount apportioned to the State under paragraph (1) for that fiscal year, for acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.'';

(B) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) COST SHARING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out using a grant under this section shall not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the activity.

''(2) PUBLIC TARGET RANGE CONSTRUCTION OR EXPANSION.—The Federal share of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range in a State on Federal or non-Federal land pursuant to this section or section 8(b) shall not exceed 90 percent of the cost of the activity.''; and

(C) in subsection (c)(1)—

(i) by striking ''Amounts made'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), amounts made''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Amounts provided for acquiring land for, constructing, or expanding a public target range shall remain available for expenditure and obligation during the 5-fiscal-year period beginning on October 1 of the first fiscal year for which the amounts are made available.''.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING COOPERATION.—It is the sense of Congress that, consistent with applicable laws (including regulations), the Chief of the Forest Service and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management should cooperate with State and local authorities and other entities to carry out waste removal and other activities on any Federal land used as a public target range to encourage continued use of that land for target practice or marksmanship training.

SEC. 602. NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'';

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.''.

SEC. 603. MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT.—Section 2306(a) of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4245(a)) is amended by striking ''2007 through 2012'' and inserting ''2016 through 2020''.

(b) REAUTHORIZATION OF RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ACT OF 1994.—Section 10(a) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5306(a)) is amended by striking ''2007 through 2012'' and inserting ''2016 through 2020''.

(c) REAUTHORIZATION OF ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT OF 1997.—Section 8(a) of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4266(a)) is amended by striking ''2007 through 2012'' and inserting ''2016 through 2020''.

(d) AMENDMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION OF GREAT APE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000.—The Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 is amended as follows:

(1) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—In section 4 (16 U.S.C. 6303), by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(j) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award a multiyear grant under this section to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section, to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for great apes and their habitats.

''(2) ANNUAL GRANTS NOT AFFECTED.—This subsection shall not be construed as precluding the Secretary from awarding grants on an annual basis.''.

(2) PANEL OF EXPERTS.—In section 4(i) (16 U.S.C. 6303(i))—

(A) in paragraph (1), by—

(i) striking ''Every 2 years'' and inserting ''Within one year after the date of the enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, and every 5 years thereafter'';

(ii) striking ''may convene'' and inserting ''shall convene'';

(iii) inserting ''and priorities'' after ''needs''; and

(iv) adding at the end the following new sentence: ''The panel shall, to the extent practicable, include representatives from foreign range states with expertise in great ape conservation.''; and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4), and inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

''(2) In identifying conservation needs and priorities under paragraph (1), the panel shall consider relevant great ape conservation plans or strategies including scientific research and findings related to—

''(A) the conservation needs and priorities of great apes;

''(B) regional or species-specific action plans or strategies;

''(C) applicable strategies developed or initiated by the Secretary; and

''(D) any other applicable conservation plan or strategy.

''(3) The Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, may pay expenses of convening and facilitating meetings of the panel.''.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES LIMITATION.—In section 5(b)(2) (16 U.S.C. 6304(b)(2)), by striking ''$100,000'' and inserting ''$150,000''.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In section 6 (16 U.S.C. 6305), by striking ''2006 through 2010'' and inserting ''2016 through 2020''.

(e) AMENDMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION OF MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2004.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 is amended—

(A) in sections 2(b) and 3(2) (16 U.S.C. 6601(b), 6602(2)), by inserting ''and territories of the United States'' after ''foreign countries'' each place it occurs;

(B) in section 3 (16 U.S.C. 6602) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term 'territory of the United States' means each of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.''; and

(C) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 6603)—

(i) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting ''or territory of the United States'' after ''foreign country''; and

(ii) in subsection (d) by inserting ''and territories of the United States'' after ''foreign countries''.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES LIMITATION.—Section 5(b)(2) of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6604(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''$80,000'' and inserting ''$150,000''.

(3) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 7 of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6606) is amended by striking ''each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009'' and inserting ''each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020''.

SEC. 604. NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.

(a) BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FOUNDATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

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

''(2) IN GENERAL.—After consulting with the Secretary of Commerce and considering the recommendations submitted by the Board, the Secretary of the Interior shall appoint 28 Directors who, to the maximum extent practicable, shall—

''(A) be knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to the conservation of fish, wildlife, or other natural resources; and

''(B) represent a balance of expertise in ocean, coastal, freshwater, and terrestrial resource conservation.''; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) TERMS.—Each Director (other than a Director described in paragraph (1)) shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.''; and

(B) in subsection (g)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''(A) Officers and employees may not be appointed until the Foundation has sufficient funds to pay them for their service. Officers'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Officers''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Foundation shall have an Executive Director who shall be—

''(i) appointed by, and serve at the direction of, the Board as the chief executive officer of the Foundation; and

''(ii) knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to fish and wildlife conservation.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4(a)(1)(B) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4403(a)(1)(B)) is amended by striking ''Secretary of the Board'' and inserting ''Executive Director of the Board''.

(b) RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE FOUNDATION.—Section 4 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3703) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''(c) POWERS.—To carry out its purposes under'' and inserting the following:

''(c) POWERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purposes described in'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (11) as subparagraphs (A) through (K), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(C) in subparagraph (D) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking ''that are insured by an agency or instrumentality of the United States'' and inserting ''at 1 or more financial institutions that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Securities Investment Protection Corporation'';

(D) in subparagraph (E) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking ''paragraph (3) or (4)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (C) or (D)'';

(E) in subparagraph (J) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(F) by striking subparagraph (K) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)) and inserting the following:

''(K) to receive and administer restitution and community service payments, amounts for mitigation of impacts to natural resources, and other amounts arising from

legal, regulatory, or administrative proceedings, subject to the condition that the amounts are received or administered for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources; and

''(L) to do acts necessary to carry out the purposes of the Foundation.''; and

(G) by striking the undesignated matter at the end and inserting the following:

''(2) TREATMENT OF REAL PROPERTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this Act, an interest in real property shall be treated as including easements or other rights for preservation, conservation, protection, or enhancement by and for the public of natural, scenic, historic, scientific, educational, inspirational, or recreational resources.

''(B) ENCUMBERED REAL PROPERTY.—A gift, devise, or bequest may be accepted by the Foundation even though the gift, devise, or bequest is encumbered, restricted, or subject to beneficial interests of private persons if any current or future interest in the gift, devise, or bequest is for the benefit of the Foundation.

''(3) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The acceptance and administration of amounts by the Foundation under paragraph (1)(K) does not alter, supersede, or limit any regulatory or statutory requirement associated with those amounts.'';

(2) by striking subsections (f) and (g); and

(3) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3709) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021—

''(A) $15,000,000 to the Secretary of the Interior;

''(B) $5,000,000 to the Secretary of Agriculture; and

''(C) $5,000,000 to the Secretary of Commerce.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

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

''(1) AMOUNTS FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities may provide Federal funds to the Foundation, subject to the condition that the amounts are used for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources in accordance with this Act.

''(B) ADVANCES.—Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities may advance amounts described in subparagraph (A) to the Foundation in a lump sum without regard to when the expenses for which the amounts are used are incurred.

''(C) MANAGEMENT FEES.—The Foundation may assess and collect fees for the management of amounts received under this paragraph.'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''FUNDS'' and inserting ''AMOUNTS'';

(ii) by striking ''shall be used'' and inserting ''may be used''; and

(iii) by striking ''and State and local government agencies'' and inserting '', State and local government agencies, and other entities''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) ADMINISTRATION OF AMOUNTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In entering into contracts, agreements, or other partnerships pursuant to this Act, a Federal department, agency, or instrumentality shall have discretion to waive any competitive process applicable to the department, agency, or instrumentality for entering into contracts, agreements, or partnerships with the Foundation if the purpose of the waiver is—

''(i) to address an environmental emergency resulting from a natural or other disaster; or

''(ii) as determined by the head of the applicable Federal department, agency, or instrumentality, to reduce administrative expenses and expedite the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources.

''(B) REPORTS.—The Foundation shall include in the annual report submitted under section 7(b) a description of any use of the authority under subparagraph (A) by a Federal department, agency, or instrumentality in that fiscal year.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) USE OF GIFTS, DEVISES, OR BEQUESTS OF MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY.—Any gifts, devises, or bequests of amounts or other property, or any other amounts or other property, transferred to, deposited with, or otherwise in the possession of the Foundation pursuant to this Act, may be made available by the Foundation to Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities and may be accepted and expended (or the disposition of the amounts or property directed), without further appropriation, by those Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities, subject to the condition that the amounts or property be used for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources.''.

(d) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—Section 11 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3710) is amended by inserting ''exclusive'' before ''authority''.

SEC. 605. REAUTHORIZATION OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 10 of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6109) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $6,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.

''(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (a) for each fiscal year, not less than 75 percent shall be expended for projects carried out at a location outside of the United States.''.

TITLE VII—NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act''.

SEC. 702. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested parties to promote fish conservation—

(1) to achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that lead to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities by—

(A) improving ecological conditions;

(B) restoring natural processes; or

(C) preventing the decline of intact and healthy systems;

(2) to establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by Fish Habitat Partnerships;

(3) to broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by—

(A) increasing fishing opportunities;

(B) fostering the participation of local communities, especially young people in local communities, in conservation activities; and

(C) raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitat play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities;

(4) to fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and the associated database of the National Fish Habitat Assessment—

(A) to empower strategic conservation actions supported by broadly available scientific information; and

(B) to integrate socioeconomic data in the analysis to improve the lives of humans in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals; and

(5) to communicate to the public and conservation partners—

(A) the conservation outcomes produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships; and

(B) new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat.

SEC. 703. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) BOARD.—The term ''Board'' means the National Fish Habitat Board established by section 704(a)(1).

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) EPA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''EPA Assistant Administrator'' means the Assistant Administrator for Water of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(6) NOAA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''NOAA Assistant Administrator'' means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(7) PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''Partnership'' means a self-governed entity designated by the Board as a Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership pursuant to section 705(a).

(8) REAL PROPERTY INTEREST.—The term ''real property interest'' means an ownership interest in—

(A) land; or

(B) water (including water rights).

(9) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(10) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the several States.

(11) STATE AGENCY.—The term ''State agency'' means—

(A) the fish and wildlife agency of a State; and

(B) any department or division of a department or agency of a State that manages in the public trust the inland or marine fishery resources or sustains the habitat for those fishery resources of the State pursuant to State law or the constitution of the State.

SEC. 704. NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) FISH HABITAT BOARD.—There is established a board, to be known as the ''National Fish Habitat Board'', whose duties are—

(A) to promote, oversee, and coordinate the implementation of this title;

(B) to establish national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation;

(C) to approve Partnerships; and

(D) to review and make recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall be composed of 25 members, of whom—

(A) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of the Interior;

(B) 1 shall be a representative of the United States Geological Survey;

(C) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Commerce;

(D) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Agriculture;

(E) 1 shall be a representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

(F) 4 shall be representatives of State agencies, 1 of whom shall be nominated by a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies from each of the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western regions of the United States;

(G) 1 shall be a representative of either—

(i) Indian tribes in the State of Alaska; or

(ii) Indian tribes in States other than the State of Alaska;

(H) 1 shall be a representative of either—

(i) the Regional Fishery Management Councils established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852); or

(ii) a representative of the Marine Fisheries Commissions, which is composed of—

(I) the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(II) the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; and

(III) the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(I) 1 shall be a representative of the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council;

(J) 7 shall be representatives selected from each of—

(i) the recreational sportfishing industry;

(ii) the commercial fishing industry;

(iii) marine recreational anglers;

(iv) freshwater recreational anglers;

(v) habitat conservation organizations; and

(vi) science-based fishery organizations;

(K) 1 shall be a representative of a national private landowner organization;

(L) 1 shall be a representative of an agricultural production organization;

(M) 1 shall be a representative of local government interests involved in fish habitat restoration;

(N) 2 shall be representatives from different sectors of corporate industries, which may include—

(i) natural resource commodity interests, such as petroleum or mineral extraction;

(ii) natural resource user industries; and

(iii) industries with an interest in fish and fish habitat conservation; and

(O) 1 shall be a leadership private sector or landowner representative of an active partnership.

(3) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Board shall serve without compensation.

(4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Board.

(b) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (F) through (N) of subsection (a)(2) shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(2) INITIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The initial Board will consist of representatives as described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of subsection (a)(2).

(B) REMAINING MEMBERS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the representatives of the initial Board pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall appoint the remaining members of the Board described in subparagraphs (H) through (N) of subsection (a)(2).

(C) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Board a recommendation of not fewer than 3 tribal representatives, from which the Board shall appoint 1 representative pursuant to subparagraph (G) of subsection (a)(2).

(3) TRANSITIONAL TERMS.—Of the members described in subsection (a)(2)(J) initially appointed to the Board—

(A) 2 shall be appointed for a term of 1 year;

(B) 2 shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(C) 3 shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(4) VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy of a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (H) through (N) of subsection (a)(2) shall be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members of the Board.

(B) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Following a vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph (G) of subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall recommend to the Board a list of not fewer than 3 tribal representatives, from which the remaining members of the Board shall appoint a representative to fill the vacancy.

(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—An individual whose term of service as a member of the Board expires may continue to serve on the Board until a successor is appointed.

(6) REMOVAL.—If a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (H) through (N) of subsection (a)(2) misses 3 consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings, the members of the Board may—

(A) vote to remove that member; and

(B) appoint another individual in accordance with paragraph (4).

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies appointed pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(E) shall serve as Chairperson of the Board.

(2) TERM.—The Chairperson of the Board shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet—

(A) at the call of the Chairperson; but

(B) not less frequently than twice each calendar year.

