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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

The attention of our Nation is drawn toward a raging tragedy. We are torn by aversion to a repeat of years of military engagement while compelling narratives unfold in so many places around our world.

Send Your spirit among the Members of this people's House, that they might judiciously balance seemingly irreconcilable interests. Help them to execute their consciences and judgments with clarity and purity of heart, so that all might stand before You honestly and trust that You can bring forth righteous fruits from their labors.

On this anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, may Your healing presence continue in the lives of all who were immediately impacted by the events of that day, and may we as a nation continue to heal and work toward bringing greater peace and security to our world.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 13th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on our Nation.

Thirteen years ago, the Nation was reeling in anger and confusion. We were trying to process the enormity of the loss of life we had suffered from the brutal attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and from the downing of the American passenger plane in the field outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Thirteen years ago, we did not yet know the full extent of the losses we had suffered or the identities of those responsible or the story of the heroics on the United Flight 93 that in all likelihood saved this historic building from attack.

Thirteen years ago, at this hour, we could not know how these events would change our country and the world, but one thing we do know, even in the midst of all the anger, pain, and the confusion of that awful day, we know that the United States of America would respond with courage and resolve, that the American spirit would triumph, and it has, Mr. Speaker.

So today, let us remember those who died, over 700 from my own home State of New Jersey and from many States and nations around the world. Let's remember those who have fought from that day and given their lives to protect our country over those past 13 years.

Let us renew our determination to honor forever all those whose memories remain a blessing to us and to the Nation we love so much.

INTRODUCING THE SCAN CONTAINERS ABSOLUTELY NOW ACT

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the victims of September 11 and to introduce legislation to protect Americans from potential attacks against targets that I believe still remain vulnerable 13 years later.

Our airports are more secure, but I live near the Port of Los Angeles, and I know that our Nation's ports are not as secure as they should be.

Top security experts recommend that shipping containers entering our Nation's ports be screened for radiological and nuclear materials and other potentially dangerous cargo. If something happened to disrupt commerce at our ports, it would be catastrophic for our entire Nation and the global economy.

Congress passed laws requiring that 100 percent of all cargo be screened by 2012, but that deadline came and went, and we are nowhere near screening/scanning all our cargo. Only 3 percent of our cargo is screened today.

Today, I am introducing the Scan Containers Absolutely Now Act, the SCAN Act, to finally make port security a reality.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1230

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 12 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 11, 2014 at 10:21 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2154.

That the Senate passed S. 2323.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 120.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 1233.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 3522 will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. I am, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. BROWNLEY of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3522 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end of the bill the following new section:

SEC. 3 PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN HEALTH CARE COVERAGE.

Nothing in this Act shall result in discrimination based on gender, including higher premiums for women or loss of contraception or pregnancy care.

Mr. CASSIDY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order against the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to H.R. 3522, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

My amendment would ensure that nothing in the underlying act would result in health care discrimination against women. It would prevent insurance companies from charging small businesses that employ women higher premiums, and it would stop insurance companies from selling group plans that deny women contraception or critical maternity care coverage.

I hope that we can all agree that women should never have to pay more for their health care than men would pay simply because of their gender. Being a woman is not and must never be treated as a preexisting condition.

Health care reform has created many new and needed consumer protections, which are helping women live healthier lives and build stronger families. Health care costs are the number one cause of bankruptcy in the United States. Allowing insurance companies to charge women more than men would hurt working women struggling to make ends meet. It would hurt families raising children who are trying to give them the healthy start they deserve.

Before this unfair practice was banned, the National Women's Law Center reported that gender discrimination in premium prices alone cost women approximately $1 billion per year more than men. That is $1 billion that could have prevented many women and their children from living in poverty or being homeless.

That is $1 billion that women and their families could have spent on rent. That is $1 billion that women and their families could have spent on child care. That is $1 billion that women and their families could have used to pay for college. That is $1 billion that women and their families could have used to start a business. That is $1 billion that could have been better used to strengthen the American economy.

In a nation where women earn only 77 cents for every dollar that men earn, charging women more for health care compounds the financial strain on women and their families. Stopping gender-based premium discrimination is just one example of health care reform that works, and it is a new consumer protection that women and their families cannot afford to lose.

My amendment will ensure that insurers continue to cover critical maternity care and contraception coverage. Until recently, many States did not require all health care plans to cover maternity care.

Today, the law requires every new insurance policy to cover maternity care. We must ensure that women continue to have access to this critical coverage and access to contraception coverage that gives many women the economic independence to succeed because when women succeed, America succeeds.

Contraception coverage ensures women can prevent unplanned pregnancies and choose the best time to start a family. When surveyed by the Guttmacher Institute, 63 percent of women said that access to contraception had enabled them to take better care of themselves and their families. Over half said they were better able to support themselves financially or complete their education.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of Americans support these policies. A Kaiser health poll found that Americans support birth control coverage by a 2 to 1 margin and 86 percent of Americans support coverage of maternity care.

A vote for my amendment is a vote to protect women from unfair discrimination. It is a vote promising our mothers, our sisters, and our daughters that they will be treated fairly and equally.

These are the values of my constituents in Ventura County, and they are the values of the American people.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the motion to recommit. Vote ''yes'' for equality for women.

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation, and I claim the time in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation is withdrawn.

The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, this bill empowers female-owned small businesses and workers to keep the health care policies they prefer and make their own decisions regarding health care.

Women make 95 percent of the decisions regarding health insurance and families across the United States. I don't think we have to be patronizing and assume that they cannot make their own decisions.

In fact, I am asked continually by women who are 50 years and above why are they having to pay for maternity benefits. They are just flabbergasted by that.

This is important economically. The Manhattan Institute reports that the Affordable Care Act, so-called ironically, has increased insurance premiums by 41 percent on average—for women, as much as 62 percent.

Imagine that woman sitting at home, lying awake at night, wondering how she is going to pay her bills, being forced to pay for benefits the opposition doesn't think she is smart enough to know that she doesn't need and unable to afford her house. That has happened in an instance I know of.

Now, today, the House has the opportunity to help Americans keep the health care plan of their choice, and how we vote comes down to two questions: First, do you think control over

someone's health care plan should reside with a Washington politician or bureaucrat? Or do you trust that American woman to make the proper decision for herself, for her family?

I will tell you where I stand: I think we should give power to the patient, not to a Washington bureaucrat.

Secondly, do we think that politicians should keep the promises made to constituents? Four years ago, supporters of the health care law looked Americans in the eye and said, ''If you like your health care plan, you can keep it, period.''

I tell you where I stand. Representatives in the people's House should honor their word and uphold the commitment to those who sent us here, period.

Let's protect the health care choices of America's workers. Let's hold politicians accountable for the promises they made.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the motion to recommit. Vote ''yes'' to protect the health care plans of America's middle class. Vote ''yes'' to keep the promises made.

Vote ''no'' on the motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, if ordered; and the motions to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5161; H.R. 5057, if ordered; and S. 276, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 187, nays 223, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 494]

YEAS—187

Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Yarmuth

NAYS—223

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—21

Calvert
Coble
DesJarlais
Dingell
Gardner
Gibson
Hastings (WA)
Hinojosa
Jackson Lee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Lipinski
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Rangel
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schwartz
Southerland
Speier
Wilson (FL)

□ 1305

Messrs. STOCKMAN and JONES changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. SLAUGHTER and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 494, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 247, noes 167, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 495]

AYES—247

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Enyart
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm

Guthrie
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—167

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—17

Calvert
Clyburn
Coble
DesJarlais
Dingell
Fortenberry
Granger
Hastings (WA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Lummis
McCarthy (NY)
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schwartz

□ 1312

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 495 I was inadvertently detained during rollcall No. 495 and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I announced that we were delaying consideration of the continuing resolution so all Members could be briefed on the President's request for additional authorities related to ISIL as part of the continuing resolution.

Members received a bipartisan classified briefing this morning. I know many are still digesting that information and getting their questions answered regarding this threat and our response.

In order to properly consider the President's request and act on the continuing resolution, Members are advised that the House will now meet on Monday at 2 p.m. for legislative business with votes at 6:30 p.m. on suspensions.

Members are advised that the House may consider legislation related to the President's request and the continuing resolution as early as Tuesday.

These are changes from the previously announced House schedule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The gentleman and I have discussed this, and I believe he has taken the appropriate action in this instance, and we certainly support his determination.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for working together on this.

The one thing we know, this is a threat, and this House will act as one as Americans, and I look forward to continuing to work on it.

ENHANCE LABELING, ACCESSING, AND BRANDING OF ELECTRONIC LICENSES ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5161) to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 0, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 496]

YEAS—402

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy

Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—29

Barton
Boustany
Calvert
Clyburn
Coble
DesJarlais
Dingell
Duncan (SC)
Frankel (FL)
Gowdy
Granger
Hastings (WA)
Kelly (IL)
King (IA)
King (NY)
LaMalfa
Lowey
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Negrete McLeod
Nunnelee
Palazzo
Quigley
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Schwartz
Scott, David
Shimkus

□ 1322

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today, I missed rollcall vote 496. Had I been present, I would have cast the following vote: rollcall 496—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—"yes."

EPS SERVICE PARTS ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RICE of South Carolina). The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 5057) to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to permit exemptions for external power supplies from certain efficiency standards, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT INVOLVING AMERICAN FALLS RESERVOIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (S. 276) to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the American Falls Reservoir.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), my friend, the majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and noon for legislative business.

On Thursday, the House will convene at 9 a.m. and will welcome the President of Ukraine for a joint meeting at 10 a.m. There will be no morning hour and the House will meet at noon for legislative business.

On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business tomorrow.

In addition, as I previously announced, the House may consider the President's request and act on the continuing resolution as early as Tuesday.

The House will also consider a package of 14 bills designed to encourage an American energy revolution. This commonsense energy plan will be comprised of previously House-passed bills that received bipartisan support and focus on production, infrastructure, reliability, and efficiency.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Members are advised that the House will also consider a package of jobs bills that will include 15 House-passed bills. This bipartisan jobs plan fosters an economic recovery and gets Americans back to work in good-paying jobs.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his information.

Before asking him questions about the schedule for the week to come, I want to commend the gentleman. We had a meeting just a few minutes ago in which almost all the Members of the House rose in a moment of silence, Mr. Speaker, to remember those not only who lost their lives on 9/11 13 years ago, but also those who acted so heroically to save lives.

We certainly remember those brave individuals that knew what was going on and took that plane down in Pennsylvania that we believe was undoubtedly directed towards the dome of the Capitol to decapitate the symbol of the world's greatest democracy.

I want to thank the majority leader for leading us in that time of silence to remember that horrific event and to say, as he said just a few moments ago, we are still threatened by those who would use terror and barbarism to attack their own people and others around the world.

So I thank the gentleman for his leadership on that issue, and I also thank him for his comments about the fact that we came together on 9/11 not as Democrats and Republicans, but as Americans. We now are at a similar time where there is a great threat posed to us and to others.

The gentleman's suggestion that we would meet that with the same kind of bipartisanship is welcomed on this side of the aisle as well, so I thank the gentleman for that.

Now, with respect to the schedule, Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether or not—and it may not have been decided yet—whether or not the President's request to which the gentleman referred in his announcement and the CR would be considered together or separately?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

There has been no decisions yet. As you know, the President requested this week, that is why we postponed, and we are continuing to work through. I will notify the gentleman as early as we get a decision.

□ 1330

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Let me ask further—and I know the answer to this question is that we will have to see, but I have put our own Caucus on notice, Mr. Leader—if we may need to be here for the week after the break for the holy days. Is that consistent with your thought?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Currently, we are scheduled to be here that last week. There has been no change to that schedule. As I noted just a little earlier, the only change we made is coming back this Monday. I want to make sure all the Members have enough time to digest and get their questions answered, but currently that schedule continues to hold.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

With respect to the Appropriations Committee and the CR, it is our expectation that the CR is scheduled to have a date of December 11. I notice Senator CRUZ has made another suggestion. To clarify, is December 11 still the date that the majority is looking for to run the CR through?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Yes, as of this time. We have posted it this week. December 11 is the duration that the continuing resolution would go through.

Mr. HOYER. Lastly, I would say that the majority leader and I have had discussions about this, and so he knows our strong conviction on this side of the aisle that we are still very hopeful that we could have a longer term extension of a reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. We believe that it is very important to give some stability and competence to the marketplace, to lenders and borrowers and manufacturers, large, medium, and small. I hope the gentleman would continue to consider with his caucus the possibility of having a longer term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which, as the gentleman knows, expires on September 30.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We have had many discussions. As the gentleman knows, in the last reauthorization, it was a shorter time period, with many reforms in there. Many feel that those reforms have been ignored. Many feel that the bank provides certain things the private sector is doing.

Knowing that we are in a short-term period, also knowing the threat before America today and the time, we want to make sure that we can have this debate. As for the expiration date, we felt that it was best to extend that out to June in the CR and have that debate later, moving forward, so you are not disrupting any time debating the threat from the terrorists and also doing the work that needs to be done. I do understand the gentleman has talked to me many times about that.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, September 15, 2014, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING HIS EXCELLENCY PETRO POROSHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Thursday, September 18, 2014, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in Joint Meeting His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine.

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

There was no objection.

THANKING OUR VETERANS OF WAYNE TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank our veterans.

This weekend, I will have the great honor to join the 2014 Hometown Heroes Celebration in Wayne Township, which is Clinton County, Pennsylvania. The focus for this year's celebration is honoring those from the Vietnam war, and will also include paying tribute to our veterans from the Korean war and World War II eras. We will honor these local heroes for their service and their brothers in arms, including those who didn't make it home or gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Each day, especially on September 11, we are reminded of the many threats posed to America and its citizens. We are also reminded of how blessed we are to have brave men and women who have, for generations, served their Nation and laid their lives on the line in protection of our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, we owe those who have served and are serving in uniform our unwavering support and thanks, and today I offer my sincere praise for the veterans of Wayne Township and the surrounding areas. You are our hometown heroes, and you deserve as much.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN HEROES OF 9/11

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, today we remember those who lost their lives 13 years ago on a day that changed our Nation forever.

Yesterday Congress bestowed the highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, on the fallen heroes of 9/11. One of those was Todd Beamer, a high school friend of mine. Declaring, ''Let's roll,'' he and the other brave Americans on Flight 93 helped prevent further catastrophe while sacrificing their own lives in the process.

This summer I had the privilege of touring the Flight 93 National Memorial and museum in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. There I presented a Wheaton Academy High School yearbook to be included in the museum archives. Construction is still underway on this moving tribute to the 40 heroes.

Looking out over the crash site, I was reminded again that the world is still a dangerous place, and our freedoms are only a generation away from extinction. Freedom isn't inherited. It must be protected against those who destroy it. Honoring the sacrifices of Todd and all who perished on 9/11 requires we forever remain vigilant in defense of our Nation's cherished values.

MOURNING 9/11 VICTIMS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe there is one American that will forget where they were on 9/11, that crisp morning with the bright sun shining. I was here in the United States Capitol when the unimaginable occurred. We could not have fathomed that the homeland would be attacked.

I rise today to acknowledge the brave men and women who risked their lives and those that lost their lives, along with the families that still mourn. It is particularly important, now that we are in the backdrop of another terrorist act and another President has to rise to defend America. This Congress must also do so.

But we must recognize, as well, that peace is an important value that Americans love. We are peace-loving. We must do that in the name of those who

lost their lives on United Airlines Flight 93, American Airlines Flight 77, American Airlines Flight 11, and United Airlines 175.

We must recognize that we were unsuspecting of this diaster. Therefore, our pledge to those who still mourn—those who have lost their father, mother, husband, wife, child, or friend—as we debate these serious times is we are reminded that there must be no one that terrorizes us and causes us to do the wrong thing.

Whether we are Republicans or Democrats, I ask that on this day we hold a moment of personal silence, one that will reflect our love for those who were lost. Then, to take the words of George W. Bush, the President at that time:

> Whether terrorists are brought to justice or justice is brought to the terrorists, justice will be done.

A firm hand, yes; but we must be reminded of the humanitarian aspect of this and realize that, as we stand with the President and debate our further steps, we honor those who are in mourning. Let's remember 9/11 as a tribute to the Americans who sacrificed their lives.

I mourn this day.

Mr. Speaker, on this, the 13th anniversary of the attack launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, I rise to remember the victims of that horrific tragedy and those first-responders who risked, and in too many cases, sacrificed their lives to rescue the occupants of the besieged World Trade Center Towers.

The morning of September 11, 2001 is, and will always be, a day like no other. It is a day all living Americans will remember because not since Pearl Harbor had there been such a dastardly and deadly attack on American soil.

As I stand here today, my heart still grieves for those who perished on flights United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175.

When the sun rose on the morning of September 11, none of us knew that it would end in an inferno in the magnificent World Trade Center Towers in New York City and the Pentagon and in the grassy fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. I stand here remembering those who still suffer, whose hearts still ache over the loss of so many innocent and interrupted lives.

My prayer is that for those who lost a father, a mother, a husband, a wife, a child, or a friend will in the days and years ahead take comfort in the certain knowledge that they have gone on to claim the greatest prize, a place in the Lord's loving arms. And down here on the ground, their memory will never die so long as any of the many of us who loved them lives.

Mr. Speaker, as hard as it is to believe, out of a tragedy so overwhelming and horrific, something good and great emerged in the aftermath of September 11. On that day there were no Republicans or Democrats. There were no Northerners or Southerners or West or East Coasters. We were not Red State or Blue State. We were all simply Americans.

On that day, we were united in our shock and anger and sadness. We were united in our resolve to defend our country and protect the freedoms that has made America the greatest country in the history of the world.

We lit candles, held hands, helped neighbors, and prayed for our country and its leaders. A united America can never be defeated as Operation Enduring Freedom showed.

The brave and valiant armed forces of the United States swiftly toppled the Taliban and liberated Afghanistan.

As President George W. Bush announced to the American people and to the world: "Whether the terrorists are brought to justice or justice is brought to the terrorists, justice will be done."

And though he ran and hid for almost ten years, Osama bin Ladin could not hide forever and evade the long arm of American justice, which, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, caught up with him on May 2, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, Americans take care of their own. Americans cherish freedom. Americans cherish liberty. And Americans want peace. Not just for themselves alone, but all persons in every corner of the globe.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that America is safe and secure and protected from another attack on American soil is the least we owe to the heroic passengers on Flight 93 and to the brave firefighters of the FDNY and officers of the NYPD and the officers and civilians we lost in the Pentagon who gave faithful service to our nation.

I believe all Americans want their country to remain safe, free, and invulnerable to another cowardly attack like the one we witnessed thirteen years ago today.

We owe that much to the Americans who lost and gave their lives. We owe it to them to ensure that their children and loved ones will never again experience such pain, suffering, and loss.

We can do this. We must do this. After all, we are Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO 9/11 VICTIMS

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the innocent victims who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Thirteen years ago today, our homeland was attacked. Evil manifested itself in the form of extremists who murdered 3,000 Americans. Our world and America was forever changed by the tragedy that unfolded in New York; Washington, D.C.; and Pennsylvania.

The evil that came out of the shadows in 2001 still exists today in 2014. If left unchecked, it will continue to grow for the foreseeable future and threaten us once more. Now, more than ever, we must remain vigilant in the defense of our great country and against those who wish America harm. We can no longer afford to be divided into Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals. We must come together today, from this point forward, as Americans.

Today, let us pause and pray in remembrance of those who fell on 9/11 and for all who continue to stand in harm's way at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed in a security briefing on the issues dealing with the terrorist group ISIL and I missed the vote on the motion to recommit on H.R. 3522, the Employee Health Care Protection Act. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye."

TERRORISM ACROSS THE GLOBE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to my dear friend from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

HONORING S. TRUETT CATHY

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to honor one of Georgia's greatest: Mr. S. Truett Cathy.

