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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIMOTHY M. KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who spreads the lightning against the dark clouds, Your Name is holy. Your blessings continue to sustain this Nation and all who labor for liberty. May our Senators never take for granted their privilege to serve both You and country. Give them such gratitude that their actions will reinforce their thanksgiving. Lord, provide them with wisdom to become Your hands, feet, and voice in these challenging times.

Lord, be with those who support our lawmakers, particularly the family members who routinely sacrifice for America's good. May these often unsung heroes and heroines know that You are aware of their faithfulness and will reward their efforts.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIMOTHY M. KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KAINE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session and proceed to a series of four cloture votes on three U.S. district court judges from Florida and one from Vermont.

60-VOTE THRESHOLD

We tried all last week—I am sorry to say unsuccessfully—to consider three very important appropriations bills. These bills are very significant because they provide this great government of ours with the resources it needs to serve the American people.

I think we have had enough sequestrations and government shutdowns, and I hope my Republican colleagues aren't headed in that direction again.

Given the importance of the appropriations legislation and the need to keep our government operating, I had hoped we could have a cooperative amendment process and participation from all Senators.

Our vote last Tuesday on the motion to proceed was promising, as 95 Senators voted to move forward on these three important bills. However, it is a shame we had to file cloture. If we had not had to file cloture, which resulted in 95 Senators voting to move forward on very important bills, we could have saved 3 days' worth of downtime and doing nothing. But that has happened for many years now with Republicans blocking, obstructing, and misdirecting basically everything we do here.

On the bill we had before the Senate last week, unfortunately, the Republican leader stalled the Senate's progress on these appropriations bills with his recent conversion to the idea of insisting on simple majority votes. He now insists on majority votes or nothing.

Over the past 5 years, virtually everything we have done here in the Senate has been subject to a 60-vote threshold. Why? Because the Republican leader has insisted on that.

Almost 50 times since President Obama took office, the Republican leader has employed the 60-vote threshold in order to block legislation—and good legislation. Bills pertaining to the treatment of 9/11 responders, funding our military, disclosure of campaign contributions, and small business jobs bills all received majority votes but were blocked at one time or another by the new McConnell rule. Under the McConnell rule, everything that comes before the Senate has to have 60 votes.

He has called himself ''the proud guardian of gridlock.'' He has even gone to great lengths in defending the use of the 60-vote threshold.

Allow me to share, as I did last week—and I will do it again because I

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

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think it is worth repeating—a few of the Republican leader's past statements on the importance of 60 votes.

The Republican leader said: ''Now, look, we know that on controversial matters in the Senate, it has for quite some time required 60 votes.''

Another direct quote by the Republican leader:

> [R]equiring 60 votes, particularly on matters of this enormous importance, is not at all unusual. It is the way the Senate operates.

The Republican leader also said:

> Matters of this level of controversy always require 60 votes. So I would ask my friend, the majority leader, if he would modify his consent request to set the threshold for this vote at 60?

On July 30 the Republican leader said again—I am running through the months here:

> For him to suggest that a matter of this magnitude, in a body that requires 60 votes for almost everything, is going to be done with 51 votes makes no sense at all.

Again he said:

> So it is not at all unusual that the President's proposal of this consequence . . . would have to achieve 60 votes. That is the way virtually all business is done in the Senate . . .

The Republican leader holds himself as the person who has established this rule—the so-called McConnell rule—and is boasting about it. He has insisted on the 60-vote threshold time and time again over the past 5 years. So it is without logic, and it would deviate from the norm, that he, the Republican leader, has made. So I guess that is where we are. We are now operating under a 60-vote threshold and that is the norm that he, the Republican leader, has established around here.

The Republican leader's newfound support of the 51-vote threshold is timely, given his proposal to curb EPA regulatory powers because of an issue he thinks exists, even though there has been no rule promulgated by the White House. He is looking way off into the future. We have had months and months of people offering their opinions and suggestions as to how, if at all, this proposed rule could be changed, but he wants to do something about it even though there is nothing to change right now.

It is patently unfair to give the Republican leader a simple majority vote on his amendment when there have been so many other pieces of legislation he has blocked with the 60-vote threshold. However, we Democrats are willing to meet the Republican leader and his caucus halfway.

Here is the suggestion. We will agree to a simple majority vote on the Republican leader's EPA amendment in exchange for a 51-vote threshold on bills that are important to American families, such as an increase in the Federal minimum wage. A vast majority of the American people—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—want the minimum wage raised.

How about a vote on equal pay for working women? The vast majority of American people want their wives, daughters, mothers, and sisters to have the same paycheck when they do the same work as a man.

How about legislation permitting student borrowers to refinance their student loans? They blocked us on that legislation with the 60-vote threshold.

How about energy efficiency legislation? They blocked that many times.

How about a simple majority vote on the disclosure of campaign contributions? How about a simple majority vote on updating voting right protections that the Supreme Court did away with? How about a simple majority vote for background checks on gun purchases? Eight-five to 90 percent of the American people support that, and over half the NRA members support that.

What I am saying is, OK, if the Republican leader wants to vote on the EPA amendment with a simple majority vote, fine, we will take that. But let's have a simple majority vote on these other issues we feel are extremely important to help the middle class.

In exchange for a simple majority vote on legislation—I repeat, legislation that is so timely—such as, minimum wage, student loans, equal pay for men and women, energy efficiency legislation, and background checks for gun purchases, we could have a simple majority vote on the EPA amendment.

It is only fair that bills blocked by the McConnell rule be granted the same treatment as the Republican leader's own legislation. To do otherwise would be unjust to the many Senators who introduced legislation that is important to American families.

I hope we can come to a quick agreement on this offer and move to an open amendment process on appropriations bills, which should make Republicans happy. They said they wanted amendments; they can have amendments.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL BRANDON GARABRANT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise this evening to honor the life and service of U.S. Marine Corps LCpl Brandon Garabrant. Brandon was a native of Greenfield, NH, who, sadly, was killed in action on Friday in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Garabrant was serving his first tour overseas after completing basic training at Camp Lejeune last year.

In the days since we learned that Brandon made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, we have been touched by the selfless devotion with which he lived his life and which defined him as a citizen and a marine.