(2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

(e) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish procedures to carry out the business of the Board, including—

(A) a requirement that a quorum of the members of the Board be present to transact business;

(B) a requirement that no recommendations may be adopted by the Board, except by the vote of ⅔ of all members;

(C) procedures for establishing national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation for the purposes of this title;

(D) procedures for designating Partnerships under section 705; and

(E) procedures for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 705. FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO APPROVE.—The Board may approve and designate Fish Habitat Partnerships in accordance with this section.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a Partnership shall be—

(1) to work with other regional habitat conservation programs to promote cooperation and coordination to enhance fish and fish habitats;

(2) to engage local and regional communities to build support for fish habitat conservation;

(3) to involve diverse groups of public and private partners;

(4) to develop collaboratively a strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is scientifically sound;

(5) to leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships;

(6) to use adaptive management principles, including evaluation of project success and functionality;

(7) to develop appropriate local or regional habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat condition measures; and

(8) to implement local and regional priority projects that improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

(c) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—An entity seeking to be designated as a Partnership shall—

(1) submit to the Board an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Board may reasonably require; and

(2) demonstrate to the Board that the entity has—

(A) a focus on promoting the health of important fish and fish habitats;

(B) an ability to coordinate the implementation of priority projects that support the goals and national priorities set by the Board that are within the Partnership boundary;

(C) a self-governance structure that supports the implementation of strategic priorities for fish habitat;

(D) the ability to develop local and regional relationships with a broad range of entities to further strategic priorities for fish and fish habitat;

(E) a strategic plan that details required investments for fish habitat conservation that addresses the strategic fish habitat priorities of the Partnership and supports and meets the strategic priorities of the Board;

(F) the ability to develop and implement fish habitat conservation projects that address strategic priorities of the Partnership and the Board; and

(G) the ability to develop fish habitat conservation priorities based on sound science and data, the ability to measure the effectiveness of fish habitat projects of the Partnership, and a clear plan as to how Partnership science and data components will be integrated with the overall Board science and data effort.

(d) APPROVAL.—The Board may approve an application for a Partnership submitted under subsection (c) if the Board determines that the applicant—

(1) identifies representatives to provide support and technical assistance to the Partnership from a diverse group of public and private partners, which may include State or local governments, nonprofit entities, Indian tribes, and private individuals, that are focused on conservation of fish habitats to achieve results across jurisdictional boundaries on public and private land;

(2) is organized to promote the health of important fish species and important fish habitats, including reservoirs, natural lakes, coastal and marine environments, and estuaries;

(3) identifies strategic fish and fish habitat priorities for the Partnership area in the form of geographical focus areas or key stressors or impairments to facilitate strategic planning and decisionmaking;

(4) is able to address issues and priorities on a nationally significant scale;

(5) includes a governance structure that—

(A) reflects the range of all partners; and

(B) promotes joint strategic planning and decisionmaking by the applicant;

(6) demonstrates completion of, or significant progress toward the development of, a strategic plan to address the decline in fish populations, rather than simply treating symptoms, in accordance with the goals and national priorities established by the Board; and

(7) promotes collaboration in developing a strategic vision and implementation program that is scientifically sound and achievable.

SEC. 706. FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

(a) SUBMISSION TO BOARD.—Not later than March 31 of each calendar year, each Partnership shall submit to the Board a list of priority fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Partnership for annual funding under this title.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS BY BOARD.—Not later than July 1 of each calendar year, the Board shall submit to the Secretary a priority list of fish habitat conservation projects that includes the description, including estimated costs, of each project that the Board recommends that the Secretary approve and fund under this title for the following fiscal year.

(c) CRITERIA FOR PROJECT SELECTION.—The Board shall select each fish habitat conservation project to be recommended to the Secretary under subsection (b) after taking into consideration, at a minimum, the following information:

(1) A recommendation of the Partnership that is, or will be, participating actively in implementing the fish habitat conservation project.

(2) The capabilities and experience of project proponents to implement successfully the proposed project.

(3) The extent to which the fish habitat conservation project —

(A) fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the strategic plan of the Partnership and is consistent with the purpose of this title;

(B) addresses the national priorities established by the Board;

(C) is supported by the findings of the Habitat Assessment of the Partnership or the Board, and aligns or is compatible with other conservation plans;

(D) identifies appropriate monitoring and evaluation measures and criteria that are compatible with national measures;

(E) provides a well-defined budget linked to deliverables and outcomes;

(F) leverages other funds to implement the project;

(G) addresses the causes and processes behind the decline of fish or fish habitats; and

(H) includes an outreach or education component that includes the local or regional community.

(4) The availability of sufficient non-Federal funds to match Federal contributions for the fish habitat conservation project, as required by subsection (e);

(5) The extent to which the local or regional fish habitat conservation project—

(A) will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational fishing opportunities for the public;

(B) will be carried out through a cooperative agreement among Federal, State, and local governments, Indian tribes, and private entities;

(C) increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities;

(D) advances the conservation of fish and wildlife species that have been identified by the States as species of greatest conservation need;

(E) where appropriate, advances the conservation of fish and fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and other relevant Federal law and State wildlife action plans; and

(F) promotes strong and healthy fish habitats so that desired biological communities are able to persist and adapt.

(6) The substantiality of the character and design of the fish habitat conservation project.

(d) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION.—No fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless the fish habitat conservation project includes an evaluation plan designed using applicable Board guidance—

(A) to appropriately assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement activities carried out using the assistance;

(B) to reflect appropriate changes to the fish habitat conservation project if the assessment substantiates that the fish habitat conservation project objectives are not being met;

(C) to identify improvements to existing fish populations, recreational fishing opportunities and the overall economic benefits for the local community of the fish habitat conservation project; and

(D) to require the submission to the Board of a report describing the findings of the assessment.

(2) ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A State, local government, or other non-Federal entity is eligible to receive funds for the acquisition of real property from willing sellers under this title if the acquisition ensures 1 of—

(i) public access for compatible fish and wildlife-dependent recreation; or

(ii) a scientifically based, direct enhancement to the health of fish and fish populations, as determined by the Board.

(B) STATE AGENCY APPROVAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—All real property interest acquisition projects funded under this title are required to be approved by the State agency in the State in which the project is occurring.

(ii) PROHIBITION.—The Board may not recommend, and the Secretary may not provide any funding for, any real property interest acquisition that has not been approved by the State agency.

(C) ASSESSMENT OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The Fish Habitat Partnership shall conduct a project assessment, submitted with the funding request and approved by the Board, to demonstrate all other Federal, State, and local authorities for the acquisition of real property have been exhausted.

(D) RESTRICTIONS.—A real property interest may not be acquired pursuant to a fish habitat conservation project by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity, unless—

(i) the owner of the real property authorizes the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity to acquire the real property; and

(ii) the Secretary and the Board determine that the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity would benefit from undertaking the management of the real property being acquired because that is in accordance with the goals of a partnership.

(e) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless at least 50 percent of the cost of the fish habitat conservation project will be funded with non-Federal funds.

(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of a fish habitat conservation project—

(A) may not be derived from another Federal grant program; but

(B) may include in-kind contributions and cash.

(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or any other provision of law, any funds made available to an Indian tribe pursuant to this title may be considered to be non-Federal funds for the purpose of paragraph (1).

(f) APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the recommended priority list of fish habitat conservation projects under subsection (b), subject to the limitations of subsection (d), and based, to the maximum extent practicable, on the criteria described in subsection (c), the Secretary, after consulting with the Secretary of Commerce on marine or estuarine projects, shall approve or reject any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board.

(2) FUNDING.—If the Secretary approves a fish habitat conservation project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use amounts made available to carry out this title to provide funds to carry out the fish habitat conservation project.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary rejects any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under subsection (b), not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the recommendation, the Secretary shall provide to the Board, the appropriate Partnership, and the appropriate congressional committees a written statement of the reasons that the Secretary rejected the fish habitat conservation project.

SEC. 707. TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, the NOAA Assistant Administrator, the EPA Assistant Administrator, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in coordination with the Forest Service and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, may provide scientific and technical assistance to the Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—Scientific and technical assistance provided pursuant to subsection (a) may include—

(1) providing technical and scientific assistance to States, Indian tribes, regions, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations in the development and implementation of Partnerships;

(2) providing technical and scientific assistance to Partnerships for habitat assessment, strategic planning, and prioritization;

(3) supporting the development and implementation of fish habitat conservation projects that are identified as high priorities by Partnerships and the Board;

(4) supporting and providing recommendations regarding the development of science-based monitoring and assessment approaches for implementation through Partnerships;

(5) supporting and providing recommendations for a national fish habitat assessment;

(6) ensuring the availability of experts to assist in conducting scientifically based

evaluation and reporting of the results of fish habitat conservation projects; and

(7) providing resources to secure state agency scientific and technical assistance to support Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

SEC. 708. COORDINATION WITH STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.

The Secretary shall provide a notice to, and cooperate with, the appropriate State agency or tribal agency, as applicable, of each State and Indian tribe within the boundaries of which an activity is planned to be carried out pursuant to this title, including notification, by not later than 30 days before the date on which the activity is implemented.

SEC. 709. INTERAGENCY OPERATIONAL PLAN.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director, in cooperation with the NOAA Assistant Administrator, the EPA Assistant Administrator, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies (including at a minimum, those agencies represented on the Board) shall develop an interagency operational plan that describes—

(1) the functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and material needs for the implementation of this title; and

(2) any interagency agreements between or among Federal departments and agencies to address those needs.

SEC. 710. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING.

(a) REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the progress of this title.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an estimate of the number of acres, stream miles, or acre-feet, or other suitable measures of fish habitat, that was maintained or improved by partnerships of Federal, State, or local governments, Indian tribes, or other entities in the United States during the 5-year period ending on the date of submission of the report;

(B) a description of the public access to fish habitats established or improved during that 5-year period;

(C) a description of the improved opportunities for public recreational fishing; and

(D) an assessment of the status of fish habitat conservation projects carried out with funds provided under this title during that period, disaggregated by year, including—

(i) a description of the fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Board under section 706(b);

(ii) a description of each fish habitat conservation project approved by the Secretary under section 706(f), in order of priority for funding;

(iii) a justification for—

(I) the approval of each fish habitat conservation project; and

(II) the order of priority for funding of each fish habitat conservation project;

(iv) a justification for any rejection of a fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under section 706(b) that was based on a factor other than the criteria described in section 706(c); and

(v) an accounting of expenditures by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian tribes, or other entities to carry out fish habitat conservation projects.

(b) STATUS AND TRENDS REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a status of all Partnerships approved under this title;

(2) a description of the status of fish habitats in the United States as identified by established Partnerships; and

(3) enhancements or reductions in public access as a result of—

(A) the activities of the Partnerships; or

(B) any other activities carried out pursuant to this title.

(c) REVISIONS.—Not later than December 31, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall consider revising the goals of the Board, after consideration of each report required by subsection (b).

SEC. 711. EFFECT OF TITLE.

(a) WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this title—

(1) establishes any express or implied reserved water right in the United States for any purpose;

(2) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water; or

(4) affects any Federal or State law in existence on the date of enactment of the Act regarding water quality or water quantity.

(b) AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE WATER RIGHTS OR RIGHTS TO PROPERTY.—Under this title, only a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity may acquire, under State law, water rights or rights to property.

(c) STATE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this title—

(1) affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of a State to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under the laws and regulations of the State; or

(2) authorizes the Secretary to control or regulate within a State the fishing or hunting of fish and wildlife.

(d) EFFECT ON INDIAN TRIBES.—Nothing in this title abrogates, abridges, affects, modifies, supersedes, or alters any right of an Indian tribe recognized by treaty or any other means, including—

(1) an agreement between the Indian tribe and the United States;

(2) Federal law (including regulations);

(3) an Executive order; or

(4) a judicial decree.

(e) ADJUDICATION OF WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this title diminishes or affects the ability of the Secretary to join an adjudication of rights to the use of water pursuant to subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 208 of the Department of Justice Appropriation Act, 1953 (43 U.S.C. 666).

(f) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this title affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the Department of Commerce to manage, control, or regulate fish or fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(g) EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.—

(1) PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.—Nothing in this title permits the use of funds made available to carry out this title to acquire real property or a real property interest without the written consent of each owner of the real property or real property interest.

(2) MITIGATION.—Nothing in this title permits the use of funds made available to carry out this title for fish and wildlife mitigation purposes under—

(A) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(B) the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(C) the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–662; 100 Stat. 4082); or

(D) any other Federal law or court settlement.

(3) CLEAN WATER ACT.—Nothing in this title affects any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including any definition in that Act.

SEC. 712. NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to—

(1) the Board; or

(2) any Partnership.

SEC. 713. FUNDING.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $7,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 to provide funds for fish habitat conservation projects approved under section 706(f), of which 5 percent shall be made available for each fiscal year for projects carried out by Indian tribes.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING EXPENSES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 an amount equal to 5 percent of the amount appropriated for the applicable fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) for administrative and planning expenses; and

(B) to carry out section 210.

(3) TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.—There is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 to carry out, and provide technical and scientific assistance under, section 707—

(A) $500,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(B) $500,000 to the NOAA Assistant Administrator for use by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(C) $500,000 to the EPA Assistant Administrator for use by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(D) $500,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Geological Survey.

(b) AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS.—The Secretary may—

(1) on the recommendation of the Board, and notwithstanding sections 6304 and 6305 of title 31, United States Code, and the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 106–107), enter into a grant agreement, cooperative agreement, or contract with a Partnership or other entity for a fish habitat conservation project or restoration or enhancement project;

(2) apply for, accept, and use a grant from any individual or entity to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(3) make funds available to any Federal department or agency for use by that department or agency to provide grants for any fish habitat protection project, restoration project, or enhancement project that the Secretary determines to be consistent with this title.

(c) DONATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

(A) enter into an agreement with any organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code to solicit private donations to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(B) accept donations of funds, property, and services to carry out the purposes of this title.

(2) TREATMENT.—A donation accepted under this section—

(A) shall be considered to be a gift or bequest to, or otherwise for the use of, the United States; and

(B) may be—

(i) used directly by the Secretary; or

(ii) provided to another Federal department or agency through an interagency agreement.

SA 3322. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5_____. U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subdivision 1 of Division B of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 3083 the following:

''CHAPTER 3084—U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK

''§ 308401. Definition of Network

''In this chapter, the term 'Network' means the U.S. Civil Rights Network established under section 308402(a).

''§ 308402. U.S. Civil Rights Network

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish, within the Service, a program to be known as the 'U.S. Civil Rights Network'.