Truett Cathy was known across the globe as a successful businessman, author, and the "inventor of the chicken sandwich." Mr. Cathy would also say, "God created chicken; we created the chicken sandwich." But most importantly, he was a beloved great-grandfather, grandfather, father, and husband, above all else. His strong Christian faith could be seen in everything he did. It didn't matter if it was his company, his employees, or his generosity. It was all embodied in the love and good news of Jesus Christ.

Truett's whole life was about giving hope and opportunity to those who had none. His dedication to helping children who have been abused and lost in the foster system reflected how important family values were to him and are only a fraction of what Truett, a man of such great integrity, was able to accomplish.

Having come from nothing himself, he wanted every child to have the same chance at success and happiness as he did. Truett established the WinShape Foundation, which includes 11 long-term foster homes for 95 children. The WinShape Foundation helped not only children in bad circumstances, but for all periods of an individual's life.

Truett also used his foundation as an opportunity to show you that faith in God can help you through your journey by providing opportunities for young adults to reconnect with their faith in the college program, offering retreats for married couples to renew their love in each other and in God, and creating our next generation's leaders through Christian wilderness camps to learn how to be a better leader and a part of a team.

Truett believed building Christian leaders shouldn't be limited to our country's borders and took WinShape International through missionary trips and projects in over 43 countries.

The generous work and humble spirit of Truett Cathy has touched more lives

than we could ever imagine, and many successful individuals today have him to thank.

Even in business, Truett Cathy treated his Chick-fil-A employees like family, endowing a scholarship foundation to help send them to college. Chick-fil-A has actually awarded more than $25 million in the last 35 years, done through $1,000 scholarships to 20 or 30 hardworking and deserving employees every year.

□ 1345

Through all his work, Truett gave the most important gift of all to many underprivileged children and teens, and that is hope.

You can never put a price on having someone believe in you and give you a chance at success by giving you your first job and teaching you the value of respect and hard work, and what the ethics of being employed was all about.

Truett sums up his life mission and his work best himself:

> Nearly every moment of every day, we have the opportunity to give something to someone else, our time, our love, our resources, and I have always found more joy in giving when I did not expect anything in return.

Having the opportunity to know Truett and his wonderful family has been a privilege, and I thank him for all he has done for the people of Georgia and across this Nation, for the hope and confidence that he has given so many young people to continue on and to fight for what they believe.

Joan and I want to send our condolences and prayers to the Cathy family during this time of great sorrow for us all.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank the gentleman. I do appreciate that tribute to a truly great man.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN), my friend, for such time as he may consume.

Mr. HULTGREN. I want to thank my good friend from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the complexities of our Nation's health care system on the eve of the first open season since ObamaCare was launched.

I want to offer a hope to the millions of American consumers who still need real solutions to help ensure that their families can obtain necessary and affordable health care.

Today, our health care system in America has two faces. It can provide state-of-the-art care while, at the same time, can be one of the most complex and frustrating systems in the world.

Americans feel the effects of these complexities every single day. They repeatedly put health care near the top of their list of issues that concern them, and they should be concerned.

The system today has so many conflicting incentives, rules, and regulations, that few Americans have the ability to make sound and affordable decisions for themselves and their families. ObamaCare introduced a whole new level of fuzziness to an already opaque system.

Families are increasingly worried that they will pay more and more for health insurance that covers less and less and lowers the quality of care. They search for long-term economic security, but find unsustainable costs instead.

Even with the advent of the President's health care law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as ObamaCare, many middle class Americans haven't found their health care to be more affordable, nor have they felt secure with the current system.

Americans have a right to feel frustrated with the Affordable Care Act today. It is far from what they were promised.

I have heard stories from too many of my constituents who received letters terminating their coverage, like Julia, from Gurnee, Illinois, or of others facing rising health care costs, like another who told me: ''I wonder if the administration ever thought about those of us who have to pay for our health care coverage with no extra help, and how much more we would be paying.''

Or of the employers who have had to eliminate health benefits, or of workers and teachers whose hours have been reduced because employers can't afford the higher premiums, or of families losing access to doctors they have known for decades.

Those doctors also face conflicting rules that result in adverse consequences. They want to continue to provide care, but many are no longer accepting Medicare patients and must now require upfront payments for care just to keep their practice open.

There aren't enough doctors and specialists to go around in the narrow networks. We have tried to address the long and sometimes life-threatening waits for veterans. Now is the time to address those long lines for everyone else.

Surely, this is not the health care system we were promised, nor does it paint a bright future for the health status of Americans. That is why, on August 28, I convened the third Community Leadership Forum in Illinois' 14th Congressional District. Our topic? Health care. Our focus? The consumer.

I assembled three separate panels to discuss issues ranging from the ACA and how it will continue to affect consumers in 2015, to how technology and innovation can improve health care outcomes, to how best to increase consumer access to and quality of health care. It was clear that there was a thirst for the community to come together.

In the weeks preceding the forum, I was excited to hear about the panelists' enthusiasm. The forum included CEOs of local and statewide health care organizations and hospitals, CMOs and executive vice presidents of insurance companies, and, most importantly, my constituents.

I heard about the issues directly affecting every level of our health care system. Most importantly, our focus remained on offering consumer-oriented solutions. Never before had I been confronted with such passion and desire to offer answers for our national health care system and work together to implement solutions.

Today, I want to share just a selection of the great ideas that could help American consumers of health care. Many of these will be available in a full report I plan to release on my Web site, hultgren.house.gov, in the coming days.

During the first panel, one of the primary challenges health care and small business insurance professionals discussed was how to ensure consumer choice and access to the broader market of providers. I heard numerous times about the need to reduce health care costs overall by pursuing a market-based system with less regulation.

Surprisingly, the only sub-industry in health care that is lowering costs and increasing the quality of care is elective procedures, an industry perpetuated by market control.

Insurance providers told me the difficulties they face operating within the ACA's demands and slim margins. Certain insurance regulations, like the medical loss ratio, exacerbate costs. These costs translate directly into higher premiums for constituents and businesses.

Instead of encouraging higher quality of care and lower costs with advancements in technology and economy, we find ourselves moving in the opposite direction. Relieving these ineffective and inefficient mandates could be a first step to opening up more options for insurers and consumers.

In the second and third panels, I heard from hospital executives and university innovators about the biggest challenges facing medical technology and innovation.

With innovators and leaders in the biotechnology and medical technology industry at the table, I learned about the ever-present and insurmountable ''valley of death,'' the period of time between a potentially lifesaving device or product discovery and its introduction to the broader market. This period is encumbered by regulation and bureaucracy.

In Europe, devices and medicines that show promise are approved and brought to market faster and more effectively.

To help with technology transfer and to quicken innovation and its application, I learned about ways to fill the gap between discovery and investment. Legislation like the TRANSFER Act, introduced by my colleague, Representative CHRIS COLLINS from New York, will help reduce the strain caused by the valley of death in the innovation process.

Another method is the preservation of the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980. One speaker recommended fully funding the

FDA to speed the approval process to bring new devices to market in the United States.

The conversation went so far as to talk about the intersection of education policy and scientific research, highlighting the need to make sure our kids receive the best STEM education our schools can provide. These conversations clarified that medical innovations are a vital component to strengthening treatments and reducing the costs in the health care system.

Throughout the day, it was confirmed again that the current health care landscape is rocky and uncertain, but there are many who are willing and eager to work together to tackle these challenges.

The House is also eager to work hard to help fix our health care system. Numerous times the House has said ''yes'' to fixes and alternatives that address our system's deep challenges. We don't need to wait for our health care system to get worse before it gets better. We can work to fix it now.

Americans have a right to feel frustrated with the ACA today. It is far from what they were promised. But that should only spur us onward.

We are only months from the start of open enrollment, November 15. The question is, can all of us, in Congress, in health care, and constituents, work together to bring much-needed reform to our health care system? Can we raise the quality of care our country offers while lowering costs for Americans across the country?

I believe we can, and I trust these solutions will help get us there.

I want to thank my good friend from Texas for yielding me time.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there is so much at risk right now in this country, and the President gave us a fine address last night, very interesting. I know some people say, you know, in times of trouble, when the United States is threatened, we need to all get together behind our leader.

As someone once said to me about Republicans, he said, I just wish the Republicans would all run the same play together. And I responded, I agree. I wholeheartedly want for the Republicans to all run the same play together at the same time.

But I said, the trouble is, if my leader calls a play running to the wrong end zone, I am not blocking for him. And that is also, I think, applicable with the President of the United States.

I was blasted after statements on FOX News saying that if the President wanted to go to war with ISIS, I would support that. So I was anticipating something last night that would unite us and not divide us.

To relate, one of the problems with the President is, he starts off early in his speech saying, as Commander in Chief, my highest priority is the security of the American people. Well, I have come to know friends, close friends with a number of the family members of Ty Woods, Glen Doherty, Sean Smith, and Ambassador Chris Stevens, and they debate, they don't believe that the highest priority of this President is the security of the American people.

The actions of this President, in saying that he cares so deeply about the security of the American people, don't seem to resonate when you stand by weeping parents who have watched their son's head be cut off by these enemies, and you say it is your highest priority to protect the American people, but they are wondering, that same day that you spend 5 or 6 hours playing golf, do you spend that much time figuring out a way to protect other Foleys?

That is a tough sell.

The President said, now, let's make two things clear. ISIL is not Islamic. No religion condones the killing of innocents.

Well, that has certainly got to be a shock to the radical Islamists who brutally kill, behead, maim innocent people in the name of what they say is their religion.

In fact, the American people don't seem to be sold on what the President said. This story from CNN filed at 8:15 a.m. this morning by Ashley Killough quotes what the President said about ISIL's not Islamic. No religion condones killing of innocents.

Then they have a number of tweets. According to the CNN article, Twitter just lit up with responses to the President saying that. Lots of retweets.

Let's see, from Ron Christie: ''ISIS isn't Islamic? What kindergartner briefs the President on terrorism?''

Another: ''Obama: ISIL is not Islamic? He just countermanded anything he plans to say tonight. Right there is the fatal flaw.''

Another: ''ISIL is not Islamic? Hello? THIS ISIL, 'Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant'?''

Another: ''ISIL is not Islamic and Lois Lerner and the IRS is not corrupt. Obama is such a freaking''— Well, Mr. Speaker, I can't say that word. JOE WILSON said that and it was found not to be appropriate.

Another: ''ISIL is not Islamic? Is he kidding? I suppose those black flags are just for giggles then.''

Another from the CNN article: ''ISIL is not Islamic—POTUS opens a section aimed at motivating Muslims around the world to disown ISIL, aid U.S. fight.''

Another from Mohammed Ansar: ''ISIL is not Islamic, says prime time @BarackObama (and virtually every Muslim and reasonably educated person on the face of our planet).''

□ 1400

Michael Oleaga: Some folks on Twitter didn't understand Obama's ''ISIL is not Islamic'' statement. Study foreign affairs, folks, or religion—all religion.

It is interesting because President Obama's statement is apparently similar to the historic reaction that Thomas Jefferson had before he was President when he was negotiating with the radical Islamist Barbary pirates in northern Africa, who had been capturing American ships—killing, enslaving, holding people for ransom.

Jefferson was rather shocked when he reportedly indicated, ''I don't understand why you keep attacking us. We don't have a navy. We are not a threat to you.''

It was explained to him, ''We believe if we are killed while attacking infidels like you, then we will go instantly to paradise.''

Jefferson is perplexed, and he ends up getting his own copy of the Koran because he couldn't believe that any religion would ever promote going to paradise for being killed while killing innocent people. He read for himself, and history can tell you exactly what his conclusion was.

As President, he ultimately decided that the only way to deal with these radical Islamists was not to keep paying 10 to 20 percent of the American budget for ransom to get people back.

The solution was to send this new group called the United States Marines to the shores of Tripoli to fight the radical Islamists with everything they had until they yelled ''uncle'' or were wiped out, and they ceased to come after Americans.

The President says:

> I have insisted that additional U.S. action depended upon Iraqis forming an inclusive government.

That strikes me as strange because if the Commander in Chief's highest priority, as he said at the start of the speech, is the security of the American people, then it begs the question: Why is he so worried about what the Iraq Government does if he knows he has to do something to protect the American people?

Now, I remember Senator Obama repeatedly went after the Bush administration. It seemed that he thought little or nothing of the coalition that President George H. W. Bush put together with 43 countries to go in and liberate Kuwait and that he thought even less of the 49 countries that put people and money on the line to support the effort in Iraq—49 countries.

President Obama thought that was not a real coalition, yet they put people, and they put money. Now, magically, since he is President, he thinks a coalition of nine countries that he won't name or commit what they are going to put into the coalition is somehow better than the 49 countries' coalition that President Bush put together before going into the Middle East.

President Obama said:

> In June, I deployed several hundred American servicemembers to Iraq.

He goes on to say:

> We will send an additional 475 servicemembers to Iraq.

He has made very clear he is not going to put boots on the ground, as he said, in Iraq, so the only conclusion

logically that you can make from the President's saying, on the one hand, we are not going to put boots on the ground in Iraq and that he has already sent several hundred soldiers and is sending 475 more, is that those thousand or so U.S. soldiers will be wearing sneakers.

He said that America will be joined by a broad coalition of partners. It is hard to believe that nine people who are a bit timid about being named and committed to what they will do are really that broad of a coalition.

He said ''mobilize partners wherever possible to address broader challenges.''

Mr. Speaker, as we have heard from General Kelly, testifying before the House and the Senate—he is the commander of SOUTHCOM, the Southern Command—he knows what threats are to our south. As he testified, the penetration of our southern border by the criminal networks and radical Islamists, in his words, is an existential threat to the United States.

You have got the man who is supposed to know the most about the southern border and protecting us, telling Congress that the penetration going on of our southern border is a threat to the very existence of the United States of America.

So I would urge the President, Mr. Speaker, when he says he will ''mobilize partners wherever possible to address broader challenges,'' to change that word in his teleprompter to read ''border'' challenges, so that we can protect ourselves from the criminal networks and the potential for radical Islamists who want to destroy us from coming across our southern border.

I truly hope that the late Tom Clancy was not as clairvoyant in one of his last novels as he was in the early nineties, when he wrote about someone who was irritated with the United States flying a jet into the Capitol to wipe out a joint session of Congress.

I love George W. Bush, but when he said ''who would have ever thought somebody would use a plane for a bomb and crash it into a building,'' I was thinking, well, Tom Clancy several years ago, as that was in one of his novels.

In one of his recent novels, one of his last, he wrote about a coalition beginning to form between radical Islamists and drug cartels in Mexico and ultimately a deal where they brought in—I can't remember—10 or 12 radical Islamists with surface-to-air missiles.

They paid tremendously to the drug cartels to smuggle those into the United States, so they could get themselves in vans and, at the appropriate time in areas all across the country, step out and shoot down American passenger planes.

We know that although the radical Islamists are really insane—crazy—when it comes to the killing of innocent people, they are not stupid. When we give them an opening to come after us, they will take it. The President lost further credibility last night at a time when he really needed to be getting the world behind him.

Credibility was lost when he said:

> It is America that has rallied the world against Russian aggression and in support of the Ukrainian people's right to determine their own destiny.

Mr. Speaker, people around the world—as I have traveled in west Africa, north Africa, the Middle East, moderate Muslim countries in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Europe—all understand that this President has done virtually nothing to help Ukraine.

They haven't rallied the peoples of the world, and when the people around the world hear that, they have to think: What? Does he think we are crazy ourselves?

You go back and see what this administration did in response to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, and the response was a Twitter campaign. They actually did try to put restrictions on, as I recall, 10 or 11 bank accounts that the Russians laughed about.

This President needs to do more to rally the world around us—with us—against radical Islam, against imperialism, like we have seen from Putin, and we can all stand together.

After the President seemed to indicate that he wanted to take out ISIS—or he said ''ISIL''—I really felt that when the President had finished last night, that I would be saying that that is something I have got to support, that I am with him. ISIS has said they are a threat to us. We need to take them seriously. They are cutting off American heads. We have got to take that seriously.

Yet when I hear the President, he wants to give support to the moderate, vetted Free Syrian Army; and we read the article from Patrick Poole, where he quotes one of those vetted, moderate Free Syrian Army brigade commanders, saying that his forces were working with the Islamic State and Jabhat al-Nusra, al Qaeda's official Syrian affiliate—both U.S.-designated terrorist organizations:

> We are collaborating with the Islamic State and the Nusra Front by attacking the Syrian Army's gatherings in . . . Qalamoun.

Then a quote from another Free Syrian Army commander—vetted, moderate—that this President is going to help:

> We have reached a point where we have to collaborate with anyone against unfairness and injustice.
>
> Let's face it: the Nusra Front is the biggest power present right now in Qalamoun, and we as FSA would collaborate on any mission they launch as long as it coincides with our values.

I really expected to be standing today and saying we need to get behind the President's activity, just as I said in the last couple of weeks, immediately after the President's speech, that I agree, and let's go to war with ISIS; but with the President's wanting to continue what he has been doing for over a year—giving weapons to the Free Syrian Army which somehow, magically, keep having them taken away by the Islamic State—or ISIS/ISIL—the President finally suspended giving them more arms in December.

This President kept sending arms to the vetted, moderate Free Syrians, and they ended up in the hands of ISIS every time, so it was suspended in December. Then in April, for some reason—they think they can now trust the Free Syrians—he started sending more weapons to the Free Syrians, and magically, they keep ending up in ISIS/ISIL control.

This President does a speech last night, and now, we are supposed to get with him and send more weapons to the people whose leaders are saying publicly, ''We support ISIS. We support al-Nusra. We support the enemies of the United States.''

I yield to my friend from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for doing this Special Order and for giving me an opportunity to come down and not only listen to him, but to share a little bit.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we could have learned a lesson from Libya in the fact that we gave air support to the rebel groups that were overthrowing Qadhafi, who wanted Qadhafi gone.

Was Qadhafi a good man? No, but his enemies were the same as our enemies, and he had really turned over his nuclear arms, his chemical weapons. I mean, he had stopped with his nuclear enhancement and had turned over his chemical weapons.

□ 1415

Yet we saw fit that we would help the rebels because of humanitarian reasons and what was going on.

You know, sometimes different sides get blamed for different things by just saying, ''Oh, we didn't do that. Somebody else did that.''

It was interesting that after Qadhafi was gone, all of a sudden, it becomes a wild west in Libya, and as a result of that, we had four brave Americans lose their lives in Benghazi because we were trying to play nice and be friends. Some people don't want to be our friend.

In fact, as the gentleman from Texas was talking about, the real ambition of these jihadists, these radical Islamic groups, is to really have shari'a law control the world.

They want all of us to be under the shari'a law, and that is what their goal is. In fact, if you look at ISIL, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, they want to go back in history and put together this caliphate that would include Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, and others. I mean, that is their goal.

For people who might get confused with ISIS, ISIL, Daesh—there are a lot of different names that this group is called. I think ISIL is the best because I think that describes their intent of gaining this area that was once held.

So I think we have to really think about this, as far as who we are going to train and arm. Do we know who these groups really are, as the gentleman from Texas read about the article that Patrick Poole had.

We have had fighters that went to Syria. In fact, we just had our first American fighter that was fighting for ISIL. I believe his name was Mr. McCain. He lived in Minneapolis. He went back to San Diego and finally ended up in Syria. I think Josh Earnest used in one of these press briefings that these moderate forces had killed Mr. McCain and that they were fighting both ISIL and Assad.

Now, the interesting thing about this moderate opposition group that killed Mr. McCain is that they killed other ISIL fighters too. They beheaded six of them. Now, I don't know how moderate that is, but according to American standards, that is not moderate.

So I think we really have to give some close scrutiny to these folks that we are going to arm, that we are going to give different weapons. We really don't have a list of what those weapons would be yet. We are going to let the military train them.

We trained the Iraqi military, their police, their defense force for, what, 7 years, I guess, or longer; and then at the first sight of combat, they left the American equipment that they had been given and fled. So I don't know what kind of training we are going to give these moderate groups, but I know we haven't got 7 years to stop ISIL.