His dedication to our country was so focused that he completed his basic training at Camp Lejeune just 1 day before he graduated from ConVal Regional High School. Brandon also served throughout his high school years as a volunteer firefighter with the Temple Volunteer Fire Department.

Although he was just 19 years old when he deployed to Afghanistan, Brandon faced the enormous task of defending our Nation with unshakable conviction.

Brandon's thoughts on the eve of his April deployment most aptly demonstrate his devotion to his country, to his community, and to his fellow marines. Brandon wrote:

> Fighting for our country, our brothers to the left and right, our friends and families back home. So that you can have the right for freedom and to live the American dream without fear of anything. Here comes a long journey into the unknown.

It is certainly a very long journey for Brandon.

Brandon is survived by his mother Jessie, his father John, and his younger siblings Jacob and Mykala.

It is my hope that during this extremely difficult time Brandon's family and friends will find comfort in knowing that Americans everywhere appreciate deeply his sacrifice in defense of our country so the rest of us may continue to live in peace and freedom.

Brandon epitomized the best New Hampshire tradition of service, and his example will not soon be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to have known him.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of this brave young American, Brandon Garabrant.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRUST GAP

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I just returned a couple of hours ago to Washington from Indiana, and over the last several months, as I have been visiting and talking to Hoosiers, I have continued to hear concerns about—and I am concerned, frankly—this widening trust deficit between the American people—at least the people I represent, and I think I can say pretty much across this country—and Washington. The American people lack confidence in Washington, confidence that they are getting the straight story, the hard truth. Not a lot of good things over the past several months have come out of either this body or a number of Washington agencies.

This trust gap is ever widening as we have kind of careened from scandal to scandal, incident to incident, broken promises made by top officials, false statements being made, the latest of which is now this resurrection again of the IRS scandal.

Let me say this: It has been said that no agency in Washington is less forgiving than the Internal Revenue Service. No agency in Washington has more power over the American people than the Internal Revenue Service. If there is an agency that needs to be apolitical and to not engage in anything that could even be deemed political, it is the IRS, given the power they have to destroy your reputation, destroy your finances, and destroy your business.

The way they work is they determine you are in violation, in a sense reversing what is sacrosanct in America; that is, you are innocent until proven guilty, but under the IRS, you are guilty until proven innocent. You have to hire lawyers and accountants and sit down with them to prove you are not violating their rules. That is upside down.

One of the founding principles which sets the United States apart from other nations and makes us exceptional is the First Amendment to the Constitution. Under the First Amendment, Americans are constitutionally guaranteed the right to organize around the issues and values they believe in and the right to disagree with their government. We look around the world and see that is not the case in very many places. But in America, that cherished right to take a position opposite our government—to protest, to organize, and to seek changes as a result of that organization—this liberty is part of what energizes and fuels the very spirit of America and everything we stand for.

So when a so-called independent agency of the Federal Government attacks average American citizens for expressing their beliefs, a fundamental trust is broken and it is very hard to repair. Again, no agency has perhaps more intimidating power over American citizens than the Internal Revenue Service.

We owe it to the American taxpayers to reveal the truth—the full truth—of what has happened at the IRS and repair the damage of this agency's reckless actions in regard to those who have organized for political purposes, to protest, to assert their First Amendment rights, to follow the law and exercise those First Amendment rights, without having an agency of the government targeting them and intruding on what they are trying to do.

It is clear now that in 2010 the IRS targeted conservative groups—including one in my home State—for extra scrutiny based on political leanings. The agency displayed a stunning abuse of power and complete disregard of our Constitution in taking this action.

Lois Lerner, the former Director of the IRS's Exempt Organizations Unit and the official at the center of this ongoing congressional investigation, refuses to testify before Congress on the advice of her attorney. Yes, she has the right to plead the Fifth Amendment to not answer questions, but we are getting stonewalled by the IRS in getting to the bottom of this and determining what kind of abuse has taken place against the American people. We are trying to reach the truth, but we are being denied that opportunity to reach the truth because those who know the truth refuse to testify under subpoena from the Congress.

Last Friday my House colleagues heard testimony from IRS Commissioner John Koskinen about missing emails from Lerner and six of her IRS subordinates.

Now, isn't this a coincidence? We know the IRS has been targeting groups, attacking their First Amendment rights, and the House oversight committee is seeking to find out whether this happened. The IRS is denying it, but Lois Lerner refuses to testify.

IRS Commissioner Koskinen comes in and says this is not true. OK. Let's prove it.

The IRS asks taxpayers to prove they didn't violate their rights under the IRS rules, but when we ask the IRS: Can you prove whether what you are saying is the truth, that you were not targeting these organizations, they claim they lost the evidence. They say the server crashed and all the emails we could trace back to determine the truth of this are lost. They are all gone.

The American people know that you can get into hard drives and find out everything ever put in there. Isn't it strange that only the IRS determined that, well, this whole thing crashed, so let's get rid of the hard drives.

Now, thousands of emails that could have led to a trace and allowed us to find the truth, disappeared. What a coincidence.

Do we think the American people buy this story? It would be laughable if it wasn't so serious. To claim that 2 years' worth of emails were completely, inadvertently lost is laughable on its face.

So no emails, no backups, a crashed server, assertions made long after Members of Congress requested the information demonstrates at best a troubling lack of transparency and potentially criminal negligence. After all, the IRS is required to archive these emails by law.

But let's put this in perspective. The very organization that expects busy, hard-working Americans to maintain meticulous financial records and complete extensive, confusing tax forms each year can't find 2 years' worth of emails sent by its own employees. Even though we live in a day and age where virtually nothing ever disappears from the Internet, the IRS wants us to believe these emails are lost for good—and maybe they are if they took all the steps they have taken.

So to echo the comments of my colleague chairman PAUL RYAN: The IRS owes every American taxpayer an apology.

But an apology is not enough. We need answers and we need to find the truth. When this scandal first surfaced, the President promised Americans that he would ''work hand-in-hand with Congress to get this thing fixed.'' That is a quote, ''I will work hand in hand with Congress to get this thing fixed.''

So how are they fixing it? They are sending the employees who were engaged and involved in this, and they basically either take the Fifth Amendment, saying they will not answer the questions, or they say: Gee. We lost all this stuff. I am sorry. Each of our six hard drives collapsed, and therefore we can't retrieve any kind of evidence that would prove where they are.