''(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—In carrying out the Network, the Secretary shall—

''(1) review studies and reports to complement and not duplicate studies of the historical importance of the African American civil rights movement that may be underway or completed, such as the Civil Rights Framework Study;

''(2) produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials relating to the African American civil rights movement, such as handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic information;

''(3) enter into appropriate cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide technical assistance under subsection (c); and

''(4)(A) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device for the Network; and

''(B) issue regulations for the use of the symbol or device adopted under subparagraph (A).

''(c) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the following elements:

''(1) All units and programs of the Service that are determined by the Secretary to relate to the African American civil rights movement during the period from 1939 through 1968.

''(2) Other Federal, State, local, and privately owned properties that—

''(A) relate to the African American civil rights movement;

''(B) have a verifiable connection to the African American civil rights movement; and

''(C) are included in, or determined by the Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

''(3) Other governmental and nongovernmental facilities and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to the African American civil rights movement.

''§ 308403. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding

''To achieve the purposes of this chapter and to ensure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal elements of the Network described in section 308402(c) with System units and programs of the Service, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with, and provide technical assistance to the heads of other Federal agencies, States, units of local government, regional governmental bodies, and private entities.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 3083 the following:

''3084. U.S. Civil Rights Network.''.

SA 3323. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REED, Mr. BURR, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4470, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to the requirements related to lead in drinking water, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause, and insert the following:

TITLE _____—PREVENTION OF AND PROTECTION FROM LEAD EXPOSURE

SEC. ___01. DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term ''eligible State'' means a State for which the President has declared an emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) relating to the public health threats associated with the presence of lead or other contaminants in a public drinking water supply system.

(3) ELIGIBLE SYSTEM.—The term ''eligible system'' means a public drinking water supply system that is the subject of an emergency declaration referred to in paragraph (2).

(b) STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible system shall be—

(A) considered to be a disadvantaged community under section 1452(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)); and

(B) eligible to receive loans with additional subsidization under that Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.), including forgiveness of principal under section 1452(d)(1) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(1)).

(2) AUTHORIZATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Using funds provided under subsection (e)(1)(A), an eligible State may provide assistance to an eligible system within the eligible State, for the purpose of addressing lead or other contaminants in drinking water, including repair and replacement of public and private drinking water infrastructure.

(B) INCLUSION.—Assistance provided under subparagraph (A) may include additional subsidization under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.), as described in paragraph (1)(B).

(C) EXCLUSION.—Assistance provided under subparagraph (A) shall not include assistance for a project that is financed (directly or indirectly), in whole or in part, with proceeds of any obligation issued after the date of enactment of this Act—

(i) the interest of which is exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

(ii) with respect to which credit is allowable under subpart I or J of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code.

(3) LIMITATION.—Section 1452(d)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(2)) shall not apply to—

(A) any funds provided under subsection (e)(1)(A); or

(B) any other loan provided to an eligible system.

(c) WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING.—

(1) SECURED LOANS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Using funds provided under subsection (e)(2)(A), the Administrator may make a secured loan under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) to—

(i) an eligible State to carry out a project eligible under paragraphs (2) through (9) of section 5026 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 3905) to address lead or other contaminants in drinking water in an eligible system, including repair and replacement of public and private drinking water infrastructure; and

(ii) any eligible entity under section 5025 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 3904) for a project eligible under paragraphs (2) through (9) of section 5026 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 3905).

(B) AMOUNT.—Notwithstanding section 5029(b)(2) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3908(b)(2)), the amount of a secured loan provided under subparagraph (A)(i) may be equal to not more than 80 percent of the reasonably anticipated costs of the projects.

(2) FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT.—Notwithstanding section 5029(b)(9) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3908(b)(9)), any costs for a project to address lead or other contaminants in drinking water in an eligible system that are not covered by a secured loan under paragraph (1) may be covered using amounts in the State revolving loan fund under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12).

(d) NONDUPLICATION OF WORK.—An activity carried out pursuant to this section shall not duplicate the work or activity of any other Federal or State department or agency.

(e) FUNDING.—

(1) ADDITIONAL DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND CAPITALIZATION GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the Administrator a total of $100,000,000 to provide additional grants to eligible States pursuant to section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12), to be available during the period of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for the purposes described in subsection (b)(2).

(B) SUPPLEMENTED INTENDED USE PLANS.—From funds made available under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall obligate to an eligible State such amounts as are necessary to meet the needs identified in a supplemented intended use plan by not later than 30 days after the date on which the eligible State submits to the Administrator a supplemented intended use plan under section 1452(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(b)) that includes preapplication information regarding projects to be funded using the additional assistance, including, with respect to each such project—

(i) a description of the project;

(ii) an explanation of the means by which the project will address a situation causing a declared emergency in the eligible State;

(iii) the estimated cost of the project; and

(iv) the projected start date for construction of the project.

(C) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts made available to the Administrator under subparagraph (A) that are unobligated on the date that is 18 months after the date on which the amounts are made available shall be available to provide additional grants to States to capitalize State loan funds as provided under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12).

(D) APPLICABILITY.—Section 1452(b)(1) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(b)(1)) shall not apply to a supplement to an intended use plan under subparagraph (B).

(2) WIFIA FUNDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the Administrator $70,000,000 to provide credit subsidies, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, for secured loans under subsection (c)(1)(A) with a goal of providing secured loans totaling at least $700,000,000.

(B) USE.—Secured loans provided pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be available to carry out activities described in subsection (c)(1)(A).

(3) APPLICABILITY.—Unless explicitly waived, all requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) shall apply to funding provided under this subsection.

(f) HEALTH EFFECTS EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to section 104(i)(1)(E) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(1)(E)), and on receipt of a request of an appropriate State or local health official of an eligible State, the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the National Center for Environmental Health shall in coordination with other agencies, as appropriate, conduct voluntary surveillance activities to evaluate any adverse health effects on individuals exposed to lead from drinking water in the affected communities.

(2) CONSULTATIONS.—Pursuant to section 104(i)(4) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(4)), and on receipt of a request of an appropriate State or local health official of an eligible State, the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the National Center for Environmental Health shall provide consultations regarding health issues described in paragraph (1).

SEC. ___02. LOAN FORGIVENESS.

The matter under the heading ''STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS'' under the heading ''ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'' in title II of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–113), is amended in paragraph (1), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: ''or, if a Federal or State emergency declaration has been issued due to a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in a municipal drinking water supply, before the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That in a State in which such an emergency declaration has been issued, the State may use more than 20 percent of the funds made available under this title to the State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients;''.

SEC. ___03. DISCLOSURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS FROM LEAD EXPOSURE.

(a) EXCEEDANCE OF LEAD ACTION LEVEL.—Section 1414(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–3(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

''(D) Notice of any exceedance of a lead action level or any other prescribed level of lead in a regulation issued under section 1412, including the concentrations of lead found in a monitoring activity or any other level of lead determined by the Administrator to warrant notice, either on a case-specific or more general basis.'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) EXCEEDANCE OF LEAD ACTION LEVEL.—Regulations issued under subparagraph (A) shall specify notification procedures for an exceedance of a lead action level or any other prescribed level of lead in a regulation issued under section 1412.'';

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) NOTIFICATION OF THE PUBLIC RELATING TO LEAD.—

''(A) EXCEEDANCE OF LEAD ACTION LEVEL.—Not later than 15 days after the date of being notified by the primary agency of an exceedance of a lead action level or any other prescribed level of lead in a regulation issued under section 1412, including the concentrations of lead found in a monitoring activity or any other level of lead determined by the Administrator to warrant notice, either on a case-specific or more general basis, the Administrator shall notify the public of the concentrations of lead found in the monitoring activity conducted by the public water system if the public water system or the State does not notify the public of the concentrations of lead found in a monitoring activity.

''(B) RESULTS OF LEAD MONITORING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may provide notice of any result of lead monitoring conducted by a public water system to—

''(I) any person that is served by the public water system; or

''(II) the local or State health department of a locality or State in which the public water system is located.

''(ii) FORM OF NOTICE.—The Administrator may provide the notice described in clause (i) by—

''(I) press release; or

''(II) other form of communication, including local media.

''(C) PRIVACY.—Notice to the public shall protect the privacy of individual customer information.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1414 (c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–3(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking ''paragraph (2)(E)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)(F)'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)(i)(II), by striking ''subparagraph (D)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (E)''; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(B), in the first sentence, by striking ''(D)'' and inserting ''(E)''.

SEC. ___04. REGISTRY FOR LEAD EXPOSURE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CITY.—The term ''City'' means a city exposed to lead contamination in the local drinking water system.

(2) COMMITTEE.—The term ''Committee'' means the Advisory Committee established under subsection (c).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) LEAD EXPOSURE REGISTRY.—The Secretary shall establish within the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry or another relevant agency at the discretion of the Secretary, or establish through a grant award or contract, a lead exposure registry to collect data on the lead exposure of residents of a City on a voluntary basis.

(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an Advisory Committee in coordination with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other relevant agencies as determined by the Secretary consisting of Federal members and non-Federal members, and which shall include—

(i) an epidemiologist;

(ii) a toxicologist;

(iii) a mental health professional;

(iv) a pediatrician;

(v) an early childhood education expert;

(vi) a special education expert;

(vii) a dietician; and

(viii) an environmental health expert.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Membership in the Committee shall not exceed 15 members and not less than ½ of the members shall be Federal members.

(2) CHAIR.—The Secretary shall designate a chair from among the Federal members appointed to the Committee.

(3) TERMS.—Members of the Committee shall serve for a term of not more than 3 years and the Secretary may reappoint members for consecutive terms.

(4) APPLICATION OF FACA.—The Committee shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(5) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Committee shall, at a minimum—

(A) review the Federal programs and services available to individuals and communities exposed to lead;

(B) review current research on lead poisoning to identify additional research needs;

(C) review and identify best practices, or the need for best practices, regarding lead screening and the prevention of lead poisoning;

(D) identify effective services, including services relating to healthcare, education, and nutrition for individuals and communities affected by lead exposure and lead poisoning, including in consultation with, as appropriate, the lead exposure registry as established in subsection (b); and

(E) undertake any other review or activities that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(6) REPORT.—Annually for 5 years and thereafter as determined necessary by the Secretary or as required by Congress, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary, the Committees on Finance, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Federal programs and services available to individuals and communities exposed to lead;

(B) an evaluation of additional lead poisoning research needs;

(C) an assessment of any effective screening methods or best practices used or developed to prevent or screen for lead poisoning;

(D) input and recommendations for improved access to effective services relating to healthcare, education, or nutrition for individuals and communities impacted by lead exposure; and

(E) any other recommendations for communities affected by lead exposure, as appropriate.

(d) MANDATORY FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary, to be available during the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2020—

(A) $17,500,000 to carry out subsection (b); and

(B) $2,500,000 to carry out subsection (c).

(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Secretary shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out subsections (b) and (c) the funds transferred under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1), respectively, without further appropriation.

SEC. ___05. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CERTAIN CHILDHOOD HEALTH PROGRAMS.

(a) CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to be available during the period of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, $10,000,000 for the childhood lead poisoning prevention program authorized under section 317A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-1).

(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out the childhood lead poisoning prevention program authorized under section 317A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-1) the funds transferred under paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

(b) HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to be available during the period of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, $10,000,000 to carry out the Healthy Homes Initiative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out the Healthy Homes Initiative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development the funds transferred under paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

(c) HEALTHY START PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to be available during the period of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, $10,000,000 to carry out the Healthy Start Initiative under section 330H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-8).

(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out the Healthy Start Initiative under section 330H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-8) the funds transferred under paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

SEC. ___06. REVIEW AND REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General and the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Environment and Public Works, and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the status of any ongoing investigations into the Federal and State response to the contamination of the drinking water supply of the City of Flint, Michigan.

(b) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the investigations described in subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a review of issues that are not addressed by the investigations and relating to—

(1) the adequacy of the response by the State of Michigan and the City of Flint to the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan, including the timeliness and transparency of the response, as well as the capacity of the State and City to manage the drinking water system; and

(2) the adequacy of the response by Region 5 of the Environmental Protection Agency to the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan, including the timeliness and transparency of the response.

(c) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after commencing each review under subsection (b), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a statement of the principal findings of the review; and

(2) recommendations for Congress and the President to take any actions to prevent a similar situation in the future and to protect public health.

SEC. ___07. OFFSET.

None of the funds available to the Secretary of Energy to provide any credit subsidy under subsection (d) of section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be obligated for new loan commitments under that subsection on or after October 1, 2020.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD–406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Renewable Fuel Standard.''

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Ending Modern Slavery: Now is the Time.''

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Zika Virus: Addressing the Growing Public Health Threat.''

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SH–216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Opioid Use Among Seniors: Issues and Emerging Trends.''

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2016, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act: Opportunities for Improvement to Support State and Local Governments.''

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privileges of the floor be granted to Manisha Gupta, a fellow on my staff for the remainder of the 114th Congress.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Bayley Sandy, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. RES. 374

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, February 25, the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 374, which is at the desk, and I ask that it be held, and that the Senate then vote on the resolution, and that if the resolution is 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.

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF TRIBUTES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators be permitted to submit tributes to Justice Scalia for the RECORD until March

10, 2016, and that all tributes be printed as a Senate document.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, February 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate 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.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:22 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 25, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

CARLA D. HAYDEN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS FOR A TERM OF TEN YEARS, VICE JAMES H. BILLINGTON.

IN THE ARMY

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL K. NAGATA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS/COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 3036:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. TODD T. SEMONITE

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271(D):

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MEREDITH L. AUSTIN
REAR ADM. (LH) PETER W. GAUTIER
REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL J. HAYCOCK
REAR ADM. (LH) JAMES M. HEINZ
REAR ADM. (LH) KEVIN E. LUNDAY
REAR ADM. (LH) TODD A. SOKALZUK
REAR ADM. (LH) PAUL F. THOMAS

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 24, 2016:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROBERT MCKINNON CALIFF, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JUSTICE MARSHA SLOUGH

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Justice Marsha Slough, who earlier this week was sworn in to serve on the Fourth District Court of Appeal. Prior to this landmark achievement, Justice Slough served as Presiding Judge and Court of Appeal Justice Appointee of the San Bernardino County Superior Court. I speak with the utmost confidence that Justice Slough will continue to serve the people of the Inland Empire proudly in her unwavering commitment to carrying out justice in our community.