So I agree with my friend from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), that I wish the President had used some different words rather than ''degrade.'' Maybe ''destroy''—maybe ''defeat'' would have been a great word to use, that we want to defeat them.

If you read open source reports, there are 10,000, and then you hear, ''Well, now there are 15,000.'' Then we have got people in the government saying, ''Well, they could be up to 30,000. We don't know how many there are.''

I promise you, whether it was 30,000 or 50,000, we have got the greatest military in the world, and we could have controlled that situation if we just had the fortitude and the guts to do it, but because of the indecisiveness of this President, this thing has festered.

If we had gone into Syria originally—or at least armed the opposition forces then—we actually knew who they were because they were a small group. There is probably over 100 different opposition forces, and as the gentleman said, they are fighting both Assad and ISIL.

Now, to me, it is really confusing over there about who is fighting whom. If you look at Hamas and the Lebanese Army teaming up with them in Arsal to drive out the rebels that Assad had driven into Lebanon, it is very confusing about who is on whose side.

We need to be particularly aware of that and make sure that we have a vetting process—if it is even possible—that we have a vetting process to make sure that these people are worthy of getting assistance from the American taxpayer.

Mr. GOHMERT. I would like to ask the gentleman a question, if he has time for one, because I am struggling a little bit.

Byron York has a good article out, published last night at 11:46, where he points out that there are some real potential problems. He says ''five things that could go horribly wrong with Obama's action in Iraq.'' One of them, he mentions the lack of a status of forces agreement.

We all know that President Bush had been working on a status of forces agreement. He thought he would leave it to the President to accomplish that great task and have instant international credibility for signing a document immediately like that coming into office, but for whatever reason—we hear a lot of different stories—but it blew up, but the President says that we couldn't leave troops there without a status of forces agreement because you can't have troops in a country where you don't have, for example, an immunity agreement, so that American soldiers, American contractors that are there to help protect Iraq from harm—sometimes, bombs go off in the wrong place. Sometimes, somebody gets killed that wasn't meant to because it becomes a war zone.

As the President pointed out before, we couldn't leave troops there because we have no immunity agreement. Well, I haven't heard that there is any immunity agreement with Iraq, and yet he announced last night that he has already got several hundred American sneakers on the ground over there and is going to add 475 more troops—apparently wearing sneakers because there are not boots on the ground.

So I am needing some help here. Why is it safe to send in American troops now without the promise, the agreement of immunity from Iraq when it was not safe to do so when he took office? I am struggling here.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Well, and you should. People claim it is all Bush's fault or that it was all the prior administration's fault that this happened.

By the withdrawal of our troops—because I am telling you, I think President Bush laid it out pretty clear in 2007, when he made that speech about how a lot of people in Washington were clamoring about getting our troops out, and he said, ''We are not going to get our troops out until our ground commanders in Iraq tell us that we are ready to get our troops out.''

He points out the dangers of that, and that is exactly what happened. I think if this administration had understood that and had actually listened to the former President, who had been involved in all the things that had gone on recently in the Middle East, then they would have been persistent enough to persuade Maliki to allow for some agreement.

Now, you know, I don't understand all the politics that have gone into this, but I think last night he authorized another 475 sneakers on the ground, and I think there was already roughly, what, 900-and-something over there.

So we have a lot of guys over there, but we don't know what they are doing, and I don't know that they know what they are doing.

What are the rules of engagement? Are they carrying weapons? Are they carrying notebooks, iPads? What are they doing? I mean, these are some of the most well-trained people that we have in our military. These are valuable assets to us that are over there, and just from the reports I read, I don't see that they really have any operational plan that they are going with.

So that has got to be really confusing, I would think, if I was over there, as to what the rules of engagement were and, you know, if I was going to be sent out as an adviser or as protection, security forces for the Americans that are there, Erbil or Baghdad or wherever they are, so I think it is confusing to them too.

I think that that is the reason, as you mentioned in one of your speeches today that I heard, about the resolution, so we can actually define what we think and what our committees think would be a good military plan for going in and what the expectation was of any forces that we have over there, whether it is air or some of these boots on the ground.

Let's clarify that and make that a separate vote.

Mr. GOHMERT. I think it is worth pointing out what concerns many others in the world, and that is the judgment of this administration.

As we travel around the world, we have allies who talk to us privately, leaders in countries in the Middle East, moderate Muslims, people in Israel, and they keep asking about the judgment of this country, of the national leaders.

Everybody knows that this President agreed to release five Taliban terrorists complicit with murder, and the statement has come out on August 27—this is after the release of five Taliban murderers by this administration. This statement has gone out, and it is in their language. The translation says, in part, ''We consider ISIS and every other Mujahedin group as our brothers.''

That is kind of important to understand when he released the Taliban Five—who don't have a problem with cutting people's heads off or friends cutting people's heads off, they support ISIS—and the President did so in violation of the law.

It required that there not be one dime of American money spent to release somebody from Guantanamo unless the law was complied with, and the law required a notice of 30 days to people in Congress, and that didn't happen.

He broke the law in order to help the lawbreakers. So people around the world see that, and they are puzzled, and I happened to be standing here on the House floor with one of the two other people that went to the FBI disclosure. They classified it, which I thought was ridiculous.

We wanted to see the documents that the FBI and their advisers on Islam had purged from the FBI training materials. Now, these are the materials that train FBI agents—the kind of people that have to go talk to Tsarnaev and his mother and people at the mosque and friends—who have to know the questions and what to look for that might indicate that this person has been radicalized.

□ 1430

Now, since they classified those materials they purged, we went through them, but we don't get to disclose what is in them. But I can say I was shocked at how ridiculous some of the purging was. Some things were purely from—well, some of them were so clearly important, that people trying to learn about radical Islam, it is important that they know and understand.

So, once you understand that there has been that kind of purging of material, then you begin to understand how this administration could get two—not one, two—heads-up from a country like Russia that Tsarnaev was radicalized, he could kill people, you better watch him, you better check on him, he is dangerous, he is going to hurt people, and they do nothing meaningful about it.

As we found out through a hearing in Judiciary, at first Mueller said, We did go to those mosques. But it turns out he said it was on their outreach program. They never went out there to see whether they were radicalized.

And then, we knew at the time—Mr. Speaker, I hold here the articles from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, articles of organization for the Islamic Society of Boston, and the Islamic Society of Boston is the one that organized the two mosques. And the organizing official is a man named al-Amoudi, which was familiar to the FBI Director because, on his watch, although he had helped the Clinton administration hire what were thought to be moderate Muslims in the Clinton administration and he had originally had an agreement to be of assistance to the Bush administration, the Bush administration ultimately finds out he is supporting terrorism. They have him arrested out here at Dulles Airport, and he's now doing 23 years in prison for supporting terrorism. He's the one that organized the Islamic Society of Boston that created the two mosques where the Tsarnaevs went. The FBI didn't even know that a guy they helped convict of supporting terrorism started the mosque that has created terrorists out of more than one person.

There are others that we find out that have had relations with that mosque that may be a threat. One other thing I want to mention before I yield to my friend. We have a chart—I have had a blowup of this used before, but it points out how many times, as this points out, terminology is important in defining our goals. The 9/11 Commission identifies Islamist terrorism as the threat. The Muslim Public Affairs Council recommends that the U.S. Government find other terminology.

So, in the 9/11 Commission Report, bipartisan, bicameral people trying to take an objective look, they used the term 322 times in the 9/11 Commission Report. However, the last FBI Counterterrorism Lexicon does not include the word ''Islam.'' The National Intelligence Strategy of 2009 does not include the word ''Islam.'' In the 9/11 Commission Report, it used the word ''Muslim'' 145 times, but since then, under this administration, the FBI Counterterrorism Lexicon doesn't use the word ''Muslim.'' It doesn't use the word ''jihad.'' It doesn't use the word ''enemy.'' Now, it does use the words ''violent extremism'' 29 times. In the 9/11 Commission Report, it uses the word ''religious,'' and it is normally referencing these radical Islamists. It uses that word ''religious'' 65 times; whereas, the FBI Counterterrorism Lexicon only uses it three times.

Then the President, basically the only time he used it last night was to say that people that called themselves Islamists are not religious. The people who have had their heads cut off by these people in the name of Islam are looking at what we are doing, I believe, and wondering: How can you say that was not, in their minds, a religious act to cut off my head?

I think, as a Christian, there are references in the Bible. I think people know what goes on here. We know from Scripture that there is rejoicing in Heaven over one soul being saved. Well, how could they rejoice unless they know what is going on? So I think people that have had their heads cut off would have to be wondering about the President's assessment.

''Al Qaeda'' was used 36 times in the 9/11 Commission Report, but in the FBI Counterterrorism Lexicon, not used at all. In the National Intelligence Strategy of 2009 under this administration, it is used once. ''Caliph,'' that is not used at all by this administration in their FBI Counterterrorism Lexicon; National Intelligence Strategy of 2009, the 9/11 Commission Report used it seven times. And it is a little more understandable, too, when you find out that one of the advisers on the Homeland Security Advisory Council that Janet Napolitano put there and gave a secret clearance is named Mohamed Elibiary.

There is an article from Adam Kredo, and he quotes a tweet sent out by the Homeland Security Advisory Council member, and the tweet says:

> The caliphate will return; that is inevitable.

Well, we know now that the Homeland Security Advisory Council member's tweet has been used by ISIS in recruiting, that even this President's close adviser on Homeland Security that he has secret access to our databases given by this administration, that he is out there saying the caliphate is inevitable. So it is being used to recruit people to kill Americans. The Homeland Security Advisory Council has people helping with recruiting for terrorists to kill Americans.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, when the five of us went in that 12-by-12 room——

Mr. GOHMERT. I think it was three Members of Congress, you, me, and MICHELE, but then there were two FBI agents sitting there, too.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Well, there was one more Member, I know, Trent.

Mr. GOHMERT. Oh, that's right. Trent came, too.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. So there were four of us in a 12-by-12 and two FBI agents and several boxes of paperwork, and they were nice enough to bring one copy so we could share.

The FBI is the greatest. I mean, they are great crime fighters. They do great investigative work. I think it was probably under great political pressure that they purged these documents to take those words out of it. Like you said, even the 9/11 Commission did that.

I want to go back to what you said about our allies and indecisiveness, if I could.

LOUIE, we look at what is going on in the country and we all talk to small business people every day, and they go: You know what? We are not going to expand our business. We are not going to grow because we don't know what our health insurance is going to be; we don't know what our energy cost is going to be; we don't know what the regulations are going to be. So it is kind of a stalemate. I think that is the way our allies look at us. They don't know what our next move is. So, with all this uncertainty, there are different elements that are coming in and filling that void in us being the world leader—Russia being one of them, coming in to fill that void.

People like to know that there is a leader somewhere that they can follow. I just don't think our allies in this world have seen that. Now we have actually got Germany and France and others leading different parts of these charges where America should have been out in front of it.

I know our time is just about up. I want to thank my friend from Texas for allowing me to share with him. I look forward to doing some more of the Special Orders with him and making sure we can get the truth out.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I have another article that accentuates what my friend from Georgia was saying about our allies not being sure what we are going to do. Unfortunately, our enemies seem to know very well what we

are going to do. It is an article published by Al Bawaba, published today. It says—we've identified Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. Well, the deputy leader of Hezbollah, Sheikh Naim Qassem, has said:

''The flurry of international activity, which is sponsored by the U.S., is not serious in ending the takfiri threat . . . He said Obama spoke of 'containing' the threat and not 'stopping' it.''

I am quoting from him.

''Comments made by Barack Obama are clear. The word 'contain' means to identify risks and disable some of its objectives while maintaining this terrorist organization's role to frighten certain countries in this region and to keep this risk as a scarecrow in appropriate places to make political gains, particularly in Iraq and Syria.''

Our enemies know that this President's speech last night indicated he's not serious. We have got to get serious.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS). Members are reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today, because on Monday a very important hearing, the first of its kind in two decades, a hearing on statehood for the District of Columbia will take place in the Senate of the United States.

The hearing is called by Senator CARPER, the Chair of the Jurisdictional Committee. This hearing takes place at a time and in a season when we have seen unusual progress for statehood for the District of Columbia.

□ 1445

In the Senate, the majority leader himself became a cosponsor of the bill and indeed announced it with great energy, which is very unusual because the majority leader of the Senate cosponsors very few bills. The top Democratic leaders are sponsors of the bill. The bill has more House and Senate sponsors than is has ever had. Together this is normally seen as momentum, Mr. Speaker.

Now, when I say we are having the first Senate hearing in two decades, it is not because we haven't tried to get a Senate hearing or because a Senate or House hearing on statehood was what was on the agenda for each immediate period. The District of Columbia residents have tried many ways to get their equal rights to other American citizens. There has been a House Voting Rights Act. I would have the vote on the House floor as I speak had an amendment not passed that sought to wipe away all the gun laws of the District of Columbia. There have been bills for House and Senate votes. There have been bills for budget autonomy, and we are still seeking budget autonomy.

Through all of this, we have always sought statehood for the District of Columbia because, Mr. Speaker, there is no way for the District to get the same rights that every other American has without statehood. I will go into that a little later.

The Senate hearing is entitled: ''Equality for the District of Columbia: Discussing the Implications of S. 132, the New Columbia Admissions Act.'' That is the companion bill to my bill here in the House, H.R. 292.

I want to take a moment to thank Senator TOM CARPER, who is the new chair of the committee of jurisdiction, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. As you might expect, that committee has a lot on its plate, and, yet, in only his first term as chair, Senator CARPER has made many strides forward and always has been very helpful to the District of Columbia, and now culminates the work that he and I have done in the Senate with a hearing. It is a hearing that we, of course, requested, but it is a hearing that he had to be willing to do and find time for on a very busy agenda. I cannot thank Senator CARPER enough in the name of the people of the District of Columbia for affording us the opportunity to be heard.

We do not pretend that statehood is around the corner. We do know this: that if we do not continue to use vehicles like hearings to put the matter before the House and the Senate, and before the people of the United States, we cannot build to the point where we can achieve what we will achieve, statehood for the 650,000 people who live in the Nation's Capital.

When I say this is the first hearing, I do want to say that Senator Joe Lieberman, who was the prior chairman of the Senate Homeland and Governmental Affairs Committee, was also a great champion for statehood. And while he didn't have a hearing, he introduced a bill for statehood that achieved the majority of committee votes. And indeed there was a hearing for statehood when my first bill, the bill when I first came to Congress in the early 1990s, came to the floor and we got the first and only vote for statehood for the District of Columbia. There was a Senate hearing. It was not a jurisdictional hearing. And that is what this hearing is, and therefore it is a landmark hearing. It is a historic hearing. And that is why I felt it merited my coming to the House floor today.

On top of the momentum that we have now seen in the Senate, I shouldn't leave the subject without mentioning the momentum that has been here in the House. We have Republican and Democratic support for budget autonomy for the District of Columbia, for example. That is a very essential element of statehood, that is, your own budget, your own local funds, and nobody gets to look at it but you, your own jurisdiction. That is not what the District has now. That is what some Republicans and most Democrats believe we should, indeed have.

There is not yet the kind of support for statehood that I expect to see in the House of Representatives, but we will be glad to work with the Senate and the House when it lives up to its own principles that every American is entitled to be treated equally in the Congress and in our country.

Quite aside from the progress we have seen in the House and the Senate on statehood and on the particular elements of statehood, we now have the formal endorsement of the President of the United States for statehood.

I would like to quote what he said when he endorsed the bill:

> I have long believed that folks in D.C. pay taxes like everybody else, they contribute to the overall well-being of the country like everybody else, they should be represented like everybody else. It is not as if Washington is not big enough compared with other States. It is absolutely the right thing to do.

I will have something to say about the population of the District of Columbia as compared with other States in a few minutes.

Now, of course, I wasn't surprised that the President of the United States supported statehood. The reason I wasn't surprised is because he has long supported and been on record as supporting all of the elements of statehood: budget autonomy, the right of the people of the District of Columbia, who raise $7 billion, to spend their own money without coming to this Chamber, which has raised not one penny of it. He has long supported that and has put budget autonomy in his own budget. Legislative autonomy so that the Congress doesn't have some say over the District of Columbia's laws, the President has put that in his own budget. And the President, going back to the time that he was in the Senate of the United States, supported voting rights for the District of Columbia.

So there you have it, voting rights, legislative autonomy, and budget autonomy, the elements of statehood. We have Members of this House and of the Senate who have long supported all of them. We want to bring it all together with support of statehood for the District of Columbia. So there will be then a historic hearing at, I believe it is 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon with witnesses who are particularly able to speak to the issues.

Professor Viet Dinh of Georgetown Law School, a professor of constitutional law, a former U.S. assistant attorney for legal policy in the Bush administration. That made him the highest legal policy official in the Bush Justice Department. He has previously testified here in the House about the constitutionality of the D.C. House

Voting Rights Act. He will testify as to the constitutionality of our statehood bill.

Alice Rivlin, who, of course, was the Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve Board and Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, and, finally, as a D.C. resident, was called upon by the President to chair the Financial Control Board of the District of Columbia, will testify at that hearing. Now, of course, Dr. Rivlin is an expert on the Nation's economy and on the finances of the District of Columbia. We are very pleased that Wade Henderson of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights will also testify, a longtime champion of statehood and equal rights for the District of Columbia.

The elected officials of the District of Columbia will testify, of course, the mayor, the chair of the City Council and I, and also the statehood delegation.

At the same time that we have been pressing on what amounts to two tracks for statehood, we have been making the progress I have indicated on the elements of statehood, such as budget and legislative autonomy.

In this House, we have got to work on what we need to work on all at the same time. There is no sequential matter when it comes to the many rights that the residents of the District of Columbia are denied. However, with the many issues on which we have struggled for equality one at a time, sometimes two or three at a time, statehood has always been what the residents—the American citizens who live in the District of Columbia—have needed and wanted. And it is during this Congress that statehood has gotten great footing.

I do want to thank the growing statehood movement and coalition, the many residents who struggle for statehood and have helped us in so many ways, including many in the statehood coalition who went around asking for cosponsors.

I think among the reasons that statehood has gotten so much momentum this year is that the residents of the District of Columbia are fed up with paying such high Federal taxes without equal representation in the Congress of the United States. They have simply had it on second-class citizenship.

As if to dramatize what it means to be a second-class citizen, there were several violations of the rights of the people who live in the District of Columbia as American citizens this year which highlighted the need for statehood. The House actually passed two provisions that would overturn laws passed by the Council of the District of Columbia, laws that were entirely local in their nature. Imagine what would happen if the Congress tried to pass a law to overturn some law in Maryland, Virginia, Oklahoma, Utah, California, or New Hampshire. People would think the Congress had lost its mind.

Because of the anomaly of the status of the District of Columbia as a district and not a State, the Congress can meddle in—if you will forgive me—the local business of the District of Columbia. Two Members decided to and, in fact, got passed in this House bills that overturned our local laws. I am pleased to say that as of now those bills have and will not be passed in the continuing resolution that is pending in the House or the Senate.

Thus far, we have been successful despite the passage of these two bills. One of them was passed by Representative THOMAS MASSIE, a Republican who lives in Kentucky. He lives in a county of 11,000 people, but has sought and absolutely got passed in the House—a bill that would keep the District of Columbia—which has 650,000 people—from having any local gun laws. None. All the local gun laws would be gone. This is a big city, people. The reason big cities have gun laws of the kind that you will not find in Kentucky is because of the difference—the differences we all respect in our country. Moreover, public safety—think about it—is the quintessential local concern. You depend upon your own local officials who know you best, and whom you have elected to deal first and foremost with public safety. Nobody would try to tell somebody what to do about public safety in her own district.