I am not a big fan of special prosecutors. I think giving them that power has not always proven to be the best way to get to the bottom of something, but in certain cases where there is such clear evidence that the truth is being withheld and evidence that could lead us to a conclusion is potentially being destroyed—I think that is the only way we are going to get to the bottom of this.

We need to start restoring the trust of the American people in their government agencies and in their government. Until we get to the bottom of this, this widening trust gap is going to continue.

Appointing an independent investigator would allow us access to Federal computer records to determine whether copies of these missing emails can be found on the government IT network. Perhaps they have scrubbed them in a way that it will not happen, but at least it would allow us an independent assessment of what is going on.

We can work to restore trust, but doing so will require answers and honesty from the Internal Revenue Service, which we are not getting.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

RETIREMENT OF COLONEL MICHAEL COLBURN

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, next month Col. Michael Colburn, who is the

director of the U.S. Marine Band, will retire after nearly 30 years with this history-rich and venerated organization.

We like the Marine Band, of course. My son is a Marine. But it is especially nice because Colonel Colburn is a native Vermonter, and his appreciation for the band, known worldwide as ''The President's Own,'' began decades ago when the then-12-year-old euphonium-playing St. Albans native met a principal in the band while at summer band camp in Vermont.

In 1987, Colonel Colburn joined ''The President's Own'' as a euphonium player and ultimately became the band's director, a post he has held for the last decade. His tenure has taken him around the world and back again. He has played for Presidents and foreign dignitaries, at state dinners and inaugurations and regular performances that thousands have witnessed in Washington at the Marine Barracks during the weekly parades.

I have represented the Green Mountain State of Vermont in this Chamber longer than anyone in the history of our State. So you can imagine my enthusiasm when I see a Vermonter here in Washington and all the more so when I have the opportunity of capturing an image such as this, of Colonel Colburn conducting ''The President's Own'' during the January 2013 inauguration of President Obama. I was standing up on the stand when the President was being inaugurated and took that picture of Colonel Colburn. Of course, the whole world was watching the Colonel and watching the President.

I join with the proud citizens of Vermont and the people of a grateful nation in thanking Colonel Colburn for his service and his many, many memorable performances conducting ''The President's Own,'' following in the footsteps of John Philip Sousa and making his own giant footsteps for others to follow. I wish him the very best as he begins the next chapter of his career as the director of bands at the University of Indianapolis.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an interview with Colonel Colburn published in the Marine Corps Times in February.

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

[From the Marine Corps Times, Feb. 2, 2014]

'PRESIDENT'S OWN' LEADER LOOKS BACK ON TIME WITH ELITE MARINE BAND

(By Gina Harkins)

When Col. Michael Colburn was a 12-year-old euphonium player at a summer band camp in Vermont, he was in awe of one of the instructors there, Lucas Spiros, a principal in the United States Marine Band.

Colburn said the Marine, a fellow euphonium player, left a lasting impression.

''It was really the first time I thought, 'Hey, I could do that for a living,'" Colburn said. ''From that moment on, I pursued my musical studies more diligently.''

When Colburn himself joined ''The President's Own'' as a euphonium player in 1987, he had no idea his career path would lead to becoming director of the prestigious band. Now 27 years later, he's just months shy of his final performance with the band. He'll retire from the Marine Corps in July, and take over as the next director of bands at Butler University in Indianapolis.

Colburn said he wants young musicians to know that if they work hard and use their creativity, they can still pursue a career doing what they love. After all, his perseverance led him through seven presidential inaugurations, to the former Soviet Union and to the stage of the ''Late Show with David Letterman.''

Q. Tell us what has surprised you during your time with ''The President's Own.''

A. In my early days as a conductor [while a member of the band], I had an interesting experience at the White House. I was leading our orchestra and was tapped on the elbow. I turned around and it was President Bill Clinton. He was very interested in the piece of music we were playing and had many questions that I tried to answer while I was conducting the orchestra. I realized that even though we were providing background music for a social event, you never know who's listening very carefully—it could be your commander in chief.

Q. What's one of the most rewarding things you've done with the band as a Marine?

A. Back when I was a player in the band, we toured the former Soviet Union for three weeks. That was really a memorable experience because it was in the 1990s, when the Soviet Union was really starting to come apart at the seams. To spend three weeks traveling the country and getting to know the people who lived behind the Iron Curtain—who we really didn't know on a personal level at all—to hear their stories and learn how much we had in common is something I'll never forget.

Q. After all these years with the band, is there any one song that you tend to feel strongly about when you guys play it?

A. People often ask whether I'm sick of playing ''The Stars and Stripes Forever.'' But even after these thousands of performances, we never get tired of it. And there's one reason for that, and it's the audience's response to it, especially if they don't know it's coming. The ''oohs and aahs'' and the cheering make you feel like you're playing it for the first time.

Q. Most troops do their job without much interaction with the public. What's it like to carry out your job on a stage?

A. We really do understand that so much of our military indeed works behind the scenes. They don't have the privilege of being on a stage and receiving applause. It's especially during our tour concerts when we play the ''Armed Forces Medley,'' which includes all the service songs, that we remember all the men and women serving in uniform who are in difficult and trying circumstances where no one is offering applause. In those moments, we feel we are representing all those troops when performing for the American public.

Q. As you move into academia, what are some of the things you're going to miss the most about the Marine Corps?

A. A lot of people assume my favorite part of the job is making music at the White House or meeting politicians and celebrities. That is thrilling, and I've loved it. But really the best part has to do with the quality of the people I've had the chance to work with in ''The President's Own.'' They're some of the finest people I've met. I'm really excited about the opportunity to make music with students, and I hope I can bring the very high standards that I have hopefully developed during my Marine Corps career.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the judges that fill the two Federal district court seats in my home State have an extraordinary impact on the lives of Vermonters. So when I learned that one of my dearest friends, Judge William Sessions, was to take senior status after 18 years of distinguished service on the Vermont district court, I took seriously my responsibility to act swiftly to identify a candidate to recommend to President Obama for nomination. I worked with Senator SANDERS, Representative WELCH, and the Vermont Bar Association to convene a nonpartisan merit commission to find highly qualified candidates.