A graduate of Ottawa University and Whittier Law School, and a seasoned attorney in the Inland Empire, Justice Slough has devoted her life and career to our community and residents for decades. Justice Slough is a resident of Redlands and has honorably served the people of San Bernardino County on the County Superior Court since 2003 when she was appointed by Governor Gray Davis before becoming Presiding Judge of the San Bernardino County Superior Court in 2012.

As a fellow public servant and as her representative in Congress, I commend Justice Slough on her latest achievement and am grateful to see someone of her integrity and leadership attain such a prestigious position in our community.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR MICHAEL F. COPELAND OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR 49 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Major Michael F. Copeland. He is retiring from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office after 49 years of dedicated service.

Major Copeland began his service in the Franklin County Sheriff's Office during his high school years. He graduated from Union High School in 1969 and continued dispatching through his college years. Major Copeland graduated from Meramec Community College with an Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice in 1971. Major Copeland was the first civilian dispatcher in Franklin County. In 1997, he was a National Academy graduate from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The leadership and commitment Major Copeland has shown throughout the years is evident by the positions he has held. From 1971 to present, he has served as Deputy Sheriff (Detective Sgt.—1975, Captain—1981, and Major/Chief Deputy—1989). In 1975, Major Copeland, was the first K–9 handler, his partner was ''Smokey'', for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

Major Copeland is a member of the St. Louis Major Case Investigations Squad and was the Lead Investigator starting in 1975 to 1983. He also served as a Death Investigator with the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's Office from 1993 to 2015. Major Copeland led the Missouri Deputy Sheriff's Association as its President starting in 2000 until 2002. Starting in 1975, he was the Coordinator for the Franklin County Law Enforcement Training Center and completed that position in 1983. During the years 1988 thru 1999, Major Copeland was the leader of the Franklin County ''Emergency Response Team''. In addition to the numerous positions he has held—since 1971, Major Copeland has worked on every major case and homicide case in Franklin County.

With this retirement, Major Michael F. Copeland can now spend more time with his family which includes: his wife Laura, son Jon, and his daughter Tamara.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Major Michael F. Copeland on his retirement of 49 years of service to his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING, AND AIR-CONDITIONING AND NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Anthracite Chapter of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) as they celebrate National Engineers Week. ASHRAE was originally formed in 1894 as the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers. With more than 50,000 members spanning the globe, ASHRAE aims to advance the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world.

Established in 1951, National Engineers Week is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by promoting careers in engineering and technology. National Engineers Week represents a formal coalition of more than 70 engineering, education, and cultural societies, with over 50 corporations and government agencies dedicated to raising public awareness on the effect engineering plays in our daily life. National Engineers Week honors the parents, teachers, and mentors who instill the importance of a math, science, and technological literacy in students and motivate them to pursue careers in engineering.

Modern engineering has solved many of the major challenges we face in the modern world. From designing efficient building systems to rebuilding towns devastated by natural disasters, the efforts of our engineers contribute to our nation's well-being and quality of life. It is a great privilege to recognize these honorable men and women, who are committed to using their scientific skills and specialized knowledge to create and innovate in order to fulfill society's growing needs.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $19,053,381,143,534.21. We've added $8,426,504,094,621.13 to our debt in 7 years. This is over $8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF GARY F. TOELKE OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR 41 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Sheriff Gary F. Toelke. He is retiring from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office after 41 years of dedicated service. In addition to his 41 years of service in law enforcement, Sheriff Toelke is also the longest serving sheriff in Franklin County history. He has served seven terms spanning 28 years. In 1969, Sheriff Toelke graduated from Union High School. A few years later, in 1991, he graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

Sheriff Toelke has worked in numerous leadership positions. He is the Past President of the Missouri Sheriff's Association and received the Sheriff of the Year award from the Missouri Deputy Sheriff's Association. Currently, he is a board member with the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis. During the years of 1970–1976, he served in the Missouri National Guard with the Military Police. In March 1975 until March 1977, Sheriff Toelke was the Deputy Sheriff in the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Then starting in 1988 to present, Sheriff Toelke has been the Sheriff of Franklin County, Missouri.

Most notably, during his time serving the people of Franklin County, Sheriff Toelke led the case when Abigale Woods "Baby Abby" was abducted. This case had national attention and ultimately ended with a successful recovery of Abigale Woods. Sheriff Toelke also successfully led the recovery of Ben Owenby "Missouri Miracle" which then led to the recovery of Shawn Hornbeck. These cases were emotional situations and Sheriff Toelke handled the situations with compassion and expertise which the families of the children will be forever grateful.

With this retirement, Sheriff Toelke can now spend more time with his family which includes: his wife Sandy, daughters Carrie and Holly.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Sheriff Toelke on his retirement after 41 years of commitment to his community.

IN MEMORIAM OF GEORGE RAY WEST

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of my constituent Ray West, who passed away last week at the age of 89.

Ray was a U.S. Navy veteran who served during World War II.

He went on to have a successful career in the film industry, earning an Academy Award and GRAMMY for his work as a sound engineer.

Ray and his wife Jean were married in 1950.

The two honeymooned in Yosemite National Park, and celebrated each anniversary by returning there.

When Ray became ill, the Dream Foundation—a wish granting organization for terminally ill adults based in Santa Barbara, California—stepped in to ensure that Ray and Jean would be able to visit Yosemite for their 65th wedding anniversary.

I had the privilege of meeting Ray and his son David when they traveled to Washington, DC last September for the launch of the Dream Foundation's "Dreams for Veterans" program.

I was honored to be able to recognize him for his outstanding military service and his extraordinary life.

My thoughts are with Ray's family—I pray they find comfort as they celebrate the life of this remarkable man.

IN RECOGNITION OF DREXEL HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Drexel Hill Middle School on the awards earned by its seventh and eighth grade engineering team in the 2016 Future Cities regional contest this week.

The Future City competition engages students and teaches math, science and engineering concepts by challenging them with issues engineers and city planners face every day: urban management, planning and environmental sustainability issues to name just a few. The theme for this year's contest was "Waste Not, Want Not" and forced students to tackle complex waste management issues.

Drexel Hill Middle School's team was selected by its peers for the People's Choice Award, which is given to the best model city. It was also recognized with the Best Residential Zone award for the placement of residences in a way that would improve the quality of life for families.

Mr. Speaker, education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields are crucial if our students are to be able to compete in the modern global economy. The Future City competition is an innovative way for students to learn these skills and their real world applications. I congratulate Drexel Hill Middle School's students for their awards.

HONORING THE 2016 ACADEMY NOMINEES OF THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830s, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

My Academy Review Board is composed of seven local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 40 applicants. The Board's recommendations were then forwarded to the academies, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in the Middle East, Africa or other troubled spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2016 11TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

John Dennehy, Rockaway, Morris Hills HS; Jason Kaynak, Pompton Plains, Pequannock HS; Pranay Malla, Chatham, Chatham HS; Michael Matarazzo, Cedar Grove, Cedar Grove HS; Garrett O'Shea, Butler, Morris Knolls HS; Jacob Scheidman, Wayne, Wayne Valley HS; Joshua Vinoya, West Orange, West Orange HS.

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Bryan Deterle, Nutley, Nutley HS; Ryan Griffin, Kinnelon, Kinnelon HS; Tanner

Grevesan, Boonton, Montville HS; Isaiah Rodriguez, Fairfield, West Essex HS; Megan Rudio, Byram, Lenape Valley HS; Christopher Schlegel, Mendham, West Morris Mendham HS.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Michael Corbett, Florham Park, Hanover Park HS; Matthew Critchley, Morristown, Morristown HS; Sofia Farrell, Nutley, Nutley HS; Matthew Gallo, Whippany, Whippany Park HS; Kristine Gurcan, Whippany, Whippany Park HS; Marisa Lakin, Verona, Verona HS; Adam Magistro, Morristown, Newark Academy; Courtney McKenna, Sparta, Sparta HS; Robert White, Pompton Plains, Pequannock HS; Alexander Wang, Parsippany, Parsippany HS.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Taylor Carmichael, Pompton Plains, Pequannock HS; William Gault, Verona, Verona HS; Mitchell Haddad, Fairfield, Eastern Christian School; Christopher Morgan, West Orange, West Orange HS; Christopher Papa, Chatham, Chatham HS; Ivan Peters, Boonton, Mountain Lakes HS, US Army; John Rogacki, North Caldwell, Seton Hall Prep; Justice Rooney, West Orange, West Orange HS; Sean Schoch, Sparta, Sparta HS; Alexander Zevits, Montville, Montville HS.

NAVAL ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Dean C. Caravela, West Caldwell; James Caldwell High School

TRIBUTE TO MR. SIMON PHILLIP ''PHIL'' LEVETAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the leadership and service of Mr. Simon Phillip ''Phil'' Levetan; and

Whereas, Mr. Simon Phillip ''Phil'' Levetan served our nation with honor and valor in the United States Army Air Corps Division during World War II. He was responsible for maintaining the electrical and mechanical systems of B29 airplanes, which served as powerful tools for the Allies, aiding in the destruction of the Axis powers; and

Whereas, Mr. Levetan served and led our district in DeKalb County, as a steadfast pillar of our community, a business owner and operator of his family's scrap metal business, Dixie Iron and Metal Company. He was a community leader and First Gentleman of DeKalb County as he served the citizens by partnering with his wife former C.E.O. of DeKalb County and State Senator Liane Levetan. He was the wind beneath her wings for sixty one (61) years in marriage; and

Whereas, Mr. Levetan was a lifetime member of Ahavath Achim Synagogue and a member of Congregation Beth Jacob. He also planned weekly Lunch and Learn sessions for Chabad with Rabbi Yossi New for more than two decades. In addition, he was a member of the Jewish War Veterans and a member of the Elks 78 organizations; and

Whereas, he never asked for fame or fortune, nor found a job too small or too big; he gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life to uplift those in need by demonstrating unwavering commitment to protecting and serving the citizens of the United States of America; and

Whereas, he was a husband, a father, a brother and a friend; he was also a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting and service of my district; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Mr. Simon Philip ''Phil'' Levetan as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction; now therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Mr. Simon Phillip ''Phil'' Levetan is deemed worthy and deserving of this ''Congressional Honor'' by declaring Mr. Simon Phillip ''Phil'' Levetan U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 4th day of January, 2016.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOMES FOR HEROES

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Homes for Heroes, the Mission First Housing Group's Fund for Veterans' fundraising event for housing for homeless veterans.

Homelessness among veterans is a tragic problem nationwide, and many veterans struggle with addiction and other issues that make keeping their own homes difficult. The federal government estimates that nearly 50,000 veterans are homeless on any given night, and another 1.4 million are at risk of homelessness. Seventy percent of homeless veterans face substance abuse issues.

And it's a problem that seems to be getting worse: Pennsylvania's homeless population increased by 46 percent from 2009 to 2013.

The service of our veterans should never be forgotten, and organizations like Mission First do much to ensure that those individuals and their families who have sacrificed so much for our country have a safe place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mission First on its work to honor our nation's veterans. Working with groups like Mission First, we can help get veterans off the streets and into safe homes. We owe it to the many veterans who served and sacrificed.

HONORING BUFFALO MANUFACTURING WORKS FOR RECEIVING THE INNOVATION AWARD FROM THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Buffalo Manufacturing Works as the Amherst Chamber of Commerce presents the organization with the Innovation Award. Their cooperative and supportive mission plays an important role in bolstering Western New York's manufacturing community.

Buffalo Manufacturing Works is a collaborative organization that exists to serve the needs of the Buffalo Niagara manufacturing community. Previously known as the Buffalo Niagara Institute for Advanced Manufacturing Competitiveness, it was established with $45 million from the Buffalo Billion Investment Plan.

Working with their operational partner EWI, Buffalo Manufacturing Works has met with over 150 local manufacturers and business officials to gather input and develop a shared vision. A critical piece of their model is the Buffalo Manufacturing Works Founders Council, a dedicated group of local manufacturing companies that represent the industry and focus on fostering long-term sustainability.

Buffalo Manufacturing Works enables local manufacturers and businesses to grow and develop through a strong network of support from industry, research, and academic partners. Their partners include the University at Buffalo for fundamental research, Insyte Consulting for process excellence, EWI applied research and development, and the World Trade Center Buffalo Niagara for market expansion.

In addition, Buffalo Manufacturing Works provides insight into workforce development practices to companies. To help companies manufacture products in the most efficient way possible, the organization also develops its own new technologies.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize Buffalo Manufacturing Works as they receive the Innovation Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. I wish the organization continued success and commend their commitment to building a strong present and future for Western New York's economy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 84, I was absent on account of attending a funeral.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

HONORING THE NICHOLAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special group of young people. The Nicholas County High School Cheerleaders, coached by Jessica Letcher Hamilton, recently won the Universal Cheerleaders Association's National High School Cheerleading Competition.

This event is very competitive and involves young women from across the nation. Like any successful endeavor, the victory was won by dedication, hours of practice, determination, and teamwork. The young women worked very hard for this accomplishment and they learned lessons that will benefit them as they become adults.

Nicholas County High School is a small but proud high school in Carlisle, Kentucky. The community was very supportive of this group

of young women. The girls represented themselves and their county very well at the national competition in Orlando, Florida. I congratulate the students and their coaches on the national championship and I am proud to honor them before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING BRIAN HAYDEN UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Brian Hayden as he retires from the City of Buffalo. Brian's career with the City spanned over forty years.

Brian was born on February 8th, 1954 at Our Lady of Victory Hospital in Lackawanna, New York to his beloved parents John & Dorothy (Norton) Hayden. He has two siblings, Dennis and Susan.

Growing up, Brian graduated from Holy Family Grammar School in 1968, one of several Catholic schools in the close-knit community of South Buffalo. He went on to attend Father Baker High School, becoming Senior Class President for the class of 1972. Brian attended Brockport College.