□ 1500

Yet that is what Representative MASSIE tried to do. This is in spite of the fact that in 1973, though not yet for statehood, the Congress of the United States, recognizing how un-American it was to try to pass laws or to interfere with the laws of a local jurisdiction, devolved local lawmaking authority to the residents of the District of Columbia.

Until this year, most Members on both sides of the aisle had respected that. To be sure, we have had to fight them off in prior years, but we had a long run where nobody tried to interfere with the local laws of the District of Columbia.

Thus, it was surprising to us that Representative MASSIE, who is a Tea Party Republican, who stands first and foremost for localism, would leave those principles when it came to the District of Columbia and try to interfere with local matters in this city.

We had the same thing happen to another colleague, a Republican from Maryland, who should have known better, who has a particular distaste for the decriminalization of marijuana laws that is happening all over the United States—18 States so far, plus legalization in two States—so he tried to get a law and passed a bill, that we now have kept from getting through the Senate, that would block the District's recently passed marijuana decriminalization law. Our law would require that it be a fine rather than a conviction for possessing marijuana.

The District didn't do this for the reason that some States, the 18 States, perhaps some of them did—although some of them may have done it for the same reason we did it. Blacks and Whites use marijuana at the same rate in the United States and in D.C.

Yet in the District, 90 percent of those who had criminal convictions for possessing small amounts of marijuana were Black. Half the population is Black; half is White. These laws have had an obvious racial effect.

I am not for smoking anything, but I must tell you I also don't believe that people ought to have a criminal conviction because they possessed marijuana any more than they ought to have a criminal conviction for possessing alcohol. In any case, whatever you think, that is not your business, it is a local matter, and the District ought to have the same right when it comes to local matters as they have.

This was Representative ANDY HARRIS. What was ironic about his trying to block the District's marijuana decriminalization laws is that he couldn't block it in his own State of Maryland, which has decriminalized marijuana.

Perhaps what pointed most to the need for statehood this year was what the District went through this past appropriation period when it almost got shut down, not because of anything the city had done, but because this House and this Senate shut down.

The District was an innocent bystander, but because the Congress still requires that the District's local budget pass through this House and Senate—the budget was here a budget of $7 billion, raised by the people and the businesses I represent, not one dime of it Federal money, a balanced budget, the likes of which the Federal Government has not seen since the Clinton administration, $1.5 billion in reserves, and there is virtually no State in the Union that has that kind of reserves—and yet when the Federal Government shut down, the District of Columbia was in jeopardy of shutting down—this despite the fact that I have a shutdown avoidance bill, that shutdown avoidance was in the President's budget, but not passed.

The mayor did the right thing, for the first time in American history. He refused to shut down. What are you going to do to him?

What he did instead was to keep the District open, but pay for our employees and our services out of contingency funds. Those funds were almost exhausted before the Federal Government finally opened up, and the District finally didn't have to worry about spending its contingency funds and got its local budget.

If you face our citizens with that kind of challenge over time, obviously, they begin to feel that they have to find a remedy. Yes, residents have been trying to find a remedy for more than 200 years, and there are interesting historical reasons why it hasn't happened, but whatever those reasons are, the time is at hand when it is impossible to call yourself the United States of America, which stands for equality for

citizens throughout the world, and not begin to apply that same principle to the people who live in your own Nation's Capital.

We have been preparing for this hearing for some time. We took particular pains on what is called D.C. Emancipation Day. D.C. celebrates this day, April 16, every year because it is the day that Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the District of Columbia before the slaves were freed in other parts of the country.

DC Emancipation Day, the District's way of saying there is an absence of freedom that still exists in your own Nation's Capital.

As Emancipation Day came—by chance, the U.N. Human Rights Committee issued a report indicating that the denial of voting rights in the House and Senate to the residents of the District of Columbia was a violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a treaty which the United States signed in 1992.

So let's be clear: by not granting equal citizenship rights to the people who live in the Nation's Capital, the United States, this Congress, is in violation of international law.

On Emancipation Day, I did not come to the floor to speak about the slaves. That was then; this is now. It has always been interesting to me because my great-grandfather was a runaway slave from Virginia and was in the District of Columbia on Emancipation Day, but Emancipation Day cannot be about nostalgia.

The residents of the District of Columbia put it to good use. I thought what I ought to do was, in preparation for what I knew Senator CARPER wanted to do, to come to the floor to speak about why we should have statehood—what is it about the residents of the District of Columbia that merited statehood?

Well, first, let's start with the most elementary of qualifications, and that is the population. Yes, this is a city. Yes, it is called a district. It is the District of Columbia. Yes, we have a population equal to, but in this case, larger than the population of two States that have two Senators and, by the way, a Member, one Member, to represent the entire State, just like I represent the residents of the District of Columbia—the states are Vermont and Wyoming, one in the West and one in the East.

What does that say to you? It says the Framers believed in equality. They wanted everybody to have representation in the House and the Senate. When there was a dispute between the large and the small States, they made a compromise and gave the small States equal representation in the Senate and what amounts to per capita representation here.

There is no question that there are enough people here for statehood. I mention Vermont and Wyoming because we are larger than those States, but there are half a dozen States which have a population about equal to that of the District of Columbia. That is the first qualification.

Let's take a look at the one that will probably get the attention of more Americans than any others, and that is taxes paid. On our license plate, you will see the words ''taxation without representation.'' Let's put that in dollars and cents.

We are not just talking about paying taxes without representation. I am talking about paying more taxes per capita than any other jurisdiction without representation, almost $12,000 per resident of the District of Columbia in taxes paid to support the Federal Government, which does not reciprocate with voting representation in the House and the Senate.

I have the vote in committee. As the representative of the District of Columbia, I have the same rights to come to this floor and to do everything else that other Members do, except that which is emblematic of my citizenship and the citizenship of the people I represent, and that, of course, is the final vote on the House floor.

This poster is simply a graph to show you the vast differences in taxes per capita paid throughout the United States. It goes from $12,000 down to Mississippi, which pays—Mississippi citizens pay $4,000 per capita to the Federal Government, with the same rights that those who pay more, as should be the case, and it should also be the case that those of us who live in the Nation's Capital, who pay more and more than all others, should have the same rights as all others.

Just to dig down further into what this means, Vermont, which I indicated is a State somewhat smaller than the District, pays about half the taxes, $6,000 per resident. Wyoming pays $8,000 per resident. These are both compared to our $12,000.

California, if you look at the large States of the Union, pays $8,000 per person compared to the District of Columbia's $12,000 per person.

Perhaps of all of the qualifications for statehood, none is more worthy of mention than the sacrifices District of Columbia residents have made throughout the more than 200 years of our existence as the Nation's Capital for our country in the wars of the United States, often suffering casualties above and beyond those of States that are considerably larger in population than the District of Columbia.

□ 1515

So let's look at some of the major wars of the 20th century.

In World War I, there were more D.C. casualties than in three States of the Union. In World War II, there were more D.C. casualties than in four States of the Union. In the Korean war, there were more D.C. casualties than eight States of the Union. In the Vietnam war, there were more casualties than 10 States of the Union. There is a memorial for the 635 D.C. residents who died in World War I on The Mall.

It is in that sacrifice that we feel most dishonored as a jurisdiction. How could our country continue to send our residents to war without granting those who go to war, often to get rights for others, the same rights that we afford every citizen of our own country?

All of the essential elements, even the one that is hardest to endure without full equality, all of the elements of citizenship have long been made by the residents of the District of Columbia, as well as all of the elements of statehood.

So why not statehood? That is a fair question.

What was wrong with the Framers? Why didn't they make the District of Columbia a State in the first place?

Well, nothing was wrong with the Framers. The District of Columbia is a historic anomaly. It is a figment of history and an incident in history that could not happen today.

The reason the District of Columbia is not a State is an accident that must be corrected. The accident came out of the meeting of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1783. There were some angry Revolutionary War soldiers. They did what citizens do. I must say, though, that they went not only to petition the Continental Congress, but they took their guns with them. And while it is not said that a shot was fired, they did point their guns at the windows where the Continental Congress was meeting.

Well, the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia authorities didn't know what to do. They didn't want to go out after the Revolutionary War heroes, so the Continental Congress said: We better get out of here. So they fled Philadelphia.

Well, that stuck in the Framers' minds. They said: My goodness, States are not going to protect us, so I guess we must have a District that is controlled entirely by the Federal Government.

Well, when I say that it is an accident of history, do understand that that history is long gone. The way in which we protect the Nation's Capital today is the same way it would be protected in the event of statehood. The Federal Government, and the District of Columbia government—after all, it is the same area of land—get together to protect the District, whether it is from 9/11 or from any other threat.

You can't rest, then, on any notion that the Framers intended to have any residents who did not have equal rights. The existence of a jurisdiction that did not have full and equal rights was not in the capacity of the Framers to envision. Those who fought the Revolutionary War lived in the Nation's Capital, those parts of Maryland and Virginia which became the Nation's Capital.

The brilliant Framers realized that they did not have all the answers. They had every reason to think that this would be fixed. And one reason we know that they understood that things

could get fixed—shame on us that for over 200 years we haven't fixed this moral outrage—one reason we know that they understood it could be fixed is what they did to make the residents of the Nation's Capital equal in the first place.

During the 10-year transition from the territory in Maryland and Virginia to form the Nation's Capital, the Framers did not want those residents to be left without their equal rights for even one second. So while they had jurisdiction, they saw to it that during that transition period when they weren't really a part of Maryland and Virginia and weren't really a part of the new Capital, they would retain their rights.

Those people who lived in Maryland and Virginia who were on their way to becoming the Nation's Capital still voted in those two States and had every single right preserved until jurisdiction passed to the United States Congress. And that is when tyranny set in—the tyranny of not having that representation carried over under the jurisdiction of the Congress.

In 1801, when we became the Nation's Capital, the people of the District of Columbia went into the streets to demand their rights. They have been in the streets demanding their full rights ever since, as any red-blooded Americans would be.

Mr. Speaker, we have tried every route, some of it more gradual than others, to pursue and to obtain our full rights as American citizens. We have tried voting rights for the House, voting rights for the House and Senate, all other ways—budget autonomy, legislative autonomy. Even if we had gotten those, they would have been insufficient, but it says everything about the shortcomings of the Congress that even those insufficient routes to statehood are not yet a part of our law.

On September 15, there will be a full jurisdictional Senate hearing. That hearing will take place next Monday. That hearing will set an important guidepost. It will educate many in the Senate and House and many in our country about what the people of the District of Columbia, the Nation's Capital, do not now have and what they are entitled to.

There can be no doubt that no American would believe that those who pay taxes as they do should not have the same representation in the House and Senate that they do. There isn't any American who would say that the funds that are locally raised in your local jurisdiction should come to the Congress of the United States for any reason.

I do not believe that our problem lies with the people of our country. I do believe that many of them are not fully aware that their own Capital is less free than any part of our country.

So what we will hear on next Monday is not all about the moral reasons; some of them, of course, but also the reasons that go to our creed as Americans and go to practical matters such as whether the Federal government should be able to close down the District of Columbia when they have a disagreement among themselves at the Federal level. We will hear not only the moral reasons, but the practical reasons for statehood.

So, Mr. Speaker, we seek statehood in the name of the people I represent, perhaps even more so in the name of the thousands of American citizens who happened to live in the District of Columbia and went to war for their country in Germany, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq but never came home, and in the name of those who will once again protect our country now that the President has indicated that we ourselves must take on the fight against ISIS.

On this 9/11, as we remember those innocent people who died simply because they happened to be in New York and Pennsylvania, I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the Congress remember the 650,000 people who live in the Nation's Capital, who are proud of their residency in the District of Columbia, many of whom, like me, a third-generation Washingtonian, are proud of their lineage in the Nation's Capital.

In the name of all those I represent, I ask for statehood for the District of Columbia so that our residents may have equal citizenship, those same rights which led the Founders of our country to create the United States of America.

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

□ 1530

EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH ISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the events in the Middle East and with ISIS, and I want to address three separate areas. The first is what should be the role of Congress in deciding American policy on these horrific events.

Second is to respond to the unjustified attacks on the President of the United States by those who claim he doesn't have a plan, doesn't have a detailed enough plan, doesn't have a perfect plan, or whatever.

And the third is to discuss what should be our policy in the Middle East and what dangers there are, no matter which policy we pursue.

As we try to protect our Nation, we should also protect our Constitution. Article I of the Constitution vests in Congress the exclusive duty to decide when we declare war, when we go to war.

Article II makes the President of the United States Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces.

These two provisions need to be reconciled so that both the Congress and the President can make the decisions that the Constitution charges to them in our foreign and military policy.

This is not a new issue. President Jefferson sent our Marines, in the words of the song, ''to the shores of Tripoli'' in 1801. This was our first foreign military deployment. This was our first fighting and involvement in the Middle East. And most relevant today, it was the first use of our military abroad in the absence of a formal declaration of war.

Well, what did Thomas Jefferson think was the appropriate congressional role?

Thomas Jefferson sought and obtained advance authorization to put our Marines ashore in North Africa.

We still face the same constitutional provisions, but several decades ago, we passed the War Powers Act, a reasonable statute that harmonizes the two provisions of the Constitution that I have discussed.

The War Powers Act makes it clear that the President can act for 60 or 90 days without the authorization of Congress, but that is it. Beyond those time limits, deployments require congressional authorization.

Now, we have heard from the President that he respects Congress, likes us, consults with us, and would welcome our support. But the President, I am sure, consults with many academics and think tanks and foreign officials, not as a constitutional duty, but just because it makes sense to consult with them. And the President would welcome the support of The Heritage Foundation or The New York Times editorial board for his policies.

Saying that you welcome the support of Congress, or that you consult with Congress, has nothing to do with the legal rights of Congress and the American people.

Now, the President has taken a very unusual legal stance. He asserted broadly last night that he has the authority to conduct the bombing campaign, but he needs Congress to approve training Syrians and providing arms. This stands the Constitution on its head.

The main decision to be made here is whether we put our pilots and/or soldiers in harm's way, whether we wage war and cause casualties, and perhaps incur casualties. The far less important decision is whether we train a few hundred or a few thousand Syrians and provide them with weapons.

Keep in mind, this training and arming of Syrians has occurred for well over a year without congressional authorization.

What is happening here is the President wants us to vote in favor of his plan, or to take a vote of Congress and claim it is a vote in favor of his plan, when, in fact, we would only be voting on the smallest part of that plan, and that is, whether, without any risk of casualties to ourselves, without any risk that we would be directly causing casualties in the Middle East, to provide training to Syrian rebels. This is hardly what the Constitution requires.

Today, in response to my questions, the President's Deputy National Security Adviser explained, for the first time from this administration, why they think they have authorization to bomb Iraq and Syria without any further action from Congress. He cited the authorization to use military force passed in this House 13 years ago, in response to the tragic events which occurred 13 years ago to this day.

When Congress authorized going after al Qaeda, we never envisioned that that authority would be used in this manner.

Just as important, the President's plan is to go after ISIS, which has been repudiated by al Qaeda, which broke from al Qaeda, and which wages war against the al-Nusra Front, which is part of al Qaeda.

It is difficult to say that an authorization to use force against al Qaeda is an authorization to use force against those who are fighting al Qaeda, but it is a technical argument.

On the President's side, you can say that al Qaeda splintered, and that all the splinters constitute part of the organization that attacked us 13 years ago to this day.

That is why Congress needs to revise the authorization to use military force of 2001. We passed it for one purpose. Is it going to be there for 100 years?

Is it going to authorize things we never imagined?

Or shouldn't Congress define what it is we are authorizing under today's circumstance?

The other argument raised by the President's Deputy National Security Adviser is that the authorization to go to war against Saddam Hussein somehow applies to this situation. A reading of that resolution clearly shows that it is confined to Iraq, and would not justify that portion of the President's plan, a necessary portion, that involves bombing Syria.

So, again, Congress should vote on our authorization to use military force that is crafted to this situation at this time. But it is unlikely that we will do so because there is almost a silent conspiracy here in Washington.

Presidents want more power to act as they decide in the national interest, without having to ask Congress for authority. Members of Congress sometimes just want to avoid a tough vote.

So, the desire of the President to have all power, and the desire of some Members of this House to avoid responsibility, coincide with the idea of the President just boldly saying he has the authority to enter a new conflict and to enter it for far more than 60 or 90 days, and Congress never has to vote on the matter.

The President, of course, would like to say that he has a vote of Congress in favor of his plan. So we are going to end up with the sneakiest of all maneuvers.

What is likely to occur, and I hope it doesn't, is that we will vote next week on whether to continue government operations, whether to fund the government for the next several months, whether to prevent our national parks from closing, and buried in there will be a provision authorizing and funding the training of Syrian dissidents, and we will pass that package.

The President will claim that since we funded and authorized the training of Syrian dissidents, we voted for his entire plan, including the bombing. And Members of Congress can say they had no choice but to vote for the Syrian provision, but didn't actually like it, never really voted for it. They just voted to keep the national parks open. A silent conspiracy of empowerment and shirking responsibility.

What we should do next week is have three separate votes: one vote on whether to fund and authorize the arming of Syrians, because the President has asked for that vote; second, a vote on whether to authorize military force limited exclusively to air forces and not authorizing ground operations; and the third would be a vote to go further and authorize ground operations.

The exact contours of these resolutions should be subject to amendment and open amendment in this House. We would have to deal with the duration and the exact limitations. But then we would be performing our constitutional duty. Then we would be protecting the American Constitution.

I fear that, instead, we will cleverly avoid responsibility and the President will be able to say, ah, but you voted for my plan.

Now, in defense of the President, I want to respond to the constant harping that the President doesn't have a plan, doesn't have a detailed enough plan, doesn't have a strategy.

Well, first the President put forward a plan last evening. While Republicans have blasted it as insufficiently detailed, it is just as detailed as the plans put forward by the former President to invade Afghanistan and to invade Iraq.

Now, keep in mind, as we learned from those wars, whatever plan is put forward is going to be dramatically changed because once you engage in hostilities, things change.

Second, if the President were to provide as much detail as some hyperpartisan Republicans are demanding, he would then be attacked for revealing our strategy, our tactics, and classified information.

The only thing that holds together, creates consistency among certain extremist partisan Republicans, is that whatever the President does, it is wrong.

Then I have got to ask, where is the Republican plan?

Have Republicans coalesced around any plan?

Has any prominent Republican even put forward a plan?

Where is your plan?

Vice President Dick Cheney has not put forward a plan, just an expression of anger and partisanship. Speaker BOEHNER has not put forward a plan. The Republican-controlled House Armed Services Committee majority has not put forward a plan.

There are a host of think tanks here in Washington that could aid Republicans in drafting a plan, yet, the Republicans have yet to even discuss their own plan, let alone coalesce around the Republican plan.

It seems like the Republicans do have a plan. Their plan is to reap political advantage from this crisis in the Middle East, while avoiding any responsibility for making decisions.

The Republicans are politically clever. And when I say Republicans in this speech, I am referring only to the hyperpartisan Republicans who have engaged in the activities that I described.

These Republicans understand that no one can draft the plan the American people really want. Americans want a plan that guarantees the immediate and total destruction of ISIS, without significant American casualties.

So hyperpartisan Republicans can constantly berate the President because he doesn't have a guarantee. He isn't offering immediate total destruction. He does have a plan designed to avoid American casualties.

Instead, we get a suggestion that somehow this guaranteed, no-cost, immediate total victory would be achieved if only we had a different President.

I think it is time for Congress to stop harping about whether the President has a plan. He has put forth a plan.

Now Congress must exercise its constitutional role in defining what authorizations the President is going to be granted and what portions of his plan are going to be authorized.

I look forward to—I hope, though doubt—a serious debate on the floor of this House, where we will discuss and vote on and amend and vote on the amendments of a resolution dealing with whether to arm Syrians and train them, with a resolution as to whether to have a long-term, multiyear, perhaps, bombing campaign against ISIS, and whether the President is authorized to use ground forces.