So I again thank the nine members of the nonpartisan Vermont Judicial Selection Commission, under the leadership of Peter Van Oot, for the time, effort, and insight they invested in the screening process. We are fortunate in our small State of Vermont to have so many highly qualified lawyers in the field of applicants willing to serve in such a demanding post. There were a number of highly qualified people. After being vetted and recommended to me by the commission, I recommended Justice Geoffrey Crawford to President Obama. I told the President I was not surprised that after the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary finished its vetting, they gave him their highest rating of unanimously well qualified.

Justice Crawford has significant criminal and civil experience. He was a Vermont trial court judge for 11 years and recently became an Associate Justice on the Vermont Supreme Court. He formerly was a partner in a Burlington law firm. Justice Crawford earned his B.A., cum laude, from Yale University and his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School. Following law school he served as a law clerk to Judge Albert Coffrin of the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont.

I did not know Justice Crawford personally before this process, but when I did meet him I was struck by his brilliance, compassion, and humility. Justice Crawford earned a stellar reputation in Vermont's legal community, and also from those who had appeared before him, as a careful jurist who understands the effects that legal rulings have on people's lives. I have no doubt that once confirmed he will bring that same understanding and impartiality to the Federal bench.

The Judiciary Committee favorably reported Justice Crawford's nomination unanimously by voice vote to the full Senate. Justice Crawford, like the three other nominees we will vote on today, has been nominated to fill an emergency vacancy. He is a qualified uncontroversial nominee with the full support of his home state Senators. He and the three other nominees deserve to be confirmed without delay.

I thank the majority leader for bringing these nominations up for a vote and urge Senators to vote to defeat

these filibusters and get these nominees working for the American people in courthouses around the Nation. Justice Geoffrey Crawford will serve Vermont well as a Federal district judge, and I look forward to his confirmation.

Madam President, I don't see anyone else at the moment, so I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

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

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL BRANDON GARABRANT

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of LCpl Brandon Garabrant, a proud marine from Greenfield, NH, who was tragically killed in action in Afghanistan last week.

Lance Corporal Garabrant was an extraordinary young man who cared deeply about his country. Before he even graduated from ConVal Regional High School last year, he had already graduated from marine boot camp at Parris Island. Brandon was eager to serve and he followed in the footsteps of his great-grandfather and his grandfather in joining the military to serve our country.

Long before he joined the Marines, Brandon had already earned a reputation as someone who was passionate about serving others. Volunteering with the Temple Volunteer Fire Department starting at age 17, he became a full-time member of that fire department when he turned 18. The fire chief at Temple, George Clark, was quoted as saying Brandon ''was all about helping people,'' adding that ''no matter what needed doing, he was always the first guy there.'' Chief Clark said even when Brandon was home on leave he would get in touch and he would ask how could he help, a true reflection on Brandon's commitment to serving others as reflected in his service to our country.

Lance Corporal Garabrant was proud to be a marine and enjoyed the important work he was doing. He was a big-hearted young man with a bright future ahead of him, and he represented the very best of New Hampshire and the very best of our great Nation.

Brandon was taken from us far too soon. As we mourn his tragic loss, we commit ourselves to forever honor and cherish his memory and to carry on the proud legacy of service he leaves behind. Brandon was a true American hero for the sacrifice he made for our country, for our freedom. At this very sad time we also support and comfort his family who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

In the difficult days and weeks ahead, my thoughts and prayers will remain with his mother Jessie, his father John, as well as his brother Jacob and his sister Mykala. May God forever bless LCpl Brandon Garabrant. May we honor his selfless sacrifice for our country. If it weren't for people such as Brandon, we would not enjoy the freedoms we have in this great country. If it were not for marines such as Lance Corporal Garabrant, who stepped up to serve his country and volunteered on behalf of our great Nation, we would not have the free speech rights we enjoy or any of the other rights we enjoy.

My thoughts and prayers will remain with his family. My thoughts and prayers will remain with all of his fellow soldiers who have lost a friend, and my thoughts and prayers will remain with all of those in the Greenfield community, with the fire station, with Chief Clark, and all of those who have lost a great American hero.

Thank you, Madam President.

I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the cloture vote on the Byron nomination.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Menendez, Barbara A. Mikulski, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted ''nay'' and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted ''nay.''

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 202 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—30

Alexander	Corker	Hoeven
Ayotte	Crapo	Inhofe
Barrasso	Enzi	Isakson
Blunt	Fischer	Lee
Boozman	Flake	McCain
Burr	Graham	McConnell
Chambliss	Grassley	Moran
Coats	Hatch	Paul

Portman	Sessions	Thune
Risch	Shelby	Wicker

NOT VOTING—17

Begich	Johanns	Roberts
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Schatz
Cochran	Kirk	Scott
Cornyn	Markey	Toomey
Cruz	Murkowski	Vitter
Heller	Pryor	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 53, the nays are 30. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF PAUL G. BYRON TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the cloture vote on the Mendoza nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield it back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Cory A. Booker, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Charles E. Schumer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted ''nay'' and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted ''nay.''

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 203 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—31

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Hoeven	Sessions
Chambliss	Inhofe	Shelby
Coats	Isakson	Thune
Corker	Kirk	Wicker
Crapo	Lee	
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—16

Begich	Johanns	Schatz
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Cochran	Markey	Toomey
Cornyn	Murkowski	Vitter
Cruz	Pryor	
Heller	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 53, the nays are 31. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF CARLOS EDUARDO MENDOZA TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk reported the nomination of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the cloture vote on the Bloom nomination.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Beth Bloom, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Cory A. Booker, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Charles E. Schumer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Beth Bloom of Florida to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted ''nay'' and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted ''nay.''