Brian first worked as a pool attendant at the Boone Street Playground during the summer of 1973, transitioning into a rink guard at Cazenovia Ice Rink. The next year, he started as a Laborer with the Carpenters for the Buffalo Board of Education. In 1979 he became co-owner of the Ounce and a Half, a favorite neighborhood gathering spot on Abbott Road in South Buffalo.

In 1983 Brian became a Building Inspector for the City of Buffalo. As an inspector, he ensured structures were safe and compliant with local, state, and federal regulations. Working his way up through the ranks, in 1990 he moved to the role of Director of Building Safety & Health for the Buffalo Board of Education. In 1993 he began his service as the Director of Building Inspections for one year, continuing to serve as a Building Inspector afterwards.

A family man, Brian is married to Jean Ann Kalec, with whom he has 2 sons, Matthew and John. He is also known for his community involvement, and volunteers for many races, organizations, and groups. He is a founding member of the Connors, Kait, Harrity Memorial Race, which went on for twenty-five years. Brian won the prestigious Irishman of the Year award in 1995 and the St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioner of the Year in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor Brian Hayden upon the occasion of his well-deserved retirement. His service to the City of Buffalo and our community are worthy of recognition. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and a fulfilling, relaxing retirement.

U.S. LNG EXPORTS TO THE BLACK SEA

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of U.S. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports.

U.S. LNG is of vital importance to our friends around the world, specifically those in the Black Sea.

Currently, our European allies are stuck in a struggle for energy independence from Russia.

More critically, the burgeoning democracies in Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania are largely dependent on Gazprom for their crucial gas supplies, and we are all well aware Russia is seeking to influence its neighbors' political process by threatening their gas supply.

American LNG could give Ukraine and the other Black Sea nations a real alternative.

In fact, there are Texas companies already engaged in negotiations with the Ukrainian state gas companies to build Ukraine's Black Sea LNG receiving terminal and supply U.S. LNG to Ukraine.

There exists a concern that an impediment to Ukraine receiving U.S. LNG is the uncertainty surrounding the passage of LNG tankers through the Bosphorus Straits.

Under the 1936 Montreux Convention, which controls how the Bosphorus Straits are to be used in peacetime, the LNG tanker issue should already be resolved.

Article 1 provides that "The High Contracting Parties recognize and affirm the principle of freedom of transit and navigation by sea in the Straits."

Article 2 states that "In time of peace, merchant vessels shall enjoy complete freedom of transit and navigation in the Straits, by day and by night, under any flag with any kind of cargo."

Even with the clear language of the Treaty, debate continues as to governmental authorities over the waters of the Bosphorus.

It is time to bring clarity to this important issue and open the Black Sea to U.S. LNG exports.

U.S. LNG exports will play an important role in the future of our allies.

It is my hope we can develop a reasonable, consensus approach to allow LNG to pass through the Bosphorus Straits.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FELLED BY GUN VIOLENCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sadness and a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the individuals in law enforcement who have fallen in the line of duty while serving and protecting their communities.

It is important to acknowledge that no one is immune from gun violence, including our law enforcement officers stepping in the line of danger to protect us.

While overall rates of officers killed by gun violence have declined over the years, we continue to see and hear about horrific cases of officers falling victim to gun violence.

Since 2005, shooting-related deaths account for approximately 37 percent of officer fatalities in the line of duty.

In the past five years, 259 police officers have died by gunfire across the nation.

Thirteen of those deaths were accidental.

Sadly, Texas had the highest number of fatalities, losing 12 officers in 2015.

This year, we have already lost nine officers to senseless gun violence across the nation in Utah, Oregon, Colorado, North Dakota, Ohio, Georgia, Mississippi and two in Maryland.

Five of these shootings occurred in just three days in February.

The recent incident that occurred on February 10, 2016, in Harford County, Maryland, accounting for two of five officers killed in less than a week is particularly alarming and egregious.

Senior Deputy Patrick Dailey and Senior Deputy Mark Logsdon of the Harford County Sheriff Department were killed upon approaching a troubled and wanted man in a local restaurant.

They were the first Harford County Sheriff's deputies to be shot and killed in the line of duty since 1899.

The suspect, who legally purchased the weapon used in shooting these officers, had a history of domestic violence including stalking and a suspected shooting of his estranged wife, substance abuse, and a criminal record including assault on an officer.

Awarded Medals of Honor, Deputy Dailey and Deputy Logsdon paid the ultimate sacrifice for responding to a call of need, and encountering an individual who should have never been in legal possession of a firearm.

Mr. Speaker, this tragic event highlights the desperate need for mental health and common sense gun reform in this country.

We do not need any more first tragedies for communities and law enforcement agencies, and we do not need to repeat history as this year sets a shocking pace for increased officer killings by gunfire.

There is no place in a civilized society for such senseless and preventable acts of violence in this country.

As Members of Congress we have a solemn obligation to pass legislation that improves the safety and respect between every law enforcement officer and the communities they serve to protect.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the fallen police officers in this nation.

HONORING MATTHEW PELKEY FOR RECEIVING THE EMERGING BUSINESS LEADER AWARD FROM THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Matthew Pelkey as he is presented with the Emerging Business Leader Award by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. Matthew,

through his extensive and distinguished work, has proven to be a leader in his community.

Matthew is an attorney and recent partner with Colligan Law LLP. Matthew's practice relates to counseling startups, entrepreneurs and businesses. His practice includes land use, commercial real estate and regulatory compliance for businesses and political groups.

An active member of the Western New York startup community, Matthew was co-founder and co-director of the Buffalo Chapter of Startup Grind. In that role, he also co-founded the monthly #LaunchHour entrepreneur Twitter chat in partnership with Launch NY. He serves as a member of FIKA Buffalo and the 43 North WeMakeBuffalo Team.

Additionally, Matthew sits on the advisory board of the ECIDA Venture Capital Fund, a board responsible for making recommendations to the ECIDA Board of Directors on how to form and operate a ten year, multi-million dollar early stage venture fund focusing on local emerging companies with high growth potential. An entrepreneur himself, Matthew is a co-founder and Chief Financial Officer of Black Squirrel Distillery, a New York State craft distillery. In that role he also co-founded the WNY Craft Beverage Alliance, Inc.

Outside of the startup community, Matthew is a strong advocate for sustainable development and has served as a member of the Smart Growth Work Group of the WNY Regional Economic Development Council and the One Region Forward Land Use & Development Working Team.

As the former Chair of The Emerging Business Leaders, Matthew served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Amherst Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Chamber's Public Policy Committee. He volunteers for B–Team Buffalo and the Parkside Community Association. Matthew also serves as a member of the Professional Panel for the Cancer Legal Resource Center, and as an advisory board member for WomenElect.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor Matthew Pelkey as he receives the Emerging Business Leader Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. His personal contribution of time and effort towards the progress and enhancement of our community is admirable, and I wish him much continued success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF PAUL TRANBARGER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a heroic individual, Mr. Paul Tranbarger, of Flemingsburg, Kentucky.

Mr. Tranbarger served in World War II as part of what we consider the Greatest Generation in our nation's history. Please join me today in honoring a man who has displayed selflessness, courage, commitment, and dedication to our beautiful country.

Paul Tranbarger was born in Bristol, Virginia in 1926. He left home at the early age of 17 when he enlisted in the United States Navy. As a Seaman First Class aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Shamrock Bay*, he participated in the Philippines Campaign: Phase 2, the Battle of Iwo Jima, and the Okinawa Campaign. He was part of a crew that earned the USS *Shamrock* three battle stars. As if the military battles were not enough, he and his crew endured a typhoon while onboard the ship.

After his military service, Paul returned home in 1946 to Virginia where he began working for Crosley Refrigeration. It was there he met and married his first and only love, Sadie. The two moved to Kentucky in 1952. Determined to live the American dream, Mr. Tranbarger fell in love with farming and owned and operated his own service station.

Paul and his late wife Sadie have three children. He is an elder at the Mt. Pisgah Christian Church and is still very active in his community. He attributes his faith in God and love of family as the reason for his existence at age 90.

Words can never express our gratitude or convey the honor so richly deserved. His service and sacrifice will be remembered and honored for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JENNIE McIVOR RICHARDSON CAMPBELL

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the lives of many in my district have been touched by the life of one—Mrs. Jennie McIvor Richardson Campbell; and

Whereas, she was born January 15, 1926 in Mount Vernon, New York, and today she celebrates a milestone in her life, her 90th Birthday; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration; and

Whereas, Mrs. Campbell is a warrior for those in need, a woman of compassion, a fearless leader, a mother, a grandmother, an aunt, a servant to all and truly a friend; her dedicated service is present throughout my district, she is an unwavering caregiver; and

Whereas, she is a blessing to us all. She gives advice on life, sewing and culture. She is a member of her beloved Greenforest Community Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Jennie McIvor Richardson Campbell on the anniversary of her birth and for her outstanding leadership and service to our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim January 15, 2016 as Mrs. Jennie McIvor Richardson Campbell Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 15th day of January, 2016.

HONORING BENJAMIN T. JEALOUS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Benjamin T. Jealous as he is the keynote speaker for the Canisius College Academic Talent Search Black History Month event. Mr. Jealous and his years of experience in civil and human rights will bring invaluable insight to the students of Canisius College and to the Buffalo community, and we are honored to have him with us today.

The Academic Talent Search (ATS) Program at Canisius College identifies and provides services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, helping students progress through the academic pipeline from middle school through post-baccalaureate programs. The program serves approximately 600 youths recruited from area schools and community service organizations, giving educational, social, and career support as well as co-curricular and cultural enhancement.

Mr. Jealous has previously served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the NAACP. He recently began working in the Silicon Valley venture capital firm Kapor Capital, where he plans to continue his goal of growing opportunities for minorities in the tech economy. A Rhodes Scholar, Mr. Jealous was named by both Forbes and TIME magazine to their "Top 40 under 40" lists, as well as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

The youngest president in the NAACP's history, Mr. Jealous began his career at 18 opening mail at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Under his leadership, the NAACP grew to be the largest civil rights organization online and on mobile, and became the largest community-based nonpartisan voter registration operation in the country. In addition, the NAACP experienced their first multi-year membership growth in over 2 decades. A builder of robust coalitions, Mr. Jealous's leadership included bringing environmentalist organizations into the fight to protect voting rights, and convincing several well-known conservatives to join the NAACP in challenging mass incarceration.

Prior to leading the NAACP, Mr. Jealous spent 15 years as a journalist and community organizer. Throughout his entire career, he has been the leader of successful state and local movements to ban racial profiling, defend voting rights, secure marriage equality, and free multiple wrongfully incarcerated people. Mr. Jealous has built a legacy on fighting for justice, and has made a career out of helping the disadvantaged and less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor Mr. Benjamin T. Jealous for all of the work that he has done. The ATS Program and Canisius College is honored to have such a distinguished and honorable speaker for their event. His personal contribution of time and effort towards the progress of justice in our nation is admirable, and I am grateful for his unwavering commitment to such noble causes. I wish him much continued success in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 83, I was absent on account of attending a funeral.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

HONORING THE ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special group of young people. Members of the Estill County High School Marching Engineers won the Class AA Kentucky Music Educators Association state competition. The band is directed by Jason Bowles.

This event is very competitive and involves young men and women from across Kentucky. Like any successful endeavor, the victory was won by dedication, hours of practice, determination, and teamwork. The young people worked very hard for this accomplishment and they learned many lessons that will benefit them as they become adults.

Estill County High School is a small but proud high school in Irvine, Kentucky. The community was very supportive of this group of students. The young people represented themselves and their county very well at the state competition. I congratulate the students and their director on the Class AA KMEA state championship and I am proud to honor them before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING NEW ERA CAP CO, INC. FOR RECEIVING THE COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor New Era Cap Co, Inc. for receiving the Commitment to Excellence Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. For nearly a century, New Era has helped people express their unique passion, pride, and style.

Now a brand recognized around the world, New Era came from humble beginnings. In 1920, Ehrhardt Koch founded the company out of the back room of a rented company on Genesee Street in Buffalo, New York. The company is family-owned to this day.

Each generation of the Koch family has embraced and grown New Era's legacy. The company started with a focus on making a high-quality men's fashion headwear, entering the market with a cap known as the ''Gatsby.'' After a few years, Ehrhardt Koch and his son Harold developed their next business venture, the baseball cap. Under Harold's leadership, New Era built relationships with baseball teams from Little League to college and professional leagues.

Harold Koch's son David continued to develop the baseball cap, growing New Era from a company supplying a few teams with caps to providing almost every Major League Baseball (MLB) and their Minor League affiliates with its 59FIFTY fitted cap. It was David's dedication to building relationships with partners like MLB that helped create the reputation New Era has today.

Chris Koch, David's son and the fourth generation Koch to lead the company, picked up where his father left off. With his knowledge of New Era's uniqueness, he secured a partnership with the National Football League in 2010. With the addition of apparel and accessories to its portfolio and having New Era products sold in over 70 countries has transformed New Era from a manufacturing company to a global lifestyle brand.

A search for a new headquarters in 2005 led the company to the ex-Federal Reserve Bank building in downtown Buffalo. Today, the company has 1100 employees and 17 offices, producing 50 million caps per year to be sold in 81 countries.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating New Era on their accomplishment of Commitment to Excellence award and their continuous dedication and contributions to the community at large.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. BERNADITA ''BENIT'' CAMACHO-DUNGCA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Bernadita ''Benit'' Camacho-Dungca. Benit was a daughter of Guam, passionate advocate of the Chamorro language and culture, and a dedicated life-long educator. She passed away on February 15, 2016 at the age of 74.

Benit was born and raised in Dededo, Guam and was the eldest daughter of ten children of Ignacio Rivera Camacho and Maria Pocaigue Rosario. She was married to the late Vicente Taitingfong Dungca and together they had one son, John. Benit graduated from George Washington High School and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics and Anthropology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She went on to receive her Master of Arts degree in Education in Reading from the University of Guam, and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Oregon.