□ 1545

Finally, I want to focus on the Middle East, itself, and how complicated the situation is, and I want to praise the President not only for his decisive action but also for his wise caution, because the situation we face in the Middle East is far more complicated than the President's detractors would let on.

The natural reaction upon seeing those horrific videos is to say ISIS is the embodiment of all evil, and its total and immediate destruction is all that we need to do, that it should be our entire focus, but let's look at the situation. We look not only on the entity we want to destroy but also at who will be empowered by its destruction. Who is on the ground in Syria and in the Sunni areas of Iraq that is fighting ISIS and stands to gain if ISIS is destroyed? If we make the list, we see entities that are nearly as evil as ISIS

and are, if anything, more capable of hitting our homeland, of hitting Europe, of hitting targets outside the Middle East, than is ISIS itself.

First, we see that ISIS is engaged in war with the al-Nusra Front. Al-Nusra is a dedicated branch of al Qaeda, one of its more capable branches. So the destruction of ISIS will, to some degree, empower al Qaeda and al-Nusra, since they are both rivals in fighting for support among extremist Sunnis.

Second, on the list of ISIS' foes is the Assad regime. Now, the very people who are attacking the President for not acting precipitously today were attacking the President last year for not bombing the Assad regime. So they attacked him last year for not bombing Assad and this year for not bombing Assad's number one enemy. The only consistency here is you are attacking the President for not bombing somebody. The fact is that Assad has the blood of many tens of thousands of people on his hands, and his empowerment, his success in removing the ISIS problem that he has, will be one of the disadvantages of destroying ISIS.

Third is Iran and Hezbollah. Iran and Hezbollah are waging war against ISIS today, and embody a greater long-term threat to the United States than ISIS. Keep in mind that Hezbollah killed hundreds of marines during the Reagan administration in Lebanon. Hezbollah and Iran, in working together, have conducted operations on a variety of different continents. There is all this talk about how there are numbers of people fighting with ISIS who have American passports, and they might come back and conduct an operation. There are those who are fighting with ISIS who have European passports who could go to Europe and conduct an operation. That is ''might.'' Iran and Hezbollah have been conducting operations in South America, Europe, Asia for decades, and Iran came close to effectuating an assassination right here in Washington, D.C., just within the last decade.

So, yes, it would be good to destroy ISIS, but let's not kid ourselves. Those who would be empowered by that destruction include entities nearly as evil and probably more dangerous than ISIS itself.

I bring up this complexity to argue against those who wonder why we didn't just lash out immediately. Why do we need caution? We need caution because the situation is not as simple as an old Western movie where you have the good guy in a white hat and the bad guy in a black hat, and if the bad guy gets killed, there is peace and unity, and life is wonderful and restored, and the good cowboy in the white hat rides off into the sunset with the schoolmarm. Al-Nusra is not a schoolmarm. Hezbollah is not a schoolmarm. Iran is developing nuclear weapons. The Middle East is not nearly as simple as the President's detractors pretend.

I look forward to doing something that Members of Congress don't necessarily look forward to doing, and that is taking responsibility and casting tough votes, but if we are going to be true to the Constitution, we will not allow to stay on the books in its present form a 2001 resolution that was adopted in the immediate aftermath of the terrible events that occurred 13 years ago today. We will not allow that statement to be twisted and stretched and applied to situations well beyond its description. We will, instead, do what the Constitution requires of us, and that is to define:

What is the President authorized to do, under these circumstances, for the goals that we have this decade and at this time?

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

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2323. An act to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, September 15, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7024. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's 2014 report on the efforts of the Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force, in accordance with Section 651(d) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7025. A letter from the President, Arab Parliament, transmitting a statement of the emergency meeting of the Arab Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs related to the repercussions of the Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7026. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of Justification for Action Under Section 5(a)(6) of the Iran Sanctions Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7027. A letter from the Speaker, Kuwait National Assembly, transmitting a letter calling attention to the continuous aggression by the Israeli forces on the Palestinian People; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7028. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter informing the Congress that approximately 50 U.S. Armed Forces personnel were deployed to the Central African Republic to support the resumption of the activities of the U.S. Embassy in Bangui; (H. Doc. No. 113–154); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7029. A letter from the Executive Analyst, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7030. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting eighteen reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7031. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting a report entitled, ''Veteran Hiring in the Civil Service: Practices and Perceptions''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7032. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Phased Retirement (RIN: 3206-AM71) received August 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7033. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Patapsco River; Baltimore, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0201] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7034. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0005; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-144-AD; Amendment 39-17890; AD 2014-13-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7035. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0004; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-143-AD; Amendment 39-17900; AD 2014-14-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7036. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0206; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-068-AD; Amendment 39-17507; AD 2013-14-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7037. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0432; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-099-AD; Amendment 39-17898; AD 2014-14-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7038. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0863; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-108-AD; Amendment 39-17883; AD 2014-13-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7039. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International, Inc. (Type Certificate previously held by AlliedSignal Inc., Garrett Turbine Engine Company) Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0386; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-09-AD; Amendment 39-17897; AD 2014-12-52] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7040. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1059; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-36-AD; Amendment 39-17896; AD 2014-14-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7041. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; AERMACCHI S.p.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0939; Directorate Identifier 2013- CE-043-AD; Amendment 39-17881; AD 2013-22-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7042. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0341; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-102-AD; Amendment 39-17874; AD 2014-12-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7043. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0953; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-32-AD; Amendment 39-17877; AD 2014-13-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7044. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0241; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-008-AD; Amendment 39-17880; AD 2014-13-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7045. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Airbus Helicopters) (Type Certificate Previously Held By Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0395; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-016-AD; Amendment 39-17876; AD 2014-06-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7046. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held By Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters) (AHD) [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0440; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-075-AD; Amendment 39-17885; AD 2014-13-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7047. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1025; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-096-AD; Amendment 39-17894; AD 2014-13-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7048. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1070; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-175-AD; Amendment 39-17892; AD 2014-13-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7049. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0296; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-102-AD; Amendment 39-17861; AD 2014-11-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7050. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; EADS CASA (Type Certificate Previously Held by Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0980; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-129-AD; Amendment 39-17891; AD 2014-13-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7051. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Learjet Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0010; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-218-AD; Amendment 39-17882; AD 2014-13-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7052. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0867; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-115-AD; Amendment 39-17853; AD 2014-11-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7053. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0009; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-123-AD; Amendment 39-17887; AD 2014-13-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7054. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1027; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-121-AD; Amendment 39-17886; AD 2014-13-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7055. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0973; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-139-AD; Amendment 39-17893; AD 2014-13-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7056. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1009; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-35-AD; Amendment 39-17855; AD 2014-11-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7057. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0226; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-009-AD; Amendment 39-17884; AD 2014-13-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7058. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; GROB-WERKE GMBH & CO KG Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0292; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-011-AD; Amendment 39-17904; AD 2014-15-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7059. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LLC Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0308; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-012-AD; Amendment 39-17903; AD 2014-15-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7060. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada Corporation Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0159; Directorate Identifier 2014-NE-01-AD; Amendment 39-17905; AD 2014-15-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7061. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0055; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-167-AD; Amendment 39-17907; AD 2014-15-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7062. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1024; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-140-AD; Amendment 39-17909; AD 2014-15-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7063. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0177; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-189-AD; Amendment 39-17912; AD 2014-15-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7064. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V.

Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0007; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-038-AD; Amendment 39-17889; AD 2014-13-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CONAWAY: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Gwen Moore (Rept. 113–585). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BARLETTA (for himself and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H.R. 5448. A bill to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. DENHAM, and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 5449. A bill to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5450. A bill to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 5451. A bill to demonstrate a commitment to our Nation's scientists by increasing opportunities for the development of our next generation of researchers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 5452. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify the ability to use consumer reports in certain cases to establish and enforce child support payments; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5453. A bill to authorize health insurance issuers to continue to offer for sale current group health insurance coverage in satisfaction of the minimum essential health insurance coverage requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5454. A bill to amend the African Elephant Conservation Act to provide for trade sanctions against countries involved in illegal ivory trade, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 5455. A bill to amend the Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006 (''SAFE Port Act'') to administer a pilot program for 100 percent scanning of cargo containers at domestic ports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. GIBBS):

H.R. 5456. A bill to require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to create an electronic database of research and information on the causes of, and corrective actions being taken with regard to, algal blooms in the Great Lakes, their tributaries, and other surface fresh waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself and Mr. DENT):

H.R. 5457. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for zero carbon emissions refueling property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself and Mr. HINOJOSA):

H.R. 5458. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to help build a stronger health care workforce; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. OWENS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. RUSH, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. COLLINS of New York):

H.R. 5459. A bill to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 5460. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase access to ambulance services under the Medicare program and to reform payments for such services under such program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H. Con. Res. 113. Concurrent resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require any Member whose Members' Representational Allowance is used to pay for a flight on a private aircraft to report information on the flight not later than 30 days after the flight, and requiring any Senator whose official funds are used to pay for a flight on a private aircraft to report information on the flight not later than 30 days after the flight; to the Committee on Ethics, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. LEE of California):

H. Con. Res. 114. Concurrent resolution urging Congress to debate and vote on a statutory authorization for any sustained United States combat role in Iraq or Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CHU, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. VEASEY):

H. Con. Res. 115. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring civil rights workers Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, and the ''Freedom Summer'' of 1964, and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER (for herself, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H. Res. 720. A resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of James Foley and Steven Sotloff, and condemning the terrorist acts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. TIBERI):

H. Res. 721. A resolution encouraging greater public-private sector collaboration to promote financial literacy for students and young adults; to the Committee on Financial Services.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

311. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 28 memorializing the President and the Congress to enact the Earthquake Insurance Affordability Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

312. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 1 urging the Congress to take action to support, establish, or construct a national museum recognizing atrocities against American Indians; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

313. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of South Dakota, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 notifying that the Senate and the House of Representatives of South Dakota have ratified the 26th Amendment of the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

314. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island, relative to Joint Resolution No. 408 ratifying Amendment 17 of the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

315. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island, relative to Joint Resolution No. 402 ratifying Amendment 17 of the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

316. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 123 memorializing the Congress to make any murder of a police officer or corrections officer while in the line of duty a federal offense; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

317. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island, relative to Joint Resolution 412 urging the state's delegation to pursue all efforts to have Rhode Island declared a ''Promise Zone''; jointly to the Committees on Financial Services and Agriculture.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 5448.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress) and clause 17 (relating to authority over the district as the seat of government), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 5449.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States).

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5450.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 5451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 5452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section III, Clause II

''The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.''

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DeFAZIO:

H.R. 5454.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 5455.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 5457.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5458.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 5459.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 5460.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which provides that ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general Welfare of the United States.''

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 29: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 36: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 318: Mr. BARBER.
H.R. 482: Mr. PETERS of California.
H.R. 679: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 690: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 713: Mr. PERRY and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 725: Mr. PETERS of California.
H.R. 792: Mr. CAMP.
H.R. 942: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. DOYLE, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 1041: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 1070: Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 1127: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 1201: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
H.R. 1212: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 1318: Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 1339: Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 1343: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 1429: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 1437: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1731: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 1750: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 1783: Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 1801: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 1830: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1843: Mr. PETERS of California.
H.R. 1878: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2042: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 2224: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2229: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2305: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 2329: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 2384: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2414; Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 2415: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 2452: Ms. ESTY and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 2453: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 2480: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 2509: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 2523: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 2529: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 2647: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 2673: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2794: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 2852: Mr. HOLT and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 2856: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2870: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 2918: Mr. COOK.
H.R. 2994: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 3043: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 3399: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3400: Mr. HANNA, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, and Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 3531: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 3544: Mr. MAFFEI and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3662: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 3680: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 3708: Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 3723: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3742: Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3877: Mr. WHITFIELD and Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 3902: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3992: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HIMES, and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 4060: Mr. TIBERI and Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 4128: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 4136: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 4137: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 4142: Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 4170: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 4172: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 4190: Mr. SOUTHERLAND and Mr. DENT.
H.R. 4223: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 4504: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 4515: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 4526: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 4608: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 4612: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 4659: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4693: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 4717: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 4727: Mr. DENT.
H.R. 4755: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 4852: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 4858: Mr. HOLT, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 4885: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 4920: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 4930: Mr. Polis, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. LANCE, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4978: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 4985: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 5001: Ms. MOORE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 5024: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 5033: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 5059: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 5060: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 5071: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 5083: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 5098: Mr. LANKFORD and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 5126: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 5182: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 5190: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 5194: Mr. POSEY, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 5212: Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 5213: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5226: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 5227: Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 5228: Ms. CHU and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 5235: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 5239: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 5259: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 5267: Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5269: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 5279: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5280: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 5285: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MESSER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 5320: Mr. CAMPBELL and Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 5328: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H.R. 5354: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 5364: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 5403: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. HULTGREN, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 5408: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 5432: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.J. Res. 47: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.J. Res. 118: Mr. BARLETTA.
H. Res. 109: Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H. Res. 231: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. JONES, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H. Res. 456: Mr. DELANEY.
H. Res. 522: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H. Res. 552: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H. Res. 688: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H. Res. 697: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H. Res. 707: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. HOLT.
H. Res. 716: Mr. HIGGINS.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

96. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Township of Mine Hill, New Jersey, relative to Resolution 102-14 urging the President to utilize the full powers and authorities of his office to immediately secure the release of Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi from Mexican custody; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

97. Also, a petition of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Cape May, New Jersey, relative to Resolution No. 613-14 urging the President to utilize the full powers and authorities of his office to immediately secure the release of Marine Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi from Mexican custody; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

98. Also, a petition of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, Louisville, Kentucky, relative to a resolution requesting that the National Society Sons of the American Revolution should be granted a leadership position on any U.S. Congressional Commission to celebrate the Quarter-Millennial (250th) Anniversary of the Boston Massacre; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

99. Also, a petition of the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii, relative to Resolution No. 13-175 urging the House of Representatives to enact comprehensive immigration reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who is in the world as well as above and beyond it, You are our refuge and strength. On this September 11, we remember the terrorist attacks on our Nation.

Lord, thank You for continuing to be a shelter for our land. In a special way, bless our military men and women who daily risk their lives to protect our freedoms. Remind us that righteousness exults a nation, but sin is an equal opportunity destroyer. Empower us to become a people and Nation worthy of the blessings You have showered upon us. Guide our lawmakers with Your wisdom, protection, and strength, using them to make our Nation and world better. Surround them with the shield of Your favor as You provide them with the wisdom to do what is right, just, and true.

We pray in Your sacred 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, September 11, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will observe a moment of silence to pay tribute to the thousands of Americans whose lives were taken on September 11, 2001.

(Moment of Silence.)

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2199, the Paycheck Fairness Act postcloture.

The filing deadline for first-degree amendments to S.J. Res. 19, the constitutional amendment on campaign finance reform, is 12 noon today and the second-degree amendments is 1 p.m.

We hope to move forward on the Paycheck Fairness Act and vote on cloture on the constitutional amendment early this afternoon. Senators will be notified when the votes are scheduled.

We remind everyone there is a briefing at 4 p.m. today. It will be in the Visitor Center in a classified room. We will be briefed on what is going on in the Middle East by administration officials.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 5078

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 5078 is due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for a second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5078) to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I would object to any further proceedings at this time on this matter.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am not sure everyone remembers where they were 13 years ago today, but most of us remember. The vast majority of us remember. Just a few feet from here in S–219 Senator Daschle had his usual Tuesday morning leadership meeting. I was assistant leader at the time. I was first to come into the room shortly before 9. About 9—maybe a minute or two after—Senator John Breaux from Louisiana walked in and said: Flip on the TV. Something is going on in New York. And we flipped on the television. Something had happened in one of the towers, like an airplane had hit one of those towers.

We said: What happened there? And we kind of looked at each other.

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

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People started coming into the room. The TV was turned off and the meeting was started. Just a short time thereafter—5, 6 minutes at the most, as I recall—someone came into the room and grabbed Senator Daschle, who was at the head of the table, took him out and came back in just a very brief minute and said: The building is being evacuated. We all have to leave. There is an airplane headed for the Capitol.

As we left that room, we could look out and see already the smoke billowing from the Pentagon. The airplane had struck the Pentagon.

Now that day was a day I will never forget—never forget. I was taken with Senator Daschle, Don Nickles, who was the Republican assistant leader, and Trent Lott, and we were flown to a classified location. We spent the day there with a number of people, including the Vice President of the United States.

Late in the evening we came back to the Capitol after having been cleared to come back. The Senators gathered on the Senate steps in the Capitol, Democrats and Republicans. We were gathering just to show we were supportive of this great country. BARBARA MIKULSKI, small in stature but powerful in soul, in every way, said so everyone could hear it: Let's sing ''God Bless America.''

I don't sing very often, but I sang that night. We all did. ''God bless America.'' We did it because we knew it was a day we would never forget. It was a day we wanted to show we were together as Members of Congress.

So as I have said already two or three times this morning, I don't want to ever forget that moment, that day, and I want to make sure we honor the heroes who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. The greatest memorial we have to offer the brave men and women who perished on 9/11, thousands of them, is to simply never forget.

TERRORISM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as I have indicated, 13 years since the evil attacks of September 11, terrorism continues to rear its ugly head throughout the world. As I speak, the terrorist group ISIS, like a scourge, is plaguing the Middle East. These radical Islamic terrorists are wreaking havoc in Iraq and Syria, butchering the innocent and instituting brutal edicts.

ISIS is a murderous, fanatical organization. It is evil in nature. They must be stopped, and they will be stopped. We will degrade and destroy them.

The Presiding Officer is a general who led hundreds and hundreds of troops to battle in the Middle East. We must honor our troops as indicated in the prayer this morning by our Chaplain because they are going to be called as they are through the air, as President Obama said last night, to do something to degrade and, working with others, to get rid of this scourge.

Last night President Obama delivered a stirring speech to the Nation outlining his blueprint for eradicating this threat without repeating mistakes of the past. We all know the mistakes about which I speak. The President made it clear: We will not rush into another ground war in the Middle East and we will not go it alone to destroy this evil. Instead, America will lead a coalition that includes European and Arab nations in a targeted, strategic mission to destroy ISIS. American air strikes will be supported by local forces that are trained by the U.S. military advisers and others who will assume the duties of defending and protecting their communities and homes. It falls upon us, Congress and the American people, to rally behind the President on his decisive strategy.

There are no ground troops—I repeat—and that is the way it should be. I am confident we will put our political differences aside and work together to give this administration the tools it needs to meet ISIS head-on—not the least of which is the authority to equip and train Syrian troops to fight these very bad—I repeat—evil terrorists.

However, it is disturbing that at a time such as this there are some in Congress taking cheap political shots at the President. Now is the time for us to come together. When tested, Americans have always closed ranks and engaged our adversaries as one united Nation. A matter such as this is no place for political posturing—political positioning. This is time for the rhetoric of campaign commercials to go away. We must draw together as a nation.

When President Bush called upon Congress to do something about the terrible economic crisis that hit this country, we joined together, we joined together as Democrats, Republicans, and Independents and took this head-on. This is the situation now. We must draw together and support the President in eradicating the evil of ISIS, not only for our Nation but the world.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Motion to Proceed to S. 2199, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 345, S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Mississippi.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I wish to make some comments about the remarks of our distinguished leader and to join him in calling on Senators to remember this day and historical experience of 9/11 and to commit this body to our best efforts to help ensure our political institutions and our country remain free and safe for all Americans to continue to enjoy the blessings of liberty, the opportunities of an economic system that is the envy of the world, and to commit ourselves to a new sense of responsibility as representatives of our States, to help ensure this is a reality and not just a hope.

We appreciate the remarks of the leader on this important occasion and ask all Senators to express their views as may be appropriate.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

9/11 TRIBUTE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday I joined Congressional leaders in awarding three Congressional Gold Medals to the memory of thousands of men and women who perished so tragically on this very day 13 years ago. Every American that morning bore witness to the terrible tragedy and suffering. But that was not all we witnessed. We also saw incredible acts of bravery and compassion and heroism. We saw it in a great city. We saw it on the edge of the Capitol. We heard about it high above the clouds. The sacrifices of those heroes of 9/11 inspired us then and they inspire us now. The memory of every man and woman who perished so tragically that day continues to serve as a unifying force for our Nation. We will never stop honoring them.