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 204 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Cantwell	Donnelly
Bennet	Cardin	Durbin
Blumenthal	Carper	Feinstein
Booker	Casey	Franken
Boxer	Collins	Gillibrand
Brown	Coons	Hagan

Harkin	McCaskill	Schumer
Heinrich	Menendez	Shaheen
Heitkamp	Merkley	Stabenow
Hirono	Mikulski	Tester
Johnson (SD)	Murphy	Udall (CO)
Kaine	Murray	Udall (NM)
King	Nelson	Walsh
Klobuchar	Reed	Warner
Landrieu	Reid	Warren
Leahy	Rockefeller	Whitehouse
Levin	Rubio	Wyden
Manchin	Sanders	

NAYS—31

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Hoeven	Sessions
Chambliss	Inhofe	Shelby
Coats	Isakson	Thune
Corker	Kirk	Wicker
Crapo	Lee	
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—16

Begich	Johanns	Schatz
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Cochran	Markey	Toomey
Cornyn	Murkowski	Vitter
Cruz	Pryor	
Heller	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the ayes are 53, the nays are 31. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF BETH BLOOM TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Beth Bloom, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a cloture vote on the Crawford nomination.

Mr. HATCH. I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Geoffrey W. Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Cory A. Booker, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Charles E. Schumer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to the nomination of Geoffrey W. Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted ''nay'' and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted ''nay.''

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 205 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Landrieu	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Collins	Levin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Manchin	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—32

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—16

Begich	Johanns	Schatz
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Cochran	Markey	Toomey
Cornyn	Murkowski	Vitter
Cruz	Pryor	
Heller	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 52, the nays are 32. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF GEOFFREY W. CRAWFORD TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT VERMONT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

Nomination of Geoffrey W. Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, and during that time Senators be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

CONGRATULATING DENNIS VAN ROEKEL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the career of Dennis Van Roekel, whose term is ending as president of one of the Nation's largest labor unions, the National Education Association. Mr. Van Roekel is also a member of the U.S. Department of Education's Equity and Excellence Commission, which studies how students are affected by inequitable school finance systems. His leadership knows no borders, as he has also served as vice president of Education International for North America and the Caribbean to pursue means to raise student achievement and provide adequate funding in a way that could serve as a model worldwide.

Mr. Van Roekel has long been an honorable and fervent supporter of the rights of teachers and public education. Before becoming president of the NEA, he served two terms as NEA vice president and secretary-treasurer, and he has held key positions in all levels of the association, including Arizona Education Association president and Paradise Valley Education Association president. He established the Commission on Effective Teachers and Teaching to examine the teaching profession on a national scale. As a recognized leader on education issues, he has testified before Congress, served on leading boards, such as the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Executive Committee and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Executive Board.

His excellence is unmistakable and has been recognized at numerous forums and national summits sponsored by the Coalition for Community Schools, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Council of Chief State School Officers, and Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. He has been a leader in discussing education issues with leading publications and networks, including C–SPAN, MSNBC, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Education Week, and TIME.

Mr. President, on behalf of the Senate, I commend Dennis Van Roekel on a lifetime of public service, and I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING JOHN KEY McKINLEY

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life and legacy of my friend John Key McKinley, a Tuscaloosa native, who passed away on June 12. John was a dedicated philanthropist and skilled businessman who will be forever remembered as a dear friend to the State of Alabama and to the University of Alabama.

Born in Tuscaloosa in 1920, John graduated from Tuscaloosa High School. He went to earn a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in organic chemistry from the University of Alabama. He was inducted into Tau Beta Pi and the Scabbard and Blade Society at the University and was a member of the Capstone Engineering Society. While in college, John was also a cadet in the ROTC and rose to the rank of cadet colonel and brigade commander. However, John's contributions go on well beyond his days as a student—he was a generous benefactor and steadfast supporter of the university throughout his life.

After graduating from Alabama in 1941, John began his career at Texaco. He left Texaco in August 1941 to join the Army and serve in Newfoundland and Europe during World War II. In August 1944 shortly after D-day, John landed on Utah Beach and took part in battles across France, Belgium, and Germany—including the Battle of the Bulge as the Allied troops moved through Western Europe and onto Berlin. As a result of his unwavering bravery during the battle for the Roer River, he received the prestigious Bronze Star. He also rose to the rank of major during his service in the Army.

Following the war, John returned to Texaco, where he held numerous positions within the company. He excelled in research and development—holding over a dozen patents from petroleum additives and grease components—and also continued his education. In 1962, he graduated from Harvard University's Advanced Management Program. Less than 10 years later, John was named the company's president, and in 1980 he became Texaco's president, chief executive, and chairman until his retirement in 1986.

In addition to his work at Texaco, John served on the board of directors for several companies, including Texaco, Inc., Federated Department Stores, Burlington Industries, Martin Marietta Corporation, Merck & Co., Inc., Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, Manufacturers Hanover Corporation, and Apollo Computer, Inc. He also served on the board of directors of the Metropolitan Opera, the Peregrine Fund, the Americas Society, Business Council for Effective Literacy, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. John also took an active role in many civic and professional organizations, such as the Brookings Council, the Business Council—Washington DC, and President's Commission on Executive Exchange.

John's contributions did not go unnoticed. He was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal by the Freedom Foundation, the Gold Medal by the National Institute of Social Sciences, the American Eagle Award by the Invest-In-America National Council, and the Wallace Award by the American-Scottish Foundation. He was inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame in 1982 and was installed in the Alabama Academy of Honor in 1983. Additionally, the Belgian Government presented John with the Commandeur de L'Ordre de la Courrone in 1984, which is the highest decoration given to a corporate leader in recognition of significant contributions to Belgium's economic sector.

I had the honor of knowing John and his wife Helen, who preceded him in death, as well as their two sons, John Jr. and Mark. I offer my deepest condolences to them and to all of their loved ones as they celebrate his many life accomplishments and mourn this great loss.

RECOGNIZING LINDA LANGSTON

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize an exceptional local leader in Iowa who has used her experience and expertise to help communities across America to become more resilient. Back home, we know Linda Langston as an effective and tireless county supervisor in Linn County. Over the past year, however, I have enjoyed partnering with Supervisor Langston in her role as president of the National Association of Counties.

In this capacity, Supervisor Langston served as the principal spokesperson for our Nation's 3,069 counties and their nearly 40,000 elected officials. This is an important and demanding leadership post. Think about it: County governments employ almost 3.3 million people and invest nearly $500 billion each year in our local communities, especially in the areas of transportation and infrastructure, justice and public safety, and health and human services.