Benit began working at the University of Guam in 1973 after creating the books, ''Chamorro Reference Grammar'' and the ''Chamorro-English Dictionary.'' Both books are crucial resources for teaching and revitalizing the Chamorro language. She was also an associate professor at the University of Guam's School of Education. She taught Chamorro and trained bilingual, bicultural teachers from the Guam Department of Education, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. Benit initiated the Bilingual Bicultural Teacher Education Program and brought distance education to the University of Guam. She was the recipient of the University of Guam Faculty Award for Excellence in Service. Benit also served as a government representative for various international conferences on language. Most notably, Benit was the author of the Inifresi, or Guam Pledge, which is recited in many schools, public events, and meetings.

In addition to work at the University of Guam, Benit was also very active in the community. She hosted a television program on KGTF Public Television called Fino' Chamorro. Benit also served as a Girl Scout leader, Tamuning Youth Program summer camp director, was a member of the Tamuning Community Council, and was involved in her parish as a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher and a member of various church ministries.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Bernadita ''Benit'' Camacho-Dungca, and I join the people of Guam in celebrating her life, and recognizing and remembering her dedicated service to Guam. I thank her for sharing her knowledge and tirelessly passing down all she could for our future generations. I extend my condolences to her son, John and his family. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, loved ones and friends. She will be missed, and her memory and legacy will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 83, I missed the vote as I was unavoidably detained due to traffic getting on to the Capitol Grounds.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

HONORING WEST HERR AUTOMOTIVE GROUP FOR RECEIVING THE RETAIL AWARD FROM THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor West Herr Automotive Group for receiving the Retail Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. West Herr's history of and dedication to good corporate citizenship as well as their continued success is worthy of recognition and praise.

West Herr Automotive Group, established in 1950, is the largest automotive group in New York State and the 24th largest in the nation. West Herr is a long-time contributor and supporter of many worthwhile organizations in Western New York, demonstrating their generosity and commitment to giving back to the community that supports them.

With 21 locations in Erie, Niagara, and Monroe Counties, West Herr has 23 franchises and over 1,900 employees. In 2015, the company sold more than 46,000 new and used vehicles. West Herr prides itself on dealing honestly and fairly with customers and employees, a philosophy shared throughout all levels of the organization. West Herr builds their reputation on excellence, customer satisfaction and an understanding of their roots. All owners live in Western New York and actively manage the 21 locations on a daily basis.

Their customer and employee satisfaction efforts have earned them countless awards. West Herr has received Business First of Buffalo ''Best Place to Work in WNY'' Award for eleven consecutive years and the Better Business Bureau's ''Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics'' six times. In 2012, the group was recognized nationally as one of the ''Best Dealerships to Work For'' through Automotive News. Additionally, the Buffalo News recognized West Herr as a Top Workplace in its inaugural year for the program.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating West Herr on receiving the Retail Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. Their contributions to Western New York and commitment to quality service is commendable and I wish them continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANA NESSEL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dana Nessel, whose commitment to justice and equality has impacted the people of Michigan and citizens across the United States.

Dana is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School and spent more than a decade working as an assistant prosecuting attorney for Wayne County, serving much of her tenure in special assignment units. She specialized in domestic homicides, child physical and sexual abuse cases, and investigations into police shootings and in-custody deaths of civilians She is currently managing partner at Nessel and Kessel in Detroit, where she specializes in criminal defense and family law.

In 2012, Dana championed the cause of marriage equality by initiating the case which challenged Michigan's ban on same-sex second party adoption, the case which would ultimately bring this important issue before the Supreme Court. The landmark decision of this case granted the dignity so many sought for so long: the right to commit to the person they love. Today, Dana continues to defend the rights of the LGBT community by pushing for protections against discrimination in state law across the country.

Dana is this year's recipient of the Honorable Kaye Tertzag Purple Sport Coat Award. Given to those, who, like Judge Tertzag, show devotion and service to our Michigan community, Dana exemplifies his well-known motto: ''Be Prompt. Be Prepared. Be Polite.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Dana Nessel for her service to Michigan and our nation and wish her many years of success.

HONORING LESLIE ZEMSKY FOR RECEIVING THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mrs. Leslie Zemsky as she receives the Amherst Chamber of Commerce's Woman of Distinction Award. An artist, community leader, and Director of Fun for Larkin Square, Leslie has played an instrumental role in revitalizing the Larkin District and the City of Buffalo.

As Larkin Square's Director of Fun, Leslie partners with her husband Howard Zemsky and Joe Petrella to lead the Larkin Development Group. The group has renovated a number of former warehouse buildings which were once part of the Larkin Soap Company.

Since 2002, the Larkin Development Group's renovations include more than 800,000 square feet of office space, more than a half mile of streetscape improvements and a public gathering space for events called Larkin Square. Thanks to their creative vision, the Larkin District, now known fondly as Larkinville, has returned to its roots as a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood, home to offices, residences, restaurants, parks and public gathering spaces like Larkin Square.

Under Leslie's leadership Larkinville has become a destination. Nearly every day of the week, thousands gather in Larkin Square for events such as Food Truck Tuesdays, Live at Larkin Wednesdays and the Larkin Square Author Talks. The neighborhood continues to evolve and grow with the opening of Flying Bison Brewery and Hydraulic Hearth Restaurant & Brewery, run by Leslie's son Harry.

The rebirth of Larkinville has played a leading role in the rebirth of Buffalo. Larkinville has gained national attention, from the Congress for New Urbanism to earning praise from journalist Katie Couric during her recent visit to Buffalo.

My Buffalo District office is located in the Larkin at Exchange Building, and we've witnessed an incredible transformation due in no small part to Leslie. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating her for receiving the Woman of Distinction Award, expressing our deepest gratitude for her vision and efforts, and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

CALLING UPON THE SENATE TO FULFILL CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO VOTE ON JUSTICE SCALIA'S SUCCESSOR

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, ten days ago, on February 13, 2016, the nation was saddened to learn of the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, the senior Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Justice Scalia, who loved the Court, served it ably for nearly 30 years and was involved in some of the most consequential cases in history.

Mr. Speaker, I urge those who revered Justice Scalia, cherish his memory, and wish to do honor to the work of his life, to join me in calling upon the Senate, and every senator, to discharge their constitutional duty to advise and consent (or not consent) to the nomination that will be put forward by the President by holding an up or down vote.

Mr. Speaker, those who claim there is an 80 year precedent against confirming a Supreme Court nominee during an election year and that there is not sufficient time to fill the vacancy are incorrect.

The most recent instance where there was a vacancy on the Supreme Court in an election year occurred not 80 but 28 years ago, in 1988, during the administration of President Reagan.

That vacancy was filled on February 3, 1988 by the appointment of Justice Anthony Kennedy who was confirmed 97–0 by a Democrat-controlled Senate.

The Kennedy nomination is the controlling precedent, as Justice Scalia would recognize.

In fact, Justice Scalia would say to anyone claiming otherwise, ''Leges posteriores priores contrarias abrogant,'' which is Latin for the canon of judicial interpretation that ''the last expression of the people prevails.''

There are 332 days left in President Obama's term, which is more than sufficient time for the President to nominate, and for the Senate to consider and vote to confirm or reject his nominee.

Since 1900, there have been 60 Supreme Court vacancies.

The average time taken to fill these 60 vacancies is 73 days, which is less than 25% of the time remaining in the President's term.

The average time to fill each of the 13 vacancies since 1975 is a mere 67 days.

And of the current members of the Supreme Court, the average time is 74 days, the longest being the 99 days taken to confirm the controversial nomination of Justice Clarence Thomas in October 1991.

Mr. Speaker, as is often noted, elections have consequences.

They also impose responsibilities and duties.

And one of the most important duties imposed by the Constitution on the President is to nominate persons to fill vacancies on the Supreme Court and for the Senate to consider those nominations with dispatch.

The Supreme Court is the nation's highest court and its essential and indispensable role in our constitutional system is to provide definitive interpretations of American law and the Constitution.

Its decisions are the law of the land binding in every state and territory.

It is the only judicial tribunal capable of providing the legal clarity and certainty required for the legal system to function and give meaning to the rule of law.

President Obama has announced that he intends to fulfill the responsibility devolved upon him by the Constitution and will submit to the Senate a nominee to fill the large shoes left by the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

The Senate should fulfill its constitutional duty to advise and consent, or withhold its consent, by casting an up or down vote on that nomination.

That is the way to pay fitting tribute to Justice Scalia, to honor the Constitution, and to keep faith with the American people.

HONORING PEGULA SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR RECEIVING THE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Pegula Sports and Entertainment for receiving the Business of the Year Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce. Created in 2014, Pegula Sports and Entertainment is a management company streamlining the Pegula family's business endeavors across sports and entertainment, including the Buffalo Bills, Buffalo Sabres, Buffalo Bandits, Rochester Americans, HARBORCENTER, and Black River Entertainment.

On February 22, 2011, a new era in Buffalo sports history began when Terry and Kim Pegula purchased the Buffalo Sabres and Buffalo Bandits. That summer, the Pegulas acquired the Rochester Americans, and resuming the team's long time relationship with the Sabres as their American Hockey League affiliate.

In 2012, the Pegulas purchased the 1.7 acre Webster Block across from First Niagara Center, which became the HARBORCENTER complex. HARBORCENTER features two NHL-size rinks, the Academy of Hockey, (716) Food and Sport, IMPACT Sports Performance, a destination Tim Hortons Cafe & Bake Shop, 750-space parking ramp, and full-service Marriott Hotel.

The Pegulas' dedication extends beyond reinvigorating the Sabres and their arena. On Friday, October 10, 2014, Terry and Kim became owners of the Buffalo Bills, after the passing of Ralph Wilson, Jr. The Pegulas are only the second owners of the beloved 55-year old National Football League organization.

To show their commitment to our region, on Sunday, October 12th, 2014, coinciding with the Pegula's first game as owners of the Bills, Pegula Sports and Entertainment officially launched the ''One Buffalo'' campaign. The ''One Buffalo'' campaign provides an association and link between the Bills, Sabres, the Pegulas, and the City of Buffalo. The campaign is a celebration of the future of sport in Western New York and the family who has invested so much into the city, and seeks to bring the community together as a representation of teamwork and a deeper connection between Buffalo sports teams and their fans.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Terry and Kim Pegula as they receive the Business of the Year Award. I am deeply grateful for their incredible investment and belief in Western New York, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors, and many championships for the Bills and Sabres under their leadership.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEWIS ''LEW'' BELCHER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the leadership and service of Mr. Lewis ''Lew'' Belcher, Jr.; and

Whereas, Mr. Lewis ''Lew'' Belcher served our nation with honor and valor in the United States Air Force. He demonstrated unquestionable leadership and courage as an Airman devoted in protecting our nation; and

Whereas, Mr. Belcher served and led our district in Rockdale County as a steadfast pillar of our community by being ever so watchful of issues that would hinder constituents. He was a community advocate on the front line of fighting for equality and justice. He was the voice for the voiceless and the pulse of the grassroots machine in Rockdale County; and

Whereas, Mr. Belcher advised many elected and appointed officials on issues concerning the public, he also promoted supporting local small businesses; and

Whereas, he never asked for fame or fortune, nor found a job too small or too big; he gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life to uplift those in need by demonstrating unwavering commitment to protecting and serving the citizens of Rockdale County; and

Whereas, he was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great grandfather and a friend; he was also a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting and service of my district; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Mr. Lewis ''Lew'' Belcher, Jr., as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction; now therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR. do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Mr. Lewis ''Lew'' Belcher, Jr., is deemed worthy and deserving of this ''Congressional Honor'' by declaring Mr. Lewis ''Lew'' Belcher, Jr. U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 18th day of January, 2016.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PEDRO PALOMO ADA, JR.

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Pedro Palomo Ada, Jr. Pedro was a son of Guam, icon in our business community, and philanthropist. He was born on July 7, 1930 and passed away on February 12, 2016 at the age of 85. Pedro was the Chairman of Ada's Trust & Investment, Inc., a real estate and investment holdings company.

Pedro followed in the footsteps of his parents Maria Palomo Ada and Pedro Martinez Ada who were also successful business people and generous philanthropists in the local community. Pedro began his business career at a young age while attending school at Saint Thomas Military Academy in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He would find shoes and other items at great bargains and send them home to Guam to be sold at his parents' retail business. He graduated from St. Thomas College in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1953 with a degree in Business Administration.

After finishing college, Pedro served as one of the first Chamorro commissioned officers in the United States Air Force. He later returned to Guam to help with the family business. He was able to improve and expand Ada's Market into a household name and then into a real estate holding company, and soon became a real estate visionary who was responsible for many changes and improvements in Guam's capitol city of Hagåtña. Pedro created opportunities in the private sector and expanded the potential for residential and commercial real estate developments during times of emerging economic markets in the island. Pedro was inducted into the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Guam Business Hall of Fame in 2003.

Pedro led a long life with both business and community involvement. He served as a member and board chairman of the University of Guam Board of Regents in the 1970s and 1980s. He was also instrumental in establishing the University of Guam's Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC). Pedro was an active member of the Air Force's Civilian Advisory Council, and supported groups such as the Guam Boy Scouts and KGTF Public Television. Additionally, he served on numerous boards including the Guam Blue Ribbon Education Committee, the Guam Memorial Hospital, the Guam Retirement Fund and the Guam Visitors Bureau.

Pedro dedicated his life to improving our island and community. He was an active member and supporter of the Saint Anthony-Saint Victor Parish of Tamuning, Guam and a dedicated family man. I am deeply saddened by the passing of Pedro and I join the people of Guam in celebrating his life and remembering his contributions to our island community. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, loved ones and friends. I extend my condolences to his wife of 57 years, Fe; his children Maria A. Bonnie, Pedro ''Sonny'' and Jennifer Ada, Dr. Frances A. and Jaime Purviance, Patricia P. Ada, Therese and David John, and Carla P. Ada; and his eleven grandchildren. He will be missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

HONORING AMHERST YOUTH HOCKEY FOR RECEIVING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Amherst Youth Hockey for receiving the Community Service Award from Amherst Chamber of Commerce.

The Amherst Youth Hockey Association was established in 1964, when the Audubon rink was first built. The cost to participate when established was $5.00 to register and 25 cents every time one went on the ice.