ISIL

Mr. President, the American people have a lot on their minds these days. Among their greatest concerns is the threat of ISIL, the brutal terror group that recently beheaded two American journalists. ISIL is growing stronger by the day and it is lethal. Every day we wait to confront them is a day they grow more deadly. I and others have called on the President to provide us with a comprehensive plan to defeat this menace. Last night, he described to the Nation what our military, intelligence, and diplomatic corps are doing to confront this threat, and outlined ways he will expand on existing operations.

Over the next week, following a series of briefings, Congress will work with the administration to ensure that our forces have the resources they need to carry out these missions. Specifically, the President set forth a near-

term concept of operations to enhance the defense of Baghdad and Kurdistan, a midterm plan for retaking Anbar Province and Mosul from ISIL, and a long-term plan to contain ISIL within Syria.

The defense of Baghdad will require an air campaign to strike ISIL and target them within Iraq and extending into Syria. The midterm plan requires a new train-and-equip program and an increased scale to return the Iraqi security forces to the fight at a higher degree of combat readiness.

The President also envisions an effort to regain the trust and cooperation of the Sunni tribes through a new territorial or national guard, the same tribes and friends we abandoned when we completely withdrew from Iraq. The President's long-term plan, which is now clear, will be a responsibility left to the next administration, will be an effort to field a viable indigenous ground combat component to defeat ISIL within Syria.

Today, the President's staff will begin briefing the Senate on what will be required of our Armed Forces and intelligence community to effectuate this indefinite campaign, which we now know will include a multiyear air war of attrition. My expectation is that the administration will explain how best to build a moderate Syrian opposition capable of defeating ISIL. I am hoping the Congress will consider what this new multiyear campaign will mean for the overall defense program, the need to modernize our military, to retain dominance of the air and sea in the Asia Pacific theatre, to revitalize NATO in the face of Russian aggression, and how to field additional force structure and combat power into the U.S. Pacific Command now that Europe and Central Command require additional tactical units and capabilities. Our Nation must also rebuild a nuclear triad.

That said, I am glad the President has brought a new focus to the effort against ISIL. He needs to take this responsibility head on. This Congress, the next Congress, and the next administration have serious work ahead as we consider this multiyear commitment and what it will take to defeat ISIL.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

One more point. Given the urgency of this situation, I have to say it is a little disconcerting to see the Democrat-led Senate focusing on things such as reducing free speech protections from the American people. At a time when the rest of the country is worried about the threat of ISIL, at a time when millions wonder how they are ever going to find a job in this awful economy, at a time when we find out the crushing Federal regulations have gotten so out of control that they now cost the economy more than $2 trillion a year, this is what they choose to make their top legislative priority this week, taking an eraser to the First Amendment?

Now they plan to devote almost all the remaining time between now and November to what Democrats like to call messaging bills. These are bills designed intentionally to fail so that Democrats can make campaign ads about them failing. Yesterday, Roll Call got hold of an email from a Democratic aide who let the truth slip without meaning to. His email said that Senate Democrats plan to either ''slam Republicans'' for blocking the latest designed-to-fail bill or slam Republicans for voting to go ahead and debate the bill. How cynical can that be? The email just confirmed what everybody already knew, that Senate Democrats have zero intention of passing the bill before us today. Passage of this bill would represent failure for them. All they want is fodder for campaign commercials. That is why they refuse to address the growing crisis at home and abroad. That is why they obstruct nearly every good bipartisan bill from the House of Representatives. They even bury bipartisan bills that would help create jobs and help struggling middle-class families.

It is long past time for the Democrats to get serious. We were lucky to get serious things done for the Americans who sent us here. We need to let the Senate start doing that kind of thing. A good start would be to take up the dozens, literally dozens, of bipartisan jobs bills the House of Representatives has already sent us. Let's send those to the President's desk ASAP. Let's help make it easier to put the American people back to work.

Let's take up other commonsense legislation, such as a bipartisan bill that just passed the House on Tuesday with the votes of dozens of Democrats. The bill, which is similar to legislation I have cosponsored, would stop the administration from implementing a so-called ''waters of the U.S.'' proposal that would allow it to regulate and fine almost every pothole and ditch in the country.

Passing this bill is critical to protecting the property rights of every American, especially farmers. One Kentucky farmer from Shelby County wrote me the other day to explain how the administration's heavyhanded regulation would affect him. He lamented that ''The White House clearly wants me to spend more time figuring out additional permitting requirements and less time growing food for American families.''

Let's work together to fix this problem along with the many other serious challenges facing our country. Let's address the threat of ISIL together. Let's pass serious jobs bills together. Let's take Senate Democrats' focus off saving the jobs of Democratic politicians and start focusing on the needs of the American people instead.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

9/11 TRIBUTE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today marks 13 years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. At that moment, I do not think Americans would have been surprised that we would still be dealing with that 13 years later. But in the 13 years that have passed, there have been moments when we wanted to hope this had passed from us, that somehow it was no longer a danger. But it is a danger today as it was a danger then.

We clearly should not forget those who lost their lives on 9/11. We continue and should continue to be grateful to our men and women in uniform. I appreciate the service the Presiding Officer provided to the country wearing that uniform. Intelligence professionals out there are doing what they are supposed to do. The first responder community is working diligently to be ready to respond in ways that keep us safe.

I remember well, as others do, one of the things we learned on 9/11 was that those first responders were not properly linked in a way that allowed them to communicate with each other as they generally now are able to. The response they had was probably adequate in Washington and New York, might not have been adequate in terms of capability in some other place. But even in Washington and New York, we found the firemen could not talk to the policemen and the policemen could not talk to other first responders. We have done a lot to try to close that gap in a way that further protects those who protect us.

As the President acknowledged in his speech to the country last night, there is no doubt that our Nation and freedom-seeking people everywhere still face a real threat from terrorist groups and from enemies who wish to do us harm, who cannot tolerate our ability to live together in a society where everybody does not have to be the same way, and everybody does not have to believe the same thing.

We are reminded on this date that just 2 years ago four Americans were killed during a terrorist attack on the American consulate in Benghazi. There is a new book out, ''13 Hours,'' that provides some additional firsthand accounts of what happened there.

It has also been surprising to me that we had that information available to us from the people who were there, and whether it was at the end of the first week or the end of the first year, we still had not heard much of that.

We are beginning to hear that in a way that once again clarifies that that was a planned attack in the ongoing efforts to destabilize the world and move it toward some extremist view of the way people need to conduct themselves. We have seen what has happened with ISIS, sometimes referred to as ISIL. Whatever they are referred to as, they have managed to get themselves in a more powerful position than any terrorist group ever, a true terrorist army with natural resources that produces income, with looting of banks and financial institutions that produce income, and maybe the most terrifying, with the people from our country fighting alongside them.

They have American passports and can return here. People in probably much higher numbers from European countries are fighting alongside these extremists and have access in ways they never had because they would be the homegrown terrorists—the terrorists who would have access to us in different ways that we have always been most concerned about.

These terrorists are clearly not a manageable problem. The President must show it, and he gave real commitment last night to the understanding that this is a group that cannot be allowed to continue to exist. This is a group that we have to destroy—their capacity, their ability to attack us and to impact our way of life.

I am hopeful that the President's resolve and his strategy will actually be sufficient in both cases to meet what was his stated commitment to destroy this extremist group.

As a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, the Armed Services Committee, and the Appropriations Committee, I am going to do everything I can to be sure those who serve us, our first responders who protect America, have the resources they need.

On this day we should remember—and on every day we should remember—the innocent victims, the first responders, and the families who lost so much on 9/11.

We also need to remember that it is the strength of our society that is what puts the biggest target on us. It is the ability of Americans to live together, the ability of Americans to respect other points of view, the ability of Americans to share those points of view with each other—understanding we could do that in a free society that puts that big target on the United States of America.

We are not a target of these extremist groups because of what we have done to them. We are a target of these extremist groups because of what we stand for. May we continue to stand and stand strong. We should always remember the price to be paid by individuals and families if terrorism is able to achieve its objectives, which is to scare us away from standing for freedom and standing for the kind of society in which we live. That is one of the things that certainly 9/11 every year brings back into focus as perhaps no other date does.

HEALTH CARE

I, as I am sure the Presiding Officer and others did, spent most of August and the early days September at home.

I continue to hear from Missourians about their concerns about the impact of the direction we are headed with health care. We are now at the 1-year anniversary at the end of this month of the launch of the exchanges last October 1.

The unpopularity of where we are headed continues to grow. Just 35 percent of the people who were polled by the monthly poll of the Kaiser Foundation released on Tuesday were supportive of the Affordable Care Act.

How could it possibly be that we are at year-end of this discussion and only have that level of support? Maybe it is not so surprising. Premium costs continue to go up. PricewaterhouseCoopers finds the average insurance premium for health care is going to rise by 8 percent this year. The President's goal was for families to be paying—in fact, his promised goal—$2,500 less. Instead of that, it seems they are paying $3,000 more. That is a very substantial missing of the mark; so no wonder they are concerned.

Healthcare.gov was supposed to have undergone many repairs but we learned just last week that at some point—and it is my understanding they are not exactly sure how much or when—there was a major breach into that system to find out information that people had put there. People trying to verify their personal information so they could continue to have the coverage they have is a challenge. People are trying to submit all kinds of documents—citizenship, immigration documents—in order to be able to keep their health care. Apparently it would be a huge imposition to prove who you are to vote but not a huge imposition to have to prove who you are to have government-assisted health care.

A new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services report offers the latest proof that there are problems by saying the combined effects of the affordable health care coverage expansion, faster economic growth, and an aging population are expected to fuel health spending growth this year and thereafter to where we are going to see 6 percent per year, according to the administration, from 2015 to 2023.

This is one of the things that happens when the government believes it can do things that people rightly—we need to find better ways for people to have more choices—do for themselves. Hopefully this discussion will continue in a way that solves these problems, creates more choices for people, more opportunities for them to have people to have the insurance they want, the coverage they want, and what they believe their family needs and can afford.

I hope we can get back to having that debate on a clear problem for millions of families in America today as opposed to having the debate we are having this week, which is, again, to do things that our friends in the majority know can't possibly happen.

We are here without a budget, without a single appropriations bill being passed, and without dealing with the problems the country knows we should deal with. We are again going to spend the last 2 weeks we are here before the election voting day after day on things that can't happen. The one thing we will have to do is one more stopgap effort to keep the government funded after October 1, since we haven't done any of the other work to set our priorities and say what our government should be doing and what we can afford to do beginning October 1 of this year.

It is a sad commentary on a Senate that is not working. I hope we all come back after the elections with a greater resolve to get back to the basics of how the Senate, the Congress, and the country are supposed to work.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, we gather here today in this remarkable place—a symbol of freedom and democracy for the whole world—to remember the tragic, horrific, unspeakable attacks of September 11, 2001, and we remember the innocent lives that were lost, the people of many different ages who worked to help the injured, brave heroes who have fought terrorism and extremism around the globe in the years since 9/11, and, of course, the victims themselves, many of them from Connecticut. This day has special meaning in Connecticut because it affects so directly and sadly the loved ones and families of people who sacrificed their lives as a result of that unimaginably cruel and brutal terrorist act. We remember them with pride. We remember their grace, civility, humanity, dedication to the public good, and their love for their families.

We have been striving since that terrible day to strengthen our Nation, to live proudly and unashamedly, consistently with our national values of peace, tolerance, and service. This effort requires commitment and sacrifice. It has required service at home and abroad from countless men and women who have served in uniform—our police, our firefighters, our first responders—believing that the best way we can honor the men and women who died on that day is to make America the best place it can possibly be. It is the greatest and strongest Nation in the history of the world, and it is so because people have always believed it can be made better, freer, stronger, braver. And that is what we have tried to do.

Today in the Senate, in the Committee on the Judiciary, I was proud to cosponsor and vote for a measure that will give those victims and their families some additional justice. The Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act will hold foreign sponsors of terrorism that target America accountable in U.S. courts.

Obstacles have been raised in our Federal courts, obstacles on procedural grounds and technical issues, most recently in a Second Circuit case, In re Terrorist Attacks of September 11,

2001, which, in my view, misread Federal law to provide immunity to the Saudi Government and entities that claim to be associated with the Saudi Government against the 9/11 victims' claims alleging its support for those attacks.

This new legislation will make clear that terrorism is unsupportable and must be held accountable in our U.S. courts. It will erase the immunity and the procedural obstacles that can be raised and make sure that sovereign immunity as a doctrine provides no safe harbor, no haven for terrorism when victims and their families seek to hold those terrorist sponsors as well as terrorist groups accountable for their horrific actions.

That measure was passed with the tremendous leadership and support of its two main cosponsors, Senators CORNYN and SCHUMER. I thank them for their work, as well as our chairman, Senator LEAHY, and ranking member, Senator GRASSLEY, for their willingness to move this matter on September 11, and say to the victims and their loved ones: We will hold accountable the wrongdoers, and we will make sure the courts of the United States are places where justice is provided against terrorism.

We can also make America a better place by giving more Americans a fair shot. A fair shot is what America promises to men and women who live here now and men and women who come here. A fair shot is part of our basic principled existence. The terrorists struck the World Trade Center and they hit the Pentagon, but they missed America. What makes America great is those principled values.

As we gather today, we should say thank you to the brave men and women in uniform. The Acting President pro tempore is one of them, and I thank him. I thank my two sons who have served, one in the Marine Corps Reserve, deployed to Afghanistan, another now in the Navy. The fact is that the burden of this longest war in our history has been borne by less than 1 percent of our population. We owe all of them and their families our thanks, and we can best say thanks by giving them and all Americans a fair shot at the American dream.

A FAIR SHOT

I have just returned from 5 weeks in Connecticut, where I had the opportunity to listen to concerns of my constituents. The people of Connecticut are proud of this country, but they are also concerned about the great disparities that exist. No one is looking for a free lunch. Nobody in Connecticut thinks there is a free lunch. But people believe in a fair shot and the chance to make a better life for themselves and their families. The present disparities are stark and dispiriting and daunting and, at the end of the day, unacceptable and deeply disturbing.

Our country has made important strides toward recovering from the economic crisis of 2008, but we are far from done. We are still very much a work in progress economically and socially. Unfortunately, as the Federal Reserve noted just last week, economic burdens continue to fall hardest on Americans who can least afford them.

The disparities in this country have a particularly severe effect on women. Today women make up 50 percent of college graduates, but in order to do so they take on an average $30,000 in debt, and they go on to work at places where they earn only 77 cents or 82 cents for every $1 paid to men.

When women are treated fairly, we are all treated fairly. When women are treated unfairly, we all suffer. When college graduates struggle under crushing loads of debt, our whole economy suffers and we are all poorer. These problems affect real people. There are real, attainable solutions available to us all.

I have participated in more than a dozen roundtables across the State of Connecticut, roundtables at colleges and universities where I have heard story after story from them—and also roundtables in high schools—about their struggles to stay on top of their debt. They understood, every one of them, that they were taking on a significant burden but not one that is insurmountable, not one that will cripple them financially for the rest of their lives.

I heard from Gillon, an honorably discharged Army veteran who is now studying law. He wrote to me to say:

> Despite having done everything that society tells us while growing up is the right thing to do, I'm still saddled with over $132,000 in federal school loan debt. My total monthly payments amount to nearly a third of my take-home salary each month, with no end in sight.

Dean, who has three children, earned a master's degree to try to move ahead in his career. A year after graduating, he is $55,000 in debt, and he is struggling to support his family even though he and his wife work four jobs between them—four jobs and he is struggling to make ends meet, to put a roof over his family's head.

Along with my friend and colleague Senator MURPHY, I met last week with Susan Herbst, the president of the University of Connecticut, and with a number of UConn students and recent graduates, on the campus. They shared with me how excited they are about the vast and limitless opportunities afforded them by this great university.

I sensed the excitement while I was there of this great campus, making me envious for the time they are spending there in studying and exploring the tremendous reaches of human knowledge, both practical and theoretical, and yet the difficulty of how affording a college education has constrained and constricted the professional climate beyond that campus. As heady and glorious as the days on campus may be, there is an overhang of doubt and debt that restricts the reach of their lives. It restricts the reach of our economy because it constricts consumer demand, it restricts the reach of their ambitions to start businesses, and families to buy homes, and to move ahead with their lives. And that is a problem for all of us.

There are ways for Congress to address this problem. We can pass the legislation I am pleased to cosponsor with Senator WARREN of Massachusetts which would allow borrowers to refinance student loan debt. We can pass Senator FRANKEN's legislation to ensure that debt obligations are explained in clear, comprehensible terms so students know what they are taking on. I am developing a proposal to improve the flexibility of loan forgiveness for students who pursue careers in public service such as teaching, public safety, or firefighting.

The current program requires students to work a full 10 years in these professions for any debt forgiveness. Any debt forgiveness hinges on those full 10 years. I believe shorter periods of work should allow for loan forgiveness in proportion to the time they spend on the job. There are ways to make public service a quicker and easier means for loan forgiveness.

There are other methods as well that we should pursue to enable college affordability. Paycheck fairness is basic to America. There is no reason that American women make only 77 cents per every dollar made by men. Male health care workers in Connecticut earn on average almost twice as much as women performing the same job. Men working in finance earn 61 percent more than women with the same position.

This shocking gap persists when controlled for education, experience, and other job-related factors. The data demonstrates unavoidably and inescapably that women make less than men in 97 percent of professions.

The event I attended in Connecticut, which was a meeting of the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, chaired by Antonia Moran, highlighted the shameful lag in women's compensation. Many women with college degrees told me about their personal struggles.

Lori Pelletier, the executive secretary-treasurer of the Connecticut AFL–CIO, explained how carefully crafted union contracts can often make a difference, but everyone agreed that better laws to address the problem are needed.

Fortunately, my distinguished colleague Senator MIKULSKI, who is here on the floor today, has introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act. It will bring into the 21st century, more than 50 years after the Equal Pay Act was signed by President Kennedy, the gap of full equality. It will improve the remedies available to victims of discrimination. It will prohibit employers from punishing workers who share salary information. It will require any differences in pay to be determined only by job-related factors. It will improve

training and education regarding how to take action against discrimination.

Pay equity is good for families, it is good for the economy, it is good for America, and it is a matter of fundamental fairness. I thank my colleague Senator MIKULSKI for her great work on this issue. I am proud to stand here with her today and with so many other colleagues, because it is basic to a fair shot in the United States of America.

I know American people are counting on all of us to help make America better, to keep faith with the great men and women who have served in our military around the world, who have served and sacrificed—the loved ones of 9/11 victims, of all the victims of terrorism who have perished since and before 9/11. To make America better is what we can do to keep faith with them. To give Americans a fair shot should be our mission today and every day. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Maryland.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I first thank the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, for his words on what the middle class is facing and his particular advocacy on behalf of women. It is well known and much appreciated.

I come to the floor today to talk about middle-class people who are trying to play by the rules. But before I do, on this auspicious day, September 11, 2014, I wish to pay my respects once again and express my heartfelt sympathy to the families of people who died on September 11 throughout this country—at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, in Pennsylvania—to the wonderful first responders who risked their lives and many themselves who perished, to those who were wounded or sick and bear the permanent burden of their response to that awful tragedy, and to the families of the loved ones who have to live with it every single day—who have an absent chair at Christmas or Thanksgiving, or Hanukkah, whatever faith holiday where families gather and remember.

The Nation cannot forget what happened that day and it cannot forget why it happened, and we cannot forget the people who were there and paid this terrible price of terrorism.

I express my sympathy, my condolences, to say one way we can honor them is to make sure we don't have another terrorist attack in the United States. But what they were doing that day is to believe in America, and that brings me to what I want to talk about today.