As national president, Supervisor Langston has focused a tremendous amount of energy and attention this year on community, economic, and social resiliency, with a special focus on natural disaster preparedness and recovery. In addition, she has provided a local, midwestern perspective on national advisory committees with the National Academy of Sciences and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She has also convened numerous national and regional forums with public, private, and nonprofit leaders to address the urgent issue of natural disaster preparedness and recovery.

Every day, it seems, we encounter news reports of extraordinary natural disasters, everything from droughts, floods, tornadoes, and wildfires, to hurricanes, ice storms and extreme temperatures. Thanks to Supervisor Langston's thoughtful and expert leadership at the National Association of Counties, we can be confident that America's counties are better prepared for the natural disasters that inevitably lie ahead.

IOWA CONCESSION STUDY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize an innovative effort aimed at improving youth nutrition that took place at Muscatine High School in Iowa. Communities across the country are focusing on ways to build health and wellness into everyday life—in schools, workplaces, or elsewhere in the community—and this is one excellent example of just such an initiative.

In a collaboration between the University of Iowa and the parent-led Muscatine booster club—''Muskie Boosters''—researchers and booster club members added new healthy items such as apples, carrots, granola bars, and grilled chicken to the concession stand's menu during high school athletic events. They didn't stop there—they also modified the ingredients in other items to make them healthier. For example, they eliminated the use of trans fats in the nachos. These menu changes had one main goal: give the Muscatine High School community access to fresh and healthy food, where previously only junk food could be found.

And here is the really great news: The University of Iowa researchers who participated in this experiment found that selling healthier products had almost no impact on concession revenues and actually resulted in a slight increase in sales per football game with the introduction of healthier items and ingredient changes. Sales of some new items increased with each game, and—no surprise—parents were more satisfied with the healthier foods than they were with the less healthy food options.

The results of this study are further evidence that offering healthy food can be good for both our Nation's physical and our Nation's fiscal health. In fact, these results show us that selling healthier foods can actually increase profits and customer satisfaction. The study also provides an exemplary model of how academic institutions can work collaboratively with local communities to improve nutrition and health.

Given the alarming rates of childhood obesity, it is more important than ever that we continue to find creative and innovative solutions to confront the obesity epidemic. I commend the Muskie Boosters, the University of Iowa researchers, and other study authors who worked together to find innovative yet simple ways to improve

the quality of food being offered to our kids in the Muscatine community. I hope we can expand the great work they have done to other communities in Iowa and all across the Nation.

HIRAM, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. I wish to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Town of Hiram, ME. Known today as a gateway to the rugged and beautiful Western Maine Mountains, Hiram was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today.

Hiram's incorporation on June 14, 1814, was but one milestone on a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the banks of the Saco River were the hunting grounds of the Sokokis Tribe, and the legendary Pequawket Trail was their route between the Atlantic Ocean and the mountains. The reverence the Sokokis had for the natural beauty and resources of the region is upheld by the people of Hiram today.

The very name of the town, dating to the first European settlement in the 1780s, speaks of this reverence. Like the realm of the biblical King Hiram I of Tyre, the community was established among the trees that were its first source of prosperity. With the fast-moving Saco River and its tributaries providing power, sawmills became an important industry, soon followed by blacksmiths, leather manufacturing, and other endeavors vital to Maine's development. As a junction of two of Maine's early railroads, Hiram became the gateway to the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The wealth produced by the land was invested in schools and churches to create a true community.

The history of Hiram is directly connected to the very birth of our Nation. One of the town's first settlers was General Peleg Wadsworth, whose company of Minutemen answered the call of freedom at Lexington and Concord. After a life of remarkable service to our young country, in the military and in public office, General Wadsworth settled in Hiram in 1807, established a farm, and led the incorporation of the township. It is fascinating to consider the influence the beautiful surroundings had upon his grandson, the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who spent many summers in Hiram as a boy.

A quality that runs through Hiram's history is courage. Some 100 young men from the town fought to save our Nation in the Civil War, and 39 gave their lives in that noble cause. It is humbling to know that Pleasant Ridge Cemetery is the final resting place for patriots from four generations of the Lyons family who served with valor and distinction.

Today, Hiram is a charming town of involved citizens. The historic Soldiers Memorial Library, built nearly a century ago in honor of those who defended our country, is avidly supported and remains a center of community activity. The saw and scythe depicted on the new bicentennial seal are reminders of Hiram's past and indicators of the hard work and enthusiasm the townspeople have put into this year's landmark birthday celebration.

This 200th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years; it is about human accomplishment, an occasion to celebrate the people who for more than two centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. Thanks to those who came before, Hiram has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MARION COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Marion County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Marion County worth over $5 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $95 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is working with Central College to provide $1.8 million for the Center for Math, Science, and Technology to expand its curriculum, increase technology training in teacher education, and provide distance learning for teachers in the field.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Central Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects, including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Marion County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Marion County, I have fought to resurrect the Des Moines River Greenbelt account which helped the Marion County Cordova Center on the Rock to build an environmental learning center, amphitheater, trails, and other outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as a 4-mile trail connecting the city of Pella with Cordova area. While there is more to do in the future, I am pleased that construction of the first phase of the project was complete in August 2013 at a cost of $3,100,000.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Marion County has received $319,444 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Marion County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $249,844.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster; it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical

support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Marion County has received over $5 billion to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Marion County has received more than $2.2 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Marion County's fire departments have received over $1.7 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Marion County has recognized this important issue by securing $264,000 for worksite wellness programs.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Marion County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Marion County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

WINNESHIEK COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Winneshiek County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Winneshiek County worth over $2.7 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $15.6 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memories of working together have to include working with community leaders to secure more than $22 million in federal funding for the Northeast Community College in recent years. The federal funding was directed towards various programs and renovations, including dairy research, farm safety, and renewable energy education.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Winneshiek County has received $274,120 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Winneshiek County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $35,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Winneshiek County has received more than $2.2 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Winneshiek County's fire departments have received over $743,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment, $65,500 in Byrne Justice Assistance grants, and more than $692,000 in other programs through the Department of Justice to keep the community safe and drug free.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Winneshiek County has recognized this important issue by securing more than $113,000 to promote wellness, nutrition, and mental health in the community.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank,

who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Winneshiek County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Winneshiek County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Winneshiek County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

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.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13219 OF JUNE 26, 2001, WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—PM 46

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:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order (E.O.) 13219 of June 26, 2001, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2014.