Those who worked to first develop the program were William E. Russell, Barney March,

Bob Westphal, Bud Aschbacher, Frank Sykes, Gary Mitchell, Don Satchell, Harvey Rogers, H. Jarvis (Jerry) Turner, Bob Sacha, Jim Wurzer, Danny Guynn, Skip Harrington, John Brownschidle, Thomas Burke, Charles Kramer, Richard Johnston, Drury Williford, Ray Cotter, H. Hamilton, W. Leahy, Leo Lynett, Phil Boudreau, Frank Mathewson, R. Weisenborn, Robert Carver and many more.

During its second year of existence, the organization had the opportunity to host the New York State Peewee Championship during March of 1965. Familiar players in that tournament include Kevin McGuire, Chuck Sykes, Terry Brownschidle, Terry Sykes, Bill Bush, Mark Aschbacher, Pete Hunt, Sean Mccrossan, Ed McGuire, Keith Metzger, Brian Cavanaugh, Gary Hill, Ray Weil, Bill Graf, Mike Hanretty, David Smith, Mike Caruana and Jay Hill.

Presently, the Amherst Youth Hockey now operates out of the Northtown Recreation Center. It is a youth hockey organization for boys and girls ages 4 through 18, offering house programs, travel programs, and a spring session.

The Amherst Youth Hockey Association is committed to giving back to the community and providing a tremendous experience for all members. Dedicated to enriching the community's youth through sport, the association provides children with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of hockey, find enjoyment in the sport, and become young athletes.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Amherst Youth Hockey on receiving the Community Service Award and recognizing their continuous dedication and contributions to Western New York.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND MICHELLE THOMAS AND HER WORK ON THE LOUDOUN FREEDOM CENTER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, today, February 24, 2016, a very special ceremony took place at which the brave Foot Soldiers who participated in the civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery half a century ago were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal. Among the witnesses to this ceremony were a group of my constituents from the Lansdowne community of Loudoun County who are taking affirmative steps to build a new church and multi-purpose community center on 4.4 acres of land that includes an unmarked cemetery in which more than 40 slaves who lived and worked on the former Belmont Plantation are buried.

To honor those slaves, Reverend Michelle Thomas, senior pastor at Holy and Whole Life Changing Ministries International, has joined with other Loudoun County residents to form The Loudoun Freedom Center, a non-profit that will use science and technology to explore the cultural history of Loudoun, including African-American slaves who helped build plantations in the area.

Among the projects planned for The Loudoun Freedom Center are: A visitors' center that will tell the story of the African-American communities of Loudoun County; Belmont and Coton (Lansdowne) African burial grounds that will preserve, protect and restore the sacred burial grounds on the former Belmont and Coton plantations; a Loudoun-specific genome project; a virtual DNA extraction laboratory; a research library and genealogy hub; and the Loudoun Freedom Chapel, a place to reflect and meditate.

Just as it was divine inspiration that caused so many faithful Americans of different races and backgrounds to join together in unity and in hope at the Edmund Pettus Bridge last year, so too, it is divine inspiration for this diverse group of citizens in Loudoun County to join together in unity and in hope on the site of an unmarked slave cemetery on Belmont Ridge Road.

Reverend Thomas has said of the ambitious project that it is a crusade to reclaim the property under a banner of unity. "No matter what your race, your color, your creed . . . we all want the same things. We all want to be honored. We all want to have hope for the future."

I pray that they will be successful in their endeavors and that they will inspire the residents of Loudoun County and my Congressional District for years to come.

H.R. 3442 AND H.R. 2017

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. on the afternoon on February 11th and on February 12th because I was attending a memorial service and I missed votes in the House. If I had been present, I would have opposed final passage of H.R. 3442, the Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act, and H.R. 2017, the Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act.

The Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act may sound like a common-sense bill, but it is a misguided effort that creates duplicative burdens and reporting requirements on the executive branch. The bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury to appear before Congress when the country nears the statutory debt limit and provide a written report on the Treasury's debt-reduction proposals. The Administration, however, already provides Congress with an outline of its debt-reduction proposals in the President's annual budget. The President presented his final budget—which includes numerous debt-reduction proposals—to Congress just two days ago, but House leaders denied the opportunity for the director of the Office of Management and Budget to testify about these proposals. Instead, we are considering a bill that would create more requirements for the Administration by making them duplicate efforts they already undertake. For those reasons, I would have voted against H.R. 3442.

I would have also opposed H.R. 2017, the Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act. This bill would have allowed certain restaurants and food retailers to limit the nutritional information they provide to consumers. The nutrition disclosure requirements this bill seeks to roll back became law as part of the Affordable Care Act. Preparing to comply with those requirements has been a substantial undertaking for many retailers, but Congress has already delayed implementation of this rule as part of the FY2016 omnibus and given retailers an additional year before the rule would go into effect. Making nutrition information available empowers consumers to make healthy and nutritious choices, and this bill would have further undermined that effort. For that reason, I would have voted against H.R. 2017.

HONORING 360 PSG, INC. FOR RECEIVING THE TECHNOLOGY AWARD FROM THE AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor 360 PSG, Inc. for receiving the Technology Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.

Founded in 2005 by 360 PSG partners Joel Colombo, Matthew Whelan, and Ben Shepard after their previous employer closed its doors. With no capital and grueling 20 hour work days, by the end of the first year they had built three websites to start the company.

360 PSG hired its first employees in 2006. Over the next two years, the company continued to hire, launched over 150 new websites, and developed automated tools and platforms to help small business owners take full advantage of internet marketing. In the following two years another 300 websites. By 2011 the staff had grown to almost 20 full-time members.

The company focuses its business on two flagship products that have been programmed and developed in-house, Fission CMS and 360 CMS. With over $2.5 million dollars of operating capital invested, these innovative products provide website management tools with modern design elements to support the small business community across the country.

Having come a long way from their humble beginnings, 360 PSG, Inc. serves over 1,000 customers from nearly every state and Canada. Their solid core values and a dedication to treating clients like partners allows them to develop strong, lasting relationships with high retention, remain profitable every year in business, and continue regional employment growth. 360 PSG's internal divisions now include all aspects of digital and internet marketing.

Employing 30 full time team members specialized in their respective fields of web design, software engineering, social media advertising, search optimization and marketing, and service/support departments, 360 PSG continues to evolve as a single-stop hub of services supporting our region by bringing in national revenue, creating full-time technology jobs.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating 360 PSG, Inc. on receiving the Technology Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce, and wish them the best as they continue to provide innovative services to small businesses and contribute to Western New York's revitalization.

CONGRATULATING 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ROSECRANCE HEALTH NETWORK

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Rosecrance Health Network as they celebrate 100 years of serving children, adolescents, adults, and families in Northern Illinois and beyond.

In 1916, Dr. James Rosecrance kept the memory of his late wife, Franny, alive by creating the Rosecrance Memorial Home for Children at the couple's homestead in New Milford, Illinois. Incorporated by the state of Illinois as a home for children on August 11, 1916, the staff continued to care for needy children from New Milford and surrounding communities before expanding and relocating to Rockford, Illinois, in 1953.

Continually adapting to the changing needs of the community, in 1982, Rosecrance transformed into an innovative and groundbreaking chemical dependency treatment center for teens struggling with drug and alcohol addiction and abuse. In 1992, this mission expanded even further as Rosecrance began treating adults with substance abuse disorders. Today, their Harrison Campus in Rockford offers a number of substance abuse services including outpatient programs and maintains specialized units for young adults, veterans, firefighters, and paramedics.

In 2011, Rosecrance merged with the Janet Wattles Center, a leading mental health service provider, to truly integrate substance abuse and mental health services and better serve patients at their many locations throughout Illinois and Wisconsin. Today, Rosecrance operates more than 40 locations and serves more than 22,000 people annually.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Sixteenth Congressional District, I would like to sincerely thank the hardworking men and women who have dedicated themselves to providing quality substance abuse and mental health care services. Without question, our communities and families are healthier and stronger thanks to the service and care provided by Rosecrance throughout their 100 year history.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARVIN R. ''BUD'' KILTON

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Marvin R. ''Bud'' Kilton and his service to our nation in the United States Air Force. He passed away on February 9, 2016 at the age of 90.

Born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Lt. Col. Kilton joined the Air Force in 1943 and trained to become a B24 and B25 pilot in the final years of World War II. At the conclusion of the war, he became an active reservist and earned a Bachelor's of Science and a Master's Degree at the University of Wisconsin. Lt. Col. Kilton rejoined active service from 1950 to 1970 where he served at Air Force Bases across the Western Hemisphere in Biloxi, Mississippi; Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada; and Bogotá, Colombia. Throughout his twenty-six year military career, he accrued over 2000 total hours of flight time as a pilot and also headed the ROTC program at The Ohio State University for three years. He was Honorably Discharged with a total of six medals and commendations, including the Air Force Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the Air Force Reserves Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Award with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

After his service, Lt. Col. Kilton remained active in his community as the Director of Education for the Credit Union National Association and worked as a tax preparer in Madison, Wisconsin and Orange County, California. He was married for 64 years to the late Carol M. Hansen and is survived by his two daughters, Megan Minarik and Stacey (Kilton) Winker, and his two grandchildren, Kelsey Lee Minarik and Ryan Andrew Minarik.

I thank Lt. Col. Kilton for his courage and dedication to the United States and my thoughts are with his family in this difficult time.

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, February 25, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States European Command.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the multiemployer pension plan system, focusing on recent reforms and current challenges.
SD–215

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine the state of the farm economy.
SD–116

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Transportation Security Administration.
SD–138

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development.
SD–419

3 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the Capitol Police.
SD–192

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
To receive a closed briefing on the Air Force Long Range Strike-Bomber.
SVC–217

MARCH 2

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine S. 2446, to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to encourage recovery and beneficial use of coal combustion residuals and establish requirements for the proper management and disposal of coal combustion residuals that are protective of human health and the environment, S. 1479, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to modify provisions relating to grants, and an original bill entitled, ''Good Samaritan Cleanup of Orphan Mines Act of 2016''.
SD–406

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission.
SR–253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patrick Pizzella, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and Julie Helene Becker, Steven Nathan Berk, and Elizabeth Carroll Wingo, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.
SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine EB–5 targeted employment areas.
SD–226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
SD–G50

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for

fiscal year 2017 for the Navy and Marine Corps.

SD–192

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation.

SD–138

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the Economic Report of the President.

SH–216

MARCH 3

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD–138

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine regulatory reforms to improve equity market structure.

SD–538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 2555, to provide opportunities for broadband investment, the nomination of Thomas F. Scott Darling, III, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

SR–253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Energy.

SD–366

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the dogs of the Department of Homeland Security, focusing on how canine programs contribute to homeland security.

SD–342

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the impacts of Federal fisheries management on small businesses.

SR–428A

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple Veterans Service Organizations.

CHOB–345

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Commerce.

SD–192

MARCH 8

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Forest Service.

SD–366

MARCH 9

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the enforcement of the antitrust laws.

SD–226

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for Indian Country.

SD–628

MARCH 16

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple Veterans Service Organizations.

SD–G50

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S967–S1016

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2570–2579, S.J. Res. 30, and S. Res. 372–374. **Pages S994–95**

Measures Reported:

S. 2276, to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide enhanced safety in pipeline transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–209)

S. 659, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–210)

S. 1024, to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–211)

S. 1674, to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship. (S. Rept. No. 114–212)

S. 2143, to provide for the authority for the successors and assigns of the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company to maintain and operate a toll bridge across the Rio Grande near Rio Grande City, Texas. (S. Rept. No. 114–213) **Page S994**

Relative to the Death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, February 25, 2016, the Senate begin consideration of S. Res. 374, relating to the death of Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, which is at the desk and I ask that it be held, and that Senate then vote on the resolution, and that if the resolution is agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S1015**

Justice Scalia Tributes—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senators be permitted to submit tributes to Justice Scalia for the Record until March 10, 2016, and that all tributes be printed as a Senate document. **Pages S1015–16**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the modification and continuation of the national emergency with respect to Cuba and of the emergency authority relating to the regulation of the anchorage and movement of vessels, as amended; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–42) **Page S990**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 89 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. EX. 25), Robert McKinnon Califf, of South Carolina, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. **Pages S969–74, S1016**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Carla D. Hayden, of Maryland, to be Librarian of Congress for a term of ten years.

2 Army nominations in the rank of general.

7 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral. **Page S1016**

Messages from the House: **Pages S990–91**

Measures Referred: **Page S991**

Measures Held at the Desk: **Page S991**

Executive Communications: **Pages S991–94**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S995–96**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S996–S1003**

Additional Statements: **Pages S989–90**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1003–15**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1015**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1015**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—25) **Page S974**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:22 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2016. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1016.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: ARMY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Army, after receiving testimony from Patrick Murphy, Acting Secretary, and General Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff, both of the Army, Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of State, after receiving testimony from John Kerry, Secretary of State.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Homeland Security, after receiving testimony from Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security.

APPROPRIATIONS: NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after receiving testimony from Stephen G. Burns, Chairman, and Kristine Svinicki, William Ostendorff, and Jeff Baran, each a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

IRANIAN INTELLIGENCE AND MILITARY CAPABILITIES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities concluded a closed hearing to examine Iran's intelligence and unconventional military capabilities, after receiving testimony from Andrew Exum, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Middle East Policy, Christopher P. Maier, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Operations and Combatting Terrorism, and Brigadier General Michael E. Kurilla, Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counter-Terrorism, J–37, and Colonel John F. Gonzales, USAF, Deputy Chief for Middle East Directorate, J–5, both of the Joint Staff, all of the Department of Defense.

RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Renewable Fuel Standard, after receiving testimony from Howard Gruenspecht, Deputy Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency; Brooke Coleman, Advanced Biofuels Business Council, Boston, Massachusetts; Lucian Pugliaresi, Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc., Washington, D.C.; and Ronald E. Minsk, Rockville, Maryland.