THE MIDDLE CLASS

Yes, people talk about when we are out on our break we are on vacation. But I have been moving around Maryland, and one of the things I see and hear that is so clear is that, No. 1, the middle class is worried whether it is going to stay middle class. Those who want to be middle class worry if there is going to be an opportunity ladder for them to achieve middle-class status, where they can earn a decent living, raise a family, and make a contribution to their community.

They are repeatedly told: If you work hard and go by the rules, you will do OK. They are becoming increasingly skeptical of that, because they feel the very rules of government work against them and the very climate of government stops any change to be able to help them. They either feel that we are irrelevant or we are working against them.

That is why they say: All we want is for America to be America again, where if you work hard, go by the rules, you can have a pretty good life and make a pretty good contribution to this great country of ours.

So when they talk about these issues and if you talk to the old-timers—particularly those who are facing families in long-term care—they worry about the very cruel rules of government that tell them to spend down their life savings until they are eligible for Medicaid; that if you worked hard and you saved, you are actually penalized for that—except for legislation I passed 25 years ago—that if they had gone and squandered their money, they would be better off and more eligible.

Then there are the young people who want to be able to go to school where they can make something of themselves and make America a better place to live.

I held student roundtables, along with my colleague Senator CARDIN. People talked to us about the careers they wanted. At Bowie State, four of the young people who were part of the roundtable want to go into nursing, both men as well as women. They think: I could help people. We have a nursing shortage in this country. Yet the very obstacle to them being able to afford to pay for their education will prohibit it.

Why is it that education is so expensive in this country when we look at tuition, books, fees? And then what is it that we do? First of all, we make sure that Pell grants aren't year-long. You can only go two semesters. But if you want to go during the summer to ace that class that you have to do for compliance purposes for graduation, or that especially hard class—you only want to take one class a semester—your government won't help you finish sooner or finish better. We won't help you. We can give tax break earmarks, but we can't give tax breaks or help there.

Then when they look at their student debt and the interest rates they carry, they ask me: Senator MIKULSKI, why is it that you can refinance a yacht but I can't refinance my student loan?

And I say: Well, you know, we are stuck on the motion to proceed, and we are two votes short of the filibuster; but then we will go backward if we do this.

They don't want to hear this parliamentary wonky stuff. What they want to hear is: We believe in them and we need them and we want them, and we are going to help them for what they believe we are going to help them achieve to be able to get a student loan. But underneath it all is that work should be worth it and work should be rewarded.

That brings me then to paycheck fairness. One of the other rules they feel is against them is: The rules are rigged against you if you want to fight for equal pay for equal work. If you want to fight for equal pay for equal work, you can be retaliated against, you can be humiliated, you can be harassed, you can be fired, simply because you are asking the person standing next to you at the water cooler or the computer printout machine: How much do you make? That simple question, how much do you make, can trigger a whole retaliatory effort against you. That is the rule, and all it is you want to know is what kind of dough the person next to you is making. This is why we once again are bringing up the Paycheck Fairness Act.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is to fill and close the loopholes that came about in the original Equal Pay Act. We have been at this for 50 years. When this fight started under Lyndon Johnson, women made almost 50 cents for every dollar men made—and after 50 years, gee, we are up to 77 cents per every dollar. And for Latino women, African-American women, other women of color, it is even worse.

People might say: Didn't you fix this when you did the Lilly Ledbetter bill? The Lilly Ledbetter bill that we did pass restored the law to where it was before the Supreme Court decision. This updates and strengthens it. What it does is it deals with this whole issue of retaliation. The Lilly Ledbetter bill did not address employers who are currently able to legally retaliate against workers who share salary information. This legislation stops employers from being able to sue or punish workers for comparing wages.

It also helps restore congressional intent. It makes sure that employers who claim that differences in pay based on any factor other than sex are dealt with. This legislation limits employers' ability to exploit this loophole by requiring that this defense can only be used when it is related to job performance and is necessary for business.

This bill creates a fair playing field, simply knowing what the next person earns and being able to work and to negotiate for equal pay for equal work. The Paycheck Fairness Act fixes the law to keep discrimination from happening. It would have helped keep Lilly from having to sue in the first place.

This bill puts an end to the incentives that cause employers to think that paying women less is just a cost of doing business. It gets rid of the secrecy that makes it harder to uncover pay differences. Why should pay be such a secret unless you are ashamed to say what it is? Why would you want to keep it a secret? Maybe it is because

you don't want to brag that you pay the men more than the women. Maybe you are too ashamed. Maybe you think it will lead you to an EEOC lawsuit. We want to end secrecy at the job place, where you know what the person next to you makes—you have a right to ask.

I have heard from women all over America and I have heard from men—men who work so hard, particularly for their daughters; men who have jobs they hate so their girls can go to school and have jobs they love. Men want equal pay for equal work. They want it for their spouses, they want it for their widowed mothers, and they want it for their daughters.

Listening to the cases—Donna Smith of Maryland's Eastern Shore worked as a retail clerk. She was told not to discuss her pay, but when she found out she was being paid less than a male cook and was doing the exact same job, she filed an EEOC complaint. And what happened? While she fought for her pay, they were fighting her with agitation and humiliation.

Latoya Weaver sent a letter to me. She is a single parent with three children, working in guest services at a hotel. She found out her pay of $8 an hour was $2 less than the males doing the same job. Two dollars when you are at bare minimum makes a pretty big difference. She filed an EEOC lawsuit. Although she only received compensatory damage because of the discrimination, the company's policy against discussing pay means it could happen again.

I could give example after example. I have been talking about this for a number of years. It is time. In the Senate, after all is said and done, more gets said than gets done. But this time, in the next 72 hours, we could actually vote to move the bill to the floor, to continue the debate and discussion and actually right the wrongs in equal pay for equal work. This is why American women want a fair shot. All they want is to be paid exactly the same—equal pay—as their male counterparts.

Mr. President, knowing of your own steadfast advocacy for the middle class in this country and an opportunity ladder in this country, we have to stop and make sure the rules government creates do not rig the game against people who are working hard and trying to play by the rules. The rules should work for the people and not for the government or for those who want to hold down wages or opportunities.

We are not going to accept women being paid less. We have paid attention to this problem, we've listened to the voices of the people, and we have a solution in the Paycheck Fairness Act. I look forward to working with my colleagues to see if there are amendments, whatever we could do to move this process forward. I would love a unanimous vote out of the Senate to have paycheck fairness finally in our lawbooks and in women's checkbooks. It's time to end pay inequity. It's time for Congress to act.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today is the 13th anniversary of 9/11, a day that will be burned in all of our collective memories. I remember two events like this in my lifetime—9/11 is one, and the other is when John F. Kennedy, our President, was assassinated. I remember where I was, what I was doing, and I remember the feeling of horror as the reality of both of those events became more clear. And I bet I am not alone. I bet there are Americans all around the country who remember where they were and what they were doing and what their first thoughts were when those planes hit the World Trade Center in New York, the first and then the second, only to learn there were other planes that were flying with terrorists who had other targets. Of course there was the Pentagon, where many Americans lost their lives, and then there was the plane that was brought down in Pennsylvania that I will talk about a little more.

This is one of the defining moments in our Nation's history, a day that proved that our love of country and our fellow Americans will always prevail. I remember the overwhelming sense of unity the American people felt when this tragedy unfolded, and it is entirely right that we did so.

Nearly 3000 Americans lost their lives on that day, many in an attempt to save others from harm. As usually happens in moments of tragedy, there were sparks or hints or bright lights of the triumph of the human spirit, people rising to the challenge, showing some of the very best qualities we exhibit as human beings.

Today we pause with heavy hearts to remember those we lost and pray to God that He will continue to comfort the families of those who still mourn. Thirteen years may seem like a long time to many of us who did not have the personal tragedy of losing somebody we were close to or a family member, but I am confident that for many who did lose family members and loved ones and friends, that 13 years seems like just yesterday.

We also continue to keep our military, our intelligence professionals, our law enforcement officials, first responders, and others who dedicated their lives to that fateful day in our thoughts and prayers because it is they who help keep us safe and who have helped us avoid a similar attack on our homeland over the last 13 years. None of them should ever for a moment doubt our gratitude.

I wasn't serving in this body when those attacks came on September 11, but, as I said, I remember exactly where I was. Like other Americans, I was at home in Austin, TX, preparing for work when I heard the terrible news. I remember my wife called my attention to it after the first plane hit the World Trade Center. I didn't actually see it. Of course I saw it time and time again as it was replayed. But I turned to the television set, as my wife called my attention to it just as the second plane hit, and we all wondered what in the world was happening. Then when the towers actually fell and as people jumped out of the towers to avoid, they hoped, their death—but, in fact, they did jump to their death—it was all too vivid and is still today.

We should never forget, and that is perhaps the most important lesson we should learn. We should never forget what happened on that terrible day. It is said that those who forget history are condemned to relive it, and I believe that to be true.

September 11 is a solemn reminder of what can be taken from us in the blink of an eye and why we must never waiver in our efforts to protect this great Nation and the freedom it embodies.

Two simple words were spoken that will be remembered in history as one of the most courageous and powerful phrases ever uttered, and of course I am referring to the words spoken by Todd Beamer aboard Flight 93. When they heard terrorists were in command of the controls of the airplane and perhaps heading to the Nation's Capital, perhaps to attack either the White House or Congress and to knock out large portions of the U.S. Government, Todd Beamer's response, along with other brave patriots, was ''Let's roll.'' They then attempted to overpower the terrorists in the cockpit. Those brave passengers on that flight did more than just save the lives of innocent Americans here in the Nation's Capital; absent their sacrifice, it is likely that flight would have claimed even more lives than just those on board.

The passengers on Flight 93, along with every American who died 13 years ago on September 11, were men and women with jobs, with families, and with dreams. I am sure that, like all of us, many of them made promises to their loved ones before they boarded that plane or left for work that day—promises to be home in time for dinner, to make a child's soccer game or birthday party. Some promises don't come cheap. Others cost us absolutely nothing. Others require that we risk everything we have and everything we are, even our very lives, to fulfill those promises. Their acts of courage offer us comfort even today and inspire every American as we have rebuilt from that terrible day 13 years ago.

The acts of courage displayed on 9/11 mark their last promise in a sense—a promise carried on to the Nation, to their children and other loved ones left behind; a promise that says the story of freedom will not end in the vile acts of evil men. It will endure and it will not be destroyed.

Early this morning I had the privilege of joining my colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee in approving an important piece of legislation called the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, which will now be eligible for movement across the floor. It is

appropriate that we pass that piece of legislation on the anniversary of 9/11.

By amending the current law to hold foreign sponsors of terrorism potentially liable in U.S. courts for acts that injure or kill Americans, this bill will allow the families of the victims of the attacks on 9/11 and others to proceed to court against those responsible for those horrific attacks that took place 13 years ago.

Part of the attack against international terrorism has to be to go against the money that finances it, and this will provide another tool for those families to attack those who fund and finance international terrorism.

This bill, not surprisingly, is strongly supported by the 9/11 family victims, and it would allow their litigation to proceed on its merits. I am hopeful it will receive the prompt consideration here on the Senate floor that it deserves.

Americans have always been deeply concerned about the kind of country and the kind of world we leave our children. As parents, that is what keeps us going some days. Of course, grandparents have other reasons to keep going and to keep fighting for a better world. This remains true both abroad and here at home in our own communities and in our schools and at work. We must continue to push on undeterred, always confident in the pursuit of our ultimate goal: a just, free, and peaceful world not just for ourselves but for our allies and for future generations. Part of that mission involves stopping evil at its source, running it down, and eliminating it for good because we learned another thing on 9/11: We can either take the fight to the source of the evil where it exists or we can defend here on the homeland. Speaking for myself and I am sure others, I want to go fight it at its source and not just defend on the homeland.

The minions of terror have shown their capacity for inhumanity. We have seen recent reminders of that with the beheading of two American journalists by ISIS. We must never underestimate the capacity and desire of these evil people to do so again and again.

We have recently been reminded of this, and last night the President spoke to the Nation's commitment to deal with this sort of horrific activity and dangerous and extreme ideology. As we adapt to new threats and new challenges, Americans must maintain a sense of vigilance, a sense of purpose, and a sense of moral clarity.

We must never forget why we fight, and we must always make sure that our brave men and women in uniform have what they need in order to take the fight to our Nation's enemies. The greatest honor we can give to those we lost is to live our lives worthy of their sacrifice, relish the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution, and ensure the promise that those freedoms shall not perish for future generations.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate very much the distinguished Senator from Texas for yielding the floor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the motion to proceed to S. 2199 be considered expired.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. All postcloture time has expired and the question occurs on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2199) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3800

Mr. REID. In regard to this, Mr. President, I have an amendment that is at the desk that I ask the clerk to report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. Reid] proposes an amendment numbered 3800.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 20, line 4, strike ''6 months'' and insert ''7 months''.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3801 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3800

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3801 to amendment No. 3800.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''7'' and insert ''8''.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3802

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit S. 2199 with instructions, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the bill to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 3802.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 20, line 4, strike ''6 months after the date of enactment'' and insert ''7 months after the date of enactment''.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3803

Mr. REID. I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3803 to the instructions to the motion to commit S. 2199.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''7 months'' and insert ''8 months.''

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3804 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3803

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3804 to amendment No. 3803.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''8'' and insert ''9''.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk that I ask the Presiding Officer to order reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Barbara A. Mikulski, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Maria Cantwell, Mazie K. Hirono, Kay R. Hagan, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Dianne Feinstein, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Barbara Boxer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to S.J. Res. 19 occur at 1:45 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Delaware.

WEST AFRICA

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, this is an uneasy time in our world. There is no shortage of crises that demand our attention and our action. The President called on us last night to step up to the very real challenge posed by the terrorist group ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Russian aggression against Ukraine demands our attention. A fragile ceasefire continues between Hamas and Gaza. There is the Central American exodus to our southern border that riveted the attention of many this summer; and there is continuing negotiations to seek an end to Iran's illicit nuclear weapons program.

Behind all of this there is another and equally important challenge I wanted to draw this body's attention to for a few minutes today—the spread of a quiet and vicious virus throughout West Africa. While the Nation's attention today for good reason is on remembering the tragic events of 9/11, and the President's strategy for combating ISIS today, I would like to speak to another urgent challenge to our country and world, and that is the need to dramatically increase our support as communities across West Africa struggle to confront and combat Ebola.

I met and have spoken with Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. She is a Nobel Prize winner and impressive leader who has brought her country back from a terrible civil war and was making huge progress toward the development of Liberia. I had the honor of meeting with her here and visiting her country. In my role as the chair of the African Affairs Subcommittee, I have met few others who have impressed me as much as President Johnson-Sirleaf.

Leaders throughout this region are doing everything they can to save lives, but in my most recent communications with President Johnson-Sirleaf it is clear that Ebola is rapidly getting beyond the capacity and ability of these communities and countries to contain it and to recover from it. They need our action.

Individuals on the ground from groups such as Doctors Without Borders and Samaritan's Purse have done remarkable, heroic, and extraordinary work by putting their own lives on the line to help others, and they have borne the overwhelming majority of the risks, service, and sacrifice so far.

The news has just been announced that the Gates Foundation will contribute $50 million to this fight, which is critical, as public funds alone will not be enough to end this crisis.

Our own people, through the U.S. Government, can and must do more. It need not be the role of the United States alone to resolve this problem, but it is our responsibility to stand side by side with those working tirelessly to stop it. It is our responsibility to not just lend a hand but to help lead in ways that only we can and to use our unique capabilities to address this crisis. If Ebola's spread reveals one thing it is that we are more interconnected today than we have ever been in our human history and that disease truly knows and respects no borders. We need to continue to act, not only because we are morally compelled to help the tens of thousands who are facing an immediate threat, but also because we have a direct stake in the resolution of this crisis.

This is a manageable public health crisis that we know how to solve, but doing so requires our focus, our attention, our resolve, and our resources, tools that only the United States has.

Let me briefly outline five specific steps I believe we should take now.

First, I think it is critical the United States has one leadership point—that the White House designate a coordinator to oversee the U.S. whole-of-government emergency response. There are many ways the United States is currently helping across many agencies from the Department of Defense to the Centers for Disease Control to the State Department and USAID. Those agencies are doing great work as part of the disaster assistance response team on the ground.

At a time when the U.S. Government is also facing and addressing crises in Iraq, Ukraine, and elsewhere, I think we need one organizer, one coordinator, one responsible figure addressing this crisis who is appointed by the White House to coordinate all of our resources and all the people necessary from the U.S. Government for this growing effort. President Obama should designate an official to manage our country's response both overseas and here in the United States, including preparing us for the remote chance this virus might reach American soil.

Our ambassadors on the ground in the three most affected countries are playing the primary role in coordination right now, and they are doing remarkable work, but I will remind my colleagues in this body that in Sierra Leone there is no currently confirmed U.S. Ambassador. The nominee, John Hoover, has been waiting almost 8 months to be confirmed. This is just one painful reminder that the dysfunction of this body has prevented us from confirming nominated ambassadors to dozens of countries around the world. To be effective we need to coordinate our U.S.-based and our field-based efforts through ambassadors on the ground.

Second, we must begin to deploy U.S. military support to the maximum extent possible. Let me be clear: I don't mean combat capabilities, I mean the unique logistical capabilities of the U.S. military, their ability to deploy through their logistical capabilities. We have resources that no other country can bring to bear as quickly and as successfully as we can.

I was encouraged to hear an announcement this past week from the administration that they plan to use our military to establish a new hospital facility in Liberia to distribute equipment, to provide infrastructure and transportation support. I will admit I am concerned it will take weeks to deploy.

On my visit to Liberia last August, I was struck at how poor and underdeveloped this nation of brave and inspiring people currently is and how paved roads and the ability to move at any speed rapidly ends just a few miles from the capital, and how strained the infrastructure and the public health systems are by this rapidly growing crisis.

This is not everything we can and should be doing. We need to build more field hospitals for civilians in Liberia and beyond so there are facilities for health workers and civilians fighting the disease. We also can and should provide airlift of supplies from private donors.

I have heard from organizations that have worked at the transportation facility and have donated supplies that can fill cargo plane after cargo plane, but they are having difficulty getting it from here to West Africa. We need to deepen our coordination with foreign militaries. Other Nations possess similar advance capabilities, as we do, and we will be able to combat this crisis more effectively if we all work together.

I appreciate Ghana's efforts and partnership as it allows us to use some of their facilities as an air bridge for logistics. As more air resources are poured into this fight against Ebola, we need other countries in the region to lend a similarly open hand.

My third point is directed to our private sector, to international organizations, to the American people, and to citizens of other developed nations. We need your support and your generosity and we need it now.

This is a letter that Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf sent to President Obama this week, and I wish to read from it briefly.

Mr. President, as you know, the outbreak has overwhelmed the containment and treatment measures we have attempted thus far.

Our already limited resources have been stretched to the breaking point and, up to now, only a private charity, Medecins Sans Frontiers, has responded robustly in all the affected countries. But they, too, have reached their limits.

My friend President Sirleaf is right: It is time for the rest of us to step up.

The World Health Organization has issued an Ebola Response Roadmap that calls for $490 million and more than 10,000 additional health workers, and we are far short of reaching those goals today.

So far the U.S. Government has contributed more than $100 million and has announced a commitment of another $88 million that we in this body will hopefully approve before we end this session.

The Gates Foundation, as I mentioned, has also made an impressive and incredible addition of $50 million, but the fact remains we need more.

I have heard from many in my State and across the country eager to give support. If you have the means, I urge you to go to usaid.gov/ebola for links to some of the impressive nongovernmental organizations that are doing what they can on the ground to stem this humanitarian crisis.