The threat constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, related to Kosovo, has not been resolved. In addition, E.O. 13219 was amended by E.O. 13304 of May 28, 2003, to take additional steps with respect to acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 relating to Macedonia.

Because the acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in these Executive Orders are hostile to U.S. interests and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 23, 2014*.

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13466 OF JUNE 26, 2008, WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA, AS RECEIVED DURING RECESS OF THE SENATE ON JUNE 20, 2014—PM 47

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:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order (E.O.) 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in E.O. 13551 of August 30, 2010, and addressed further in E.O. 13570 of April 18, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2014.

The existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula, and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil U.S. Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to North Korea.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 20, 2014*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:04 p.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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4412. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4412. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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–6199. 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 ''Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates'' (Notice 2014–41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6200. 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 ''Section 1603 Sequestration and Its Effect on the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and the Production Tax Credit (PTC)'' (Notice 2014–39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2244. A bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

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. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2512. A bill to establish an emergency transportation safety fund for the reconstruction of bridges along the Interstate Highway System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2513. A bill to establish a demonstration project for competency-based education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 481. A resolution designating the month of June 2014 as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1837

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1837, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of consumer credit checks against prospective and current employees for the purposes of making adverse employment decisions.

S. 1893

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1893, a bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1945, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2117

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2117, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2126

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2126, a bill to launch a national strategy to support regenerative medicine through the establishment of a Regenerative Medicine Coordinating Council, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, supra.

S. 2206

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2206, a bill to streamline the collection and distribution of government information.

S. 2298

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2304

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2304, a bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2349

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2349, a bill to establish a grant program to enable States to promote participation in dual enrollment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2359

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2359, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2363

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.

2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2366

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 2448

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2448, a bill to protect servicemembers in higher education, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 412

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 412, a resolution reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, and for the peaceful diplomatic resolution of outstanding territorial and maritime claims and disputes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2512. A bill to establish an emergency transportation safety fund for the reconstruction of bridges along the Interstate Highway System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund Act, cosponsored by my friend and colleague from Kentucky, Senator PAUL. This bill seeks to authorize additional funding for our Nation's critical transportation infrastructure through spending offsets provided by the repeal of the antiquated Davis-Bacon Act. Last year, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that over 10 years, repealing the Davis-Bacon Act would save the Federal Government some $13 billion.

Kentucky is home to a number of critical interstate bridges that are in need of replacement, including the Brent Spence Bridge in Northern Kentucky, the I–65 bridge in Louisville, and an I–69 bridge in Henderson. This bill seeks to create a fund to help advance these very types of interstate bridge projects without raising taxes, adding to the deficit, or by authorizing tolling. Federal funding saved through the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act could be much better spent building a number of interstate bridges that are sorely needed in Kentucky and communities across America. I call on my Senate colleagues to support this measure to invest in our Nation's critical transportation infrastructure, on which American commerce depends.

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. 2512

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 ''Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Davis-Bacon Act requires that workers on all federally funded or federally assisted construction projects be paid what is commonly referred to as a prevailing wage, as calculated by the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor.

(2) According to the Congressional Budget Office, if the Davis-Bacon Act were repealed, the Federal Government could save an estimated $12,700,000,000 in discretionary outlays from 2015 through 2023.

(3) These savings could be redirected to the reconstruction of closed and functionally obsolete bridges along the Interstate Highway System, which would improve highway safety and interstate commerce.

TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNDING

SEC. 101. REPEAL OF DAVIS-BACON ACT OF 1931 WAGE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (40 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.), is repealed.

(b) REFERENCE.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, any reference in any law to a wage requirement under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, shall be null and void.

SEC. 102. EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE SAFETY FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the ''Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund''.

(b) TRANSFERS TO EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE SAFETY FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall regularly transfer amounts equal to the savings achieved through the repeal of the wage requirements under subsection (a) from the capital budgets of each affected Federal agency to the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund.

(2) EMERGENCY RELIEF EXPENDITURES.—Section 125(c) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE SAFETY FUND.—Amounts deposited into the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund established under section 102(a) of the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund Act are authorized to be obligated to carry out, in priority order, the projects on the current list compiled by the Secretary under section 201(b)(1) of such Act that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in subsection (a).''.

TITLE II—EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE SAFETY PRIORITY LIST

SEC. 201. EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE PRIORITIES.

(a) LIST.—The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with a representative sample of State and local government transportation officials, shall compile a prioritized list of emergency interstate bridge projects, which will guide the allocation of funding to the States from the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund established under section 102.

(b) CRITERIA.—In compiling the list under subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation, in addition to any other criteria established by the Secretary, shall rank the emergency interstate bridge projects in descending order, beginning with projects that—

(1) are part of the Federal interstate highway system;

(2) involve a bridge that is closed or deemed functionally obsolete by the Federal Highway Administration for safety reasons;

(3) have a significant impact on interstate commerce;

(4) would affect a significant volume of traffic; and

(5) have the greatest overall value to the surrounding community.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

(1) a prioritized list of emergency interstate bridge projects to be funded through the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund; and

(2) a description of the criteria used to establish the list referred to in paragraph (1).

(d) QUARTERLY UPDATES.—Not less frequently than 4 times per year, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) update the report submitted pursuant to subsection (c);

(2) send a copy of the report to Congress; and

(3) make a copy of the report available to the public through the Department of Transportation's website.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 481—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2014 AS ''NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH''

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 481

Whereas the brave men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the people of the United States, and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas more than 2,600,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed overseas since the events of September 11, 2001, and have served in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States have sustained a historically high operational tempo since September 11, 2001, with many members of the Armed Forces deploying overseas multiple times, placing those members at high risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this preamble as ''PTSD'');

Whereas members of the Armed Forces and veterans who served before September 11, 2001, remain at risk for PTSD and other mental health disorders;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reports that—

(1) since October 2001, more than 310,000 of the approximately 1,000,000 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn who have received health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs have been diagnosed with PTSD;

(2) in fiscal year 2013, more than 530,000 of the nearly 6,000,000 veterans who sought care at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities received treatment for PTSD; and

(3) of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn who are receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 570,000 have received a diagnosis for at least 1 mental health disorder;

Whereas many cases of PTSD remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about PTSD and the persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions;

Whereas exposure to military sexual trauma can lead to PTSD;

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of anxiety, depression, suicide, homelessness, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas public perceptions of PTSD or other mental health disorders create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs—as well as the larger medical community, both private and public—have made significant advances in the identification, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain;

Whereas increased understanding of PTSD can help diminish the stigma attached to this mental health disorder, and additional efforts are needed to find further ways—including an examination of how PTSD is discussed in the United States—to reduce this stigma; and

Whereas the designation of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma associated with PTSD, and help ensure that those suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2014, as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month'';

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense—as well as the entire medical community—to educate members of the Armed Forces, veterans, the families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing entitled ''Economic Development: Encouraging Investment in Indian Country.''