ENDING MODERN SLAVERY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine ending modern slavery, after receiving testimony from Cindy H. McCain, The McCain Institute for International Leadership Human Trafficking Advisory Council, and Maurice I. Middleberg, Free the Slaves, both of Washington, D.C., and Evelyn Chumbow, United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, College Park, Maryland.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management concluded a hearing to examine the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, focusing on opportunities for improvement to support state and local governments, including S. 189, to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, after receiving testimony from Representative Foxx; Utah Senator Curt Bramble, National Conference of State Legislatures, Bryan Desloge, National Association of Counties, and Richard J. Pierce, Jr., The George Washington University Law School, all of Washington, D.C.; and Paul Posner, George Mason University Center on the Public Service, Arlington, Virginia.

ZIKA VIRUS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Zika virus, focusing on addressing the growing public health threat, after receiving testimony from Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, and Robin A. Robinson, Deputy Assistant Secretary and BARDA Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, all of the Department of Health and Human Services.

OPIOID USE AMONG SENIORS

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine opioid use among seniors, focusing on issues and emerging trends, after receiving testimony from Sean Cavanaugh, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicare, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Ann Maxwell, Assistant Inspector General, Office of Evaluation and Inspections, Office of Inspector General, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Jerome Adams, Indiana State Department of Health, Indianapolis; Steve Diaz, MaineGeneral Health, Augusta; and Sean Mackey, Stanford University School of Medicine Division of Pain Medicine, Palo Alto, California.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 4596–4611; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 624, were introduced. **Pages H891–92**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H893**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3004, to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission (H. Rept. 114–430);

H.R. 2880, to redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–431);

H.R. 812, to provide for Indian trust asset management reform, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–432);

H.R. 1475, to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–433);

H.R. 3371, to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–434); and

H.R. 3620, to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–435). **Page H891**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Duncan (TN) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H857**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:47 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H862**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Bishop Perry Thompson, Freedom Chapel International Christian Center, Washington, DC. **Page H862**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act: S. 238, to amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to issue oleoresin capsicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons; **Pages H865–69**

Amending the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission: H.R. 3004, to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission; **Pages H875–76**

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act: H.R. 2880, amended, to redesignate the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in the State of Georgia; **Pages H876–77**

Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act: H.R. 1475, amended, to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance; **Pages H877–79**

Indian Trust Asset Reform Act: H.R. 812, amended, to provide for Indian trust asset management reform; **Pages H879–84**

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Boundary Adjustment Act: H.R. 3371, to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill; and **Pages H884–86**

Amending the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National

Recreation Area: H.R. 3620, to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Pages H886–87

Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act of 2016—Rule for consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 618, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3624) to amend title 28, United States Code, to prevent fraudulent joinder, by a recorded vote of 238 ayes to 180 noes, Roll No. 86, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 237 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 85. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, February 25th.

Pages H869–74

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that he had issued a Proclamation to modify and continue the national emergency declared in Proclamations 6867 and 7757, relating to Cuba—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 114–102). **Page H874**

Senate Referral: S. 2234 was referred to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on House Administration. **Page H889**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H873 and H873–74. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Committee Meetings

STATE OF THE RURAL ECONOMY

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "State of the Rural Economy". Testimony was heard from Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS—UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the United States Forest Service. Testimony was heard from Tom Tidwell, Chief, United States Forest Service; and Tony Dixon, Budget Director, United States Forest Service.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a budget hearing on the Department of Homeland Security. Testimony was heard from Jeh Johnson, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a budget hearing on the Department of State and Foreign Assistance. Testimony was heard from John F. Kerry, Secretary, Department of State.

APPROPRIATIONS—USDA FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on USDA Food and Nutrition Service. Testimony was heard from Kevin Concannon, Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services; Audrey Rowe, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service; Angela Tagtow, Executive Director, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion; and Michael Young, Budget Officer, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Justice. Testimony was heard from Loretta Lynch, Attorney General, Department of Justice.

UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held an oversight hearing on United States European Command. Testimony was heard from Philip M. Breedlove, United States Air Force, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Commander, United States European Command. This hearing was closed.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Transportation. Testimony was heard from Anthony Foxx, Secretary, Department of Transportation.

APPROPRIATIONS—USDA FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service. Testimony was heard from Al Almanza, Deputy Under Secretary, Food Safety; and Michael Young, Budget Officer, Department of Agriculture.

THE CHALLENGE OF CONVENTIONAL AND HYBRID WARFARE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND ITS EFFECT ON MILITARY PLANNING

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Challenge of Conventional and Hybrid Warfare in the Asia-Pacific Region: The Changing Nature of the Security Environment and Its Effect on Military Planning''. Testimony was heard from Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN, Commander, United States Pacific Command; and General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, USA, Commander, United States Forces Korea.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FISCAL YEAR 2017 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS: DEFENSE INNOVATION TO CREATE THE FUTURE MILITARY FORCE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a hearing entitled ''Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2017 Science and Technology Programs: Defense Innovation to Create the Future Military Force''. Testimony was heard from Stephen Welby, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; Mary Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology; Rear Admiral Mathias W. Winter, USN, Chief of Naval Research and Director, Innovation Technology Requirements, and Test and Evaluation (N84); David Walker, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology and Engineering, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition; and Arati Prabhakar, Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

U.S. STRATEGIC FORCES POSTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled ''U.S. Strategic Forces Posture''. Testimony was heard from Brian McKeon, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Department of Defense; and Admiral Cecil Haney, Commander, U.S. STRATCOM.

DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY: BUDGETING AND STRUCTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled ''Defense Health Agency: Budgeting and Structure''. Testimony was heard from Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Department of Defense; and Vice Admiral Raquel C. Bono, Medical Corps, USN, Director, Defense Health Agency.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education''. Testimony was heard from John B. King, Acting Secretary, Department of Education.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 HHS BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''The Fiscal Year 2017 HHS Budget''. Testimony was heard from Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

DOE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT, AND NATIONAL SECURITY MISSIONS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''DOE for the 21st Century: Science, Environment, and National Security Missions''. Testimony was heard from Jared L. Cohon, Co-Chairman, Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories; TJ Glauthier, Co-Chairman, Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee began a markup on the ''Small Business Broadband Deployment Act''; a bill to promote a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce; H.R. 1268, the ''Energy Efficient Government Technology Act''; H.R. 2984, the ''Fair RATES Act''; H.R. 3021, the ''AIR Survey Act of 2015''; H.R. 3797, the ''Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment (SENSE) Act''; H.R. 4238, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities; H.R. 4427, to amend section 203 of the Federal Power Act; H.R. 4444, the ''EPS Improvement Act''; H.R. 4557, the ''Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns (BRICK) Act''; H.R. 2080, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam; H.R. 2081, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam; H.R. 3447, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the W. Kerr Scott Dam; H.R. 4411, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gathright Dam; H.R. 4416, to extend the deadline for commencement of

construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Jennings Randolph Dam; H.R. 4412, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Flannagan Dam; and H.R. 4434, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Cannonsville Dam.

THE IMPACT OF THE DOD-FRANK ACT AND BASEL III ON THE FIXED INCOME MARKET AND SECURITIZATIONS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises held a hearing entitled "The Impact of the Dodd-Frank Act and Basel III on the Fixed Income Market and Securitizations". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H. Res. 148, calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States hostage in our Nation's history; H. Res. 551, recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation; H.R. 3924, the "Global Development Lab of 2015"; and H.R. 4403, the "Enhancing Overseas Traveler Vetting Act". H. Res. 148 and H.R. 3924 were ordered reported, as amended. H. Res. 551 and H.R. 4403 were ordered reported, without amendment.

ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION: ILLICIT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS, WHISTLEBLOWING, AND REFORM

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations; Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; and Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, held a joint hearing entitled "Establishing Accountability at the World Intellectual Property Organization: Illicit Technology Transfers, Whistleblowing, and Reform". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BOKO HARAM: THE ISLAMIST INSURGENCY IN WEST AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade held a hearing entitled "Boko Haram: The Islamist Insurgency in West Africa". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3892, the "Muslim Brotherhood Terrorist Designation Act of 2015". H.R. 3892 was ordered reported, as amended.

TRIPLE THREAT TO WORKERS AND HOUSEHOLDS: IMPACTS OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS ON JOBS, WAGES AND STARTUPS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law held a hearing entitled "Triple Threat to Workers and Households: Impacts of Federal Regulations on Jobs, Wages and Startups". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE 2016 CALIFORNIA WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK DURING THE EL NIÑO AND THREE YEARS OF RESTRICTED WATER DELIVERIES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing entitled "The 2016 California Water Supply Outlook During the El Niño and Three Years of Restricted Water Deliveries". Testimony was heard from David Murillo, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

THE IMPOSITION OF NEW REGULATIONS THROUGH THE PRESIDENT'S MEMORANDUM ON MITIGATION

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "The Imposition of New Regulations Through the President's Memorandum on Mitigation". Testimony was heard from Michael Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; Brian Ferebee, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 3477, the "Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act"; and H.R. 3599, the "Eastern Band Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act". Testimony was heard from Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs for Policy and Economic Development, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

THE ZIKA VIRUS: COORDINATION OF A MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets held a hearing entitled ''The Zika Virus: Coordination of a Multi-Agency Response''. Testimony was heard from Anne Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Anthony Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health; John Armstrong, Surgeon General and Secretary of Health, State of Florida; and a public witness.

UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE: GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Unlocking the Secrets of the Universe: Gravitational Waves''. Testimony was heard from Fleming Crim, Assistant Director, Directorate of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, National Science Foundation; and public witnesses.

A REVIEW OF UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON FUTURE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND CHIEF'S REPORTS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled ''A Review of United States Army Corps of Engineers Reports to Congress on Future Water Resources Development and Chief's Reports''. Testimony was heard from Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works; and Lieutenant General Thomas Bostick, Chief of Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers.

GLOBAL TAX ENVIRONMENT IN 2016 AND NEED TO REFORM AND MODERNIZE THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL TAX SYSTEM

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing on the global tax environment in 2016 and how recent developments are further escalating the immediate need to reform and modernize the U.S. international tax system. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Senate Committee concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion, after receiving testimony from Dale Barnett, The American Legion, Douglasville, Georgia.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Justice, 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brad R. Carson, of Oklahoma, to be Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Jennifer M. O'Connor, of Maryland, to be General Counsel, and Todd A. Weiler, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John B. King, of New York, to be Secretary of Education, 2 p.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine connecting patients to new and potential life saving treatments, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the Tribal Law and Order Act 5 years later, focusing on the next steps to improve justice systems in Indian communities, 1:30 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, to hold hearings to examine the impact of high-skilled immigration on United States workers, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine changes to the United States patent system and impacts on America's small businesses, 10 a.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit, hearing to review the G–20 swap data reporting goals, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Indian Health Service, 9 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, oversight hearing on Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General, 9:30 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, budget hearing on Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Food and Drug Administration, 10:30 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, 1 p.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2 p.m., H–309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, budget hearing on the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2 p.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Full Spectrum Security Challenges in Europe and their Effects on Deterrence and Defense'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled ''Department of the Navy 2017 Budget Request and Seapower and Projection Forces'', 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Next Steps for K–12 Education: Upholding the Letter and Intent of the Every Student Succeeds Act'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on the ''Small Business Broadband Deployment Act''; a bill to promote a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce; H.R. 1268, the ''Energy Efficient Government Technology Act''; H.R. 2984, the ''Fair RATES Act''; H.R. 3021, the ''AIR Survey Act of 2015''; H.R. 3797, the ''Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment (SENSE) Act''; H.R. 4238, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities; H.R. 4427, to amend section 203 of the Federal Power Act; H.R. 4444, the ''EPS Improvement Act''; H.R. 4557, the ''Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns (BRICK) Act''; H.R. 2080, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam; H.R. 2081, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam; H.R. 3447, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the W. Kerr Scott Dam; H.R. 4411, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gathright Dam; H.R. 4416, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Jennings Randolph Dam; H.R. 4412, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Flannagan Dam; and H.R. 4434, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Cannonsville Dam (continued), 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis and Its Impact on the Bond Markets'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled ''The Impact of International Regulatory Standards on the Competitiveness of U.S. Insurers: Part II'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Strengthening U.S. Leadership in a Turbulent World: The FY 2017 Foreign Affairs Budget'', 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, hearing entitled ''Probing DHS's Botched Management of the Human Resources Information Technology Program'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, hearing entitled ''Emerging Cyber Threats to the United States'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''International Conflicts of Law Concerning Cross Border Data Flow and Law Enforcement Requests'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The U.S. Department of Treasury's Analysis of the Situation in Puerto Rico'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 2316, the ''Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act''; H.R. 3650, the ''State National Forest Management Act of 2015''; H.R. 3826, the ''Mount Hood Cooper Spur Land Exchange Clarification Act''; H.R. 4510, the ''Bolts Ditch Access and Use Act''; and H.R. 4579, the ''Utah Test and Training Range Encroachment Prevention and Temporary Closure Act'', 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Security Clearance Reform: The Performance Accountability Council's Path Forward'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules, hearing entitled ''Review of Consumer Operated and Oriented Plans (CO-OPs)'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Space Leadership Preservation Act and the Need for Stability at NASA'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Contracting and the Workforce, hearing entitled ''Hotline Truths: Issues Raised by Recent Audits of Defense Contracting'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled ''Reauthorization of DOT's Pipeline Safety Program'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Full Committee, business meeting for the official Committee photo of the 114th Congress; markup of H.R. 4336, the ''Women Airforce Service Pilot Arlington Inurnment Restoration Act''; H.R. 4063, the ''Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act''; H.R. 4129, the ''Jumpstart VA Construction Act''; H.R. 1769, the ''Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015''; H.R. 3484, the ''Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Act of 2015''; draft legislation to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into agreements with certain health

care providers to furnish hospital care, medical services, and extended care to veterans; and draft legislation of the ''FY 2016 VA Seismic Safety, Construction, and Lease Authorization Act'', 10:15 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''World Wide Threats'', 9 a.m., HVC–210.

Full Committee, hearing entitled ''World Wide Threats'', 10 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing will be closed.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

9:30 a.m., Thursday, February 25

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will be in a period of morning business. At 1:45 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of S. Res. 374, relating to the death of Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and vote on adoption of the resolution.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m., Thursday, February 25

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Continue consideration of H.R. 3624—Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act. Consideration of H.R. 2406—Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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