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 481.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 481) designating the month of June 2014 as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month.''

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to consider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 481) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 24, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that following morning business the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. There will be five rollcall votes at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order following the 10-minute remarks from the Senator from Arizona Mr. FLAKE.

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

The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a matter of importance not just to Arizonans but to the people affected across the country by the Environmental Protection Agency's continuing overreach. Namely, I want to talk about air quality standards that are quite simply unattainable and those that penalize States where Mother Nature—not smokestacks, not factories, not evil industrialists, just Mother Nature—causes these events that affect air quality.

Let me say from the outset we all love and deserve to have clean air, and when I am discussing these particular concerns I want to be clear that I am not in favor of pollution, dirty air or asthma. Instead what I am in favor of is a little more common sense from the EPA.

It won't come as any surprise to most people that Arizona is a desert State. We have lots of cactus. We have scorpions. I was stung twice last year. In Arizona, just as in most deserts around the world, we have dust storms. These dust storms are not caused by eroding topsoil or overfarming or man. These are naturally occurring events just like tornadoes or blizzards in other parts of the country. When you live in a naturally dusty State, the dust storms sweep across the desert and across State lines. They can obviously cause local and regional air quality issues. The same goes for living in a forest-fire-prone State, which Arizona also is.

States simply cannot be expected to control these issues. Yet despite adopting an ''exceptional events rule'' and issuing murky guidance, the EPA still forces States to squander resources on these spikes in air pollutants that are outside anybody's control, with no actual improvement to air quality.

The EPA's reviews to prove that spikes in air quality are the result of naturally occurring events are arbitrary, cumbersome, and they are costly. Let me give you an example.

In 2011 and 2012, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department, and the Maricopa Association of Governments were forced to spend $675,000 and 790 staff hours to prove to EPA's satisfaction something that anyone with two eyes could readily see: Dust storms trip the EPA's air quality sensors—not pollution, dust storms.

The current regulations are entirely up to the EPA's discretion and they are final and they are not appealable. But in some cases such as those in Arizona, they are a violation of common sense as well.

That is why I am introducing the CLEER Act. The CLEER Act will, among other things, require the EPA's decisions on those events to be based

on a preponderance of evidence and to accord deference to States' own findings when such an event happens. It will also require the EPA to renew a State's exceptional event documentation within 90 days instead of dragging this process out, and to decide which States with exceptional events will be evaluated.

I am also introducing two other bills: the ORDEAL Act and the Agency PAYGO for Greenhouse Gases Act.

Much credit goes to the EPA for successfully reducing air pollution in the past few decades. This has led to benefits for everyone. But one of the most common pollutants—ozone, dealt with by the ORDEAL Act—has presented a nearly endless supply of redtape for States and municipalities for literally decades. When the EPA reduced its permitted ozone standards in 2008, counties across the country that were in ''nonattainment'' status were forced to enact expensive and complicated compliance plans.

With scant scientific health bases, the EPA wants to further lower ozone emissions standards. But there are already 221 counties in 27 States that are noncompliant with the present standards. How will lowering these standards even further help these States, communities, and counties comply? Is this EPA's version of double-secret probation?

By some estimates this lowering of ozone standards from 75 parts per billion to 60 parts per billion will cost a whopping $1 trillion per year from 2020 to 2030. The EPA's own estimate said the proposed standard will cost $25 billion per year at 70 ppb to $90 billion per year at 60 ppb. It will cost as many as 7.3 million jobs.

The rationale for further reduction in ozone standards is the potential health benefits. The EPA consistently fails to meet its 5-year intervals for ozone, which results in lawsuits, bad policy, and poor analysis when the agency is forced by the courts to produce a new standard. My bill, the ORDEAL Act, would provide the EPA more flexibility by doubling the statutory review interval to 10 years. It would also push off any decision on EPA's proposal to tighten the ozone standards until 2018, putting that standard on a more realistic 10-year cycle. This will give businesses more certainty. It will give them a more certain regulatory environment, not a possible change every 5 years. If you can imagine how to plan on a 5-year cycle for standards that are rarely met and have to be adjusted again. It will also give State air quality agencies the time they need to implement their own plans.

Finally, this administration has set its sights on reducing carbon emissions with the most recent attempt being draconian regulations on existing powerplants, despite inevitable job losses and spikes in energy costs.

The Agency PAYGO Act I am introducing would simply give the EPA a taste of its own medicine by requiring the agency to offset the cost of any greenhouse gas rules to an equivalent reduction in agency spending.

If the agency proceeds without offsetting these costs from its own budget, the final greenhouse gas rule must be approved by Congress. This bill specifically forbids the EPA from denying costs to Federal agencies by passing costs on to the Federal agency's ratepayers. If capital costs are imposed by the greenhouse gas rule, the EPA must offset those costs or get Congress's approval.

Specifically this bill will not let underlying agencies—including power generating agencies such as the Western Power Authority—pass along these costs to consumers.

The modern EPA has a history of implementing increasingly costly and stringent standards for negligible or even questionable benefit. All three of these bills, the CLEER Act, the ORDEAL Act, and the Agency PAYGO Act, provide more certainty than presently exist to States and businesses that have to deal with the EPA and will hold the agency accountable for its decision-making process.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these commonsense measures.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

There upon, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 24, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

CAROLYN WATTS COLVIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2019, VICE MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, RESIGNED.

IN THE NAVY

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

To be admiral

ADM. WILLIAM E. GORTNEY