As much as this crisis needs money and equipment and supplies, it most importantly needs nurses and doctors, paramedics, and other medical professionals—literally thousands of them. The health systems of these countries, which were already among the least well resourced in the world, are overwhelmed, and so I am asking today for your help. We are asking for you to save lives. If you are a trained medical professional and willing to help, I urge you to please go to usaid.gov/ebola and consider how you might serve to help in this crisis.

Fourth, we need to develop and deploy a treatment and vaccine as rapidly as possible. Here is where in some ways America's unique gifts, our talents, and our strength in terms of the development and discovery of new pharmaceuticals, of new treatments, and of a new vaccine are a unique contribution we can make.

American scientists are making progress on both fronts, but the reality is it will be hard to confront and ultimately end this disease in the long term without either. Much of the $88 million President Obama has requested from Congress will go toward this most important goal. It is critical we support that funding in this Chamber on a bipartisan basis and prepare for the reality that this is only the first investment we will need to make to quickly develop and deploy these lifesaving drugs and these critically preventive vaccines.

Lastly, we need to invest in the governing and economic institutions in the countries that have been so devastated by this disease.

It is not a coincidence that this outbreak has emerged in countries with some of the weakest health care systems on Earth—countries that face severe shortages of health care workers, labs essential for testing and diagnosis, clinics and hospitals required for treatment, and the medical supplies and protective gear such as latex gloves and face masks that are commonly available in the United States but are now completely exhausted in the countries of Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia.

We know how to combat this disease with practices such as isolation, meticulous infection control, good public health and burial practices, case investigation, and contact training. But all of these things require trained personnel and many more resources than are currently available.

In the short term we absolutely can fill many of these gaps with the additional resources I have just outlined but we need to act quickly. In the long term we need to think more deeply about why investing in local health care systems and institutions in the developing world is so critical, why a little preventive investment can go a long way toward making the country more resilient in a crisis such as this.

As we act now to do what we must to stop Ebola, we also must consider the actions we can and should take together to prevent the next public health crisis.

To that end, yesterday I introduced a resolution in the Senate with my colleagues Senators MENENDEZ, FLAKE, DURBIN, and CORKER, outlining some of these very steps and recognizing the severe and real threat the Ebola outbreak poses to West Africa and, if not properly contained, to other regions across the globe.

Here is the bottom line: We have what it takes to halt the spread of Ebola in West Africa and to save tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of lives in the process. Unlike other foreign interventions, doing so will take neither bullets nor bombs but rather our willingness, our compassion, our generosity, and our determination to act. The lives of thousands and the stability of entire countries is at stake. It is my hope and prayer that we will rise to this occasion with everything we have.

ISIS STRATEGY

Mr. President, I have come to the floor this morning to speak about our military's critical mission to defeat and degrade the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, a terrorist organization that threatens the stability and security of tens of thousands across these two nations.

As we consider more deeply involving the U.S. military into a new combat mission, I am reminded of the brave young men and women who will carry out that mission with unparalleled courage and professionalism.

This past Saturday I had the opportunity to join hundreds of fellow Delawareans to welcome home and celebrate 70 men and women of the 3rd Battalion of the 238th Army National Guard Aviation Regiment who were returning from 1 year of service in Kuwait. Many of them were returning not just from one tour of duty but from what was their second or third deployment, having previously served in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Yet these volunteer citizen soldiers were and remain willing to continue serving. I have had the honor of knowing several current and former members of this unit, and my heart was heavy this weekend, thinking about how many more units such as these, how many soldiers and airmen and their families will be asked to continue serving in combat or in distant and difficult places supporting combat missions in the years ahead.

After more than a decade of conflict in the exactly 13 years since September 11, 2001, I know Americans are tired of war. I know we are weary of war. As the President spoke last night, it was clear he is as well, as am I.

But I would challenge my colleagues and my friends, as I challenge myself, that though we are weary, we cannot ignore the very real threats we face today. We cannot ignore the brutal events that have taken place in northwestern Iraq and in eastern Syria. We cannot ignore the threat that brutality poses to America and our allies. ISIS is a brutal terrorist organization. It has killed innocent Americans, such as the two brave journalists, James Foley and Steven Sotloff, whom they beheaded. Thousands of innocent Iraqis and Syrians have perished at their hands, and it will continue to do so unless the world comes together to stop it.

Let us not forget, one of the biggest reasons we first acted against ISIS militarily in Iraq this summer was to prevent the imminent genocide of a religious minority, the Yazidi people in Iraq. Images of tens of thousands of Yazidis and Christians who were being hounded and persecuted and threatened by ISIS and who then ultimately retreated to the top of a mountain I think transfixed the American people this August, and the action our President took and our military executed, to allow them to safely flee, encouraged all of us to know there are times and places when American military might can and should be used for good.

Just as the ISIS terrorists threaten the Yazidis, they too threaten the very survival of Christians, Kurds, Turkmen, and other ethnic and religious minorities in the region.

Last night, with my Republican colleague Senator KIRK, I cochaired the first meeting of the Senate Human Rights Caucus. We heard from representatives from Iraq's minority communities in a conversation that focused on ISIS's atrocities against innocent civilians simply because of who they are or how they worship. As we expand our campaign against ISIS, we must continue to engage with the people of Iraq and Syria and the region to learn from the past and continue to prevent massacres of innocent men, women, and children. ISIS is a group

bent on the destruction of all people, of whatever background or religion, who do not subscribe to their hateful ideology.

Our President is right. What makes the United States a global force for good is that we are still willing to do what is hard because we know it is right. That is the responsibility that comes from being a nation uniquely founded on principles of freedom, of liberty, of justice, and of having built one of the most capable and powerful militaries in the world, of being a nation and a people born of immigrants who came from all over this world and who remain connected to it and touched by the things that happen in the far reaches of our globe.

Last night President Obama addressed our Nation to make the case for expanding military action against ISIS. Already, sadly, today there are critics of his strategy, just as there have been over the past few weeks. In fact, in the 4 years I have served here, I have rarely seen a day in the Senate when the President isn't challenged, criticized, blocked, and harried by his opponents. There is always some way he could have acted more quickly or with more strength. Critics claim we would be better served by a sterner tone or a more eager finger on the trigger. I must say I was struck when former Vice President Cheney this past week criticized President Obama's restraint, as he has throughout President Obama's tenure. I remind my friends we can do better—we could do better—than to listen to the voices of those who misled this country into war in Iraq a decade ago, especially when it is clear they have learned none of the lessons of that tragic strategic blunder. Surely, as we consider carefully taking expanded military action now, we should applaud our President for proceeding with caution and humility.

Critical to our current strategy and what sets it apart from some past actions is this fact: We are not going alone. Seeking to lead a multilateral coalition is not leading from behind. It is not weakness. A muscular multilateralism is recognizing we are an indispensable nation, we are a leading nation, but we are not the only Nation that should take on and tackle the challenge ISIS presents. Much of the allure of ISIS is the illusion they have created that the Muslim world is at war with the West, when the truth is ISIS does not reflect or represent Islam and ISIS has killed more Muslims than any other people. The President's strategy of building a broad coalition of support, including across the Arab and Muslim world, is crucial to our success.

This is not just an American problem, it is a regional and global problem, and it will not be solved without the hard work of those living in the communities and countries most at risk, most affected, most harmed by ISIS.

We cannot and should not do this alone. That is the only way this works. It is a critical reason I support the President's strategy for expanded action.

Central to this strategy's success is our military action as well as diplomatic resources and pressure. Let's remember one of the reasons this has even happened is because of the abject failure of Prime Minister Maliki and his Iraqi Government to act in a pluralistic, inclusive way, as he had pledged he would, and has instead acted more as a Shia warlord over the last few years, sewing the seeds of dissent and of disconnection with his Sunni citizens that created the very vacuum into which ISIS has charged.

That is why this administration's diplomatic efforts to build an inclusive Iraqi Government—to demand an inclusive Iraqi Government—have been so important. We cannot defeat ISIS without Iraqis working hand in hand on the ground, and that requires a united Iraq whose future every Iraqi has a stake in preserving.

As we deepen our involvement, it is also necessary that we broaden our strategy. The fact is we cannot defeat ISIS by attacking it in Iraq alone. As we hit ISIS from the air, we also need to be cognizant of the fact that most of its strength and support is in Syria and that the boundary line dividing Iraq from Syria is today on the ground largely a fiction. So we need in Syria a strong and a moderate and an armed and a trained Syrian opposition ready, willing, and able to fight ISIS on the ground.

The President referred last night to our successful counterterrorism strategy in several places in the world. Let me, as the cochair of the African Affairs Subcommittee, briefly mention ways in which this strategy in Syria is similar to what our strategy has been in Somalia in combating al-Shabaab, a deadly Al Qaeda affiliate, which has governed, ruled, and terrorized much of Somalia over the past decade. There has been a similar strategy to the one articulated last night, where the United States has combined training, equipment, logistics, and tactical support with an African ground force drawn from Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, where those troops have done the hard work of retaking and holding territory while the Somali Government and security forces get reestablished.

In the case of Syria, Saudi Arabia has just stepped up and agreed to provide the facilities, the funding, and the space to train and equip Syrian coalition fighters.

In Congress, we must act swiftly and decisively to support that training and equipment mission that the President has asked us to support by granting our President the authority and funding he needs.

Air strikes could happen soon, and we cannot make the mistake of taking out ISIS while giving Bashar al-Assad, the dictator who still terrorizes Syria, the opportunity to rush in. By helping build a cohesive, trained, and equipped moderate Syrian opposition, we can help prevent the expansion of ISIS and the Assad regime.

In the long run, in Syria and in Iraq, it is Syrians—moderate Syrians—who must retake their country from ISIS and undertake the very difficult and daunting challenge of rebuilding a stable and inclusive and hopefully someday peaceful society, after decades of dictatorship and more than 3 years of a withering civil war. The United States and Syria's neighbors and the entire international community need to be invested and engaged to help them along this difficult path.

We need to be direct with the American people. This is not going to be easy and it is not going to be swift. We must ensure our military has the resources it needs to carry out this mission. As President Obama said last night, the lives of brave American pilots and servicemembers will be put at risk. But we must also be clear. In their courage and service, they will be part of an important effort to eradicate from this Earth one of the greatest threats currently walking the planet.

Last night President Obama asked for the support of the American people as our Armed Forces and our partners begin in combination to carry out this mission. Let me say, he has mine. I am committed to working with my colleagues as later today all Senators attend a classified briefing, an update on ISIS, and as next week committees in this Senate hear testimony from Secretary of State Kerry and Secretary of Defense Hagel. I am committed to working with my colleagues and with Chairman MENENDEZ on the Foreign Relations Committee to review, consider, draft, and approve an authorization for the use of military force when submitted to us by the President that gives Congress an appropriate role in oversight and the President the authorization he needs.

We need to do everything we can together to ensure that ISIS will be stopped. It has already shown itself, demonstrating its capability to commit unspeakable crimes. If left unchecked, these terrorists will spread their reach beyond our ability to stop them. We cannot let that happen. As my colleagues discuss and debate this mission, I only ask that we leave the politics of the moment out of it. With an election soon upon us, the temptation is strong to use every opportunity to achieve any short-term partisan advantage. But this is too important. Too much is at stake.

Today all over this country we call to mind and honor the sacrifices of Americans who served and those who lost their lives 13 years ago today. We must consider this new mission with the utmost gravity, humility, and caution. I am eager then to work with my colleagues here in the Senate and with the administration in a bipartisan way as we move forward to take on the difficult task of defeating ISIS and strengthening the forces of inclusion

and moderation in Iraq and Syria. I urge my colleagues to work together to support this mission every step of the way.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN.) The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Montana.

SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR AMERICAN VETERANS ACT

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I rise today to remember September 11, 2001.

We all know the changes that came out of that terrible day. I watched the events unfold with my colleagues at the Montana National Guard, and we all knew it would change the course of America's long-term military strategy. That is what I want to talk about today, the victories, the consequences, and the true costs of sending America's men and women to defend our country.

In the 13 years that have passed since that awful day, we have experienced more tragedy and adversity. What hasn't changed is how as a nation we triumph over adversity. Throughout our history, Americans have united to face our biggest challenges.

Past and present, the need to work together to support each other, to lift each other, and to inspire each other is what makes the United States a nation that triumphs over adversity.

Our Nation is not living up to the promises we made to the men and women we sent to war following the attacks of 13 years ago. The President and Congress have stepped up to provide more direction and more resources to the VA and to the Defense Department. We are addressing the unacceptable waiting times, and we have taken steps to improve the services our veterans have earned.

But when it comes to the health care of our Nation's veterans, we still have a long way to go. Twenty-two veterans die each day by suicide. Let me say that again. Twenty-two veterans die each day by suicide. It is simply intolerable. Imagine. If 22 servicemembers were dying each day on the battlefield, our Nation would act.

Too many veterans have returned to their homes, to their families, to their communities changed people. They are suffering from the unseen wounds of war: PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and post-concussion syndrome. As the only Member of this body who has fought in Iraq, I can state these unseen wounds are real.

Our Nation's veterans and their families are crying out for help. They are suffering, many of them in silence and isolation, and we must provide them with the support they have earned from the grateful Nation they fought to protect.

One of the first bills I introduced when I came to the Senate was the Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, the SAV Act. With the partnership from the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the bill now has bipartisan support in the Senate and a companion bipartisan bill in the House.

Veterans who suffer from unseen wounds of war need access to specialized mental health care in order to be properly treated. In Montana, many veterans live in rural or frontier areas where access to mental health care means long journeys and long wait times.

In August, President Obama unveiled an important Executive order to tackle the challenge of helping our Nation's veterans better adjust to civilian life so that no veteran ever feels as if they are left alone. The President's action was a win for veterans and their families. This action included several elements of the SAV Act, including better standardization between the Department of Defense and the VA with regard to prescription medication, improved health record sharing between agencies, greater training to identify veterans at risk of suicide, a new focus on recruiting more mental health care providers to help our veterans and servicemembers, and important accountability measures to track the success of the VA's mental health care programs.

Recently, Secretary Hagel announced that the Department of Defense will more fully consider service-related PTSD when evaluating a veteran's petition to upgrade his or her discharge status.

All of these are the right steps in the right direction. But even with the President's important actions, there is still more we need to do to prevent suicide among our veterans. One essential component of the SAV Act addresses the need to extend combat eligibility.

PTSD can take years to manifest. We owe it to the men and women who return from combat to give them more time to come forward to receive treatment. Under this bill, veterans who have returned from conflicts can seek treatment for PTSD up to 15 years after returning home. I am committed to lengthening this eligibility time, which is currently only 5 years.

The SAV Act would also require the review of wrongful discharges for troops who struggle with mental health issues. Behavioral health issues are often caused by invisible wounds, and troops who have service-connected mental health problems may have been discharged incorrectly or cut off from the benefits and support they need to heal.

As we observe National Suicide Prevention Week and the horrific events of 9/11, we must remember our men and women who served our Nation so honorably. We must remember the sacrifice they made to defend us, and for many of them the sacrifices they continue to make after their return to civilian life. Our veterans deserve our support and we have a responsibility as a country to provide it.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in the fight to live up to the promises this country has made to our veterans.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask to be recognized to speak as in morning business for such time as I may consume and engage in a colloquy with my colleague from South Carolina, Senator GRAHAM.

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

ISIS

Mr. MCCAIN. Today, Senator GRAHAM and I, on the 13th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001—this anniversary—sadly, and unfortunately, we cannot agree and we cannot say, as President Obama did last night, that America is safer.

In fact, in many respects, America is in more danger than at any time since the end of the Cold War. We look around the world at the challenges, the aggression, the provocations, and the continued slaughter of innocent Ukrainians.

It is a classic example of what happens when the United States of America decides to withdraw from the world and create a vacuum. That vacuum is filled by the forces of evil, innocents throughout the world suffer, and America's security is threatened.

So I strongly disagree—and I believe that most objective observers would strongly disagree—with the President's assertion last night that America is safer. By no objective measurement is America safer. In fact, when we look at Twitter and Facebook, we will see that ISIS is threatening the United States of America and urging others to come to the United States of America and attack the United States of America.

Yesterday, from a hearing before the Department of Homeland Security, it was very clear that our border is not secure. That is a recipe for at least attempts by those of ISIS who have dedicated themselves to the destruction of the United States of America to be made possible.

Mr. Baghdadi, the head of ISIS, was once a resident in the U.S.-run prison camp in Iraq called Camp Bucca. He spent 4 years there and then left. On his way out he said to his American captures: ''I'll see you guys in New York.'' I am not making that up. He said: ''I'll see you guys in New York.'' The leader of ISIS, Mr. Baghdadi's message has been: Attack and destroy the United States of America.

So, no, Mr. President, America is not safer. In fact, because of a feckless foreign policy, America is in greater danger than it has been, in some respects, in my lifetime—not in all but in some.

The fact is the President of the United States sees ISIS as some kind of terrorist organization. It is not. ISIS is a terrorist army. ISIS has the largest area in history of wealth, of military equipment and capability than of any terrorist organization in history, and they spread in an area larger than the size of the State of Indiana.

I would like to say the President got some things right in his speech on ISIS. He seems to have read the op-ed piece my colleague Senator GRAHAM and I wrote in the New York Times 2 weeks ago because he adopted most of our proposals—most but not all.

The President compared his plan to the counterterrorism approach he has taken in Somalia and Yemen. It is so disturbing to think that a strategy against ISIS would be the same as against Al Qaeda in Somalia and Yemen. There are terrorist organizations in Somalia and Yemen and, yes, we have been killing with drones, but we have by no means defeated them.

To compare what ISIS has done and the slaughter that ISIS is carrying out to the terrorist organizations in Somalia and Yemen reflects a fundamental misunderstanding on the part of the President of the United States of the threat that we face.

The problem also is that even Al Qaeda has not been defeated in those countries. The President says he wants to degrade and defeat the way they are attacking Al Qaeda in Yemen and Somalia—but they are not defeated.

So what the President proposed last night can possibly, if done correctly, degrade ISIS, but it can't destroy ISIS. And we must destroy ISIS. Sooner or later, according to our heads of intelligence—whether it be the Director of the CIA or the Director of the FBI or the Secretary of Homeland Security—they want to attack the United States. Their goal is to attack the United States of America.

So let's start with what the President got right. He described the right goal: to degrade and to ultimately destroy ISIS. He called for expanding air strikes, to go on offense against ISIS. He explained the need to hit ISIS both in Iraq and Syria. He called for training and arming moderate Syrian opposition forces, and he described elements of a comprehensive strategy—diplomatic, economic, and military—all of which Senator GRAHAM and I have long championed.

He talked about the formation of a coalition—his Secretary of State has said he wanted as many as 40 nations. So far there are 9, and the interesting thing is there is not a single Middle Eastern country that has joined this so-called coalition.

Why is that? Is it because they are not afraid of ISIS? Of course they are afraid of ISIS. But they don't trust the United States of America. I hear that directly from leaders all over the Middle East.

They don't trust us because of the President's bungling, incredibly bad decision after he once said that if Syria crossed certain reds lines and used chemical weapons, then we would respond. They crossed that line. He then said we were going to respond, and then, after a 45-minute walk with his chief of staff, he announced to the world that we were not going to strike; he was going to Congress, knowing full well he would not get that permission from Congress. That nuance was lost on countries in the Middle East that were prepared to join us with air strikes into Syria.

So it is not surprising. It is not surprising at all that so far the President and his Secretary of State have been unable to convince any of these Middle Eastern countries—and we need them. We need them very badly.

One of the main things the President didn't say and should have said is that he recognizes he made a mistake. Every President has made mistakes. Certainly George W. Bush did in Iraq. He at least had the courage to fire his Secretary of Defense and adopt the surge which basically stabilized Iraq. It had stabilized Iraq—before we made the decision not to do so.

Every one of the President's military advisers—the smartest people that any of us know: General Petraeus, General Keen, General Allen—I could go down the list—argued strenuously for leaving a residual force behind. The President of the United States decided not to. Now we are trying to rewrite history and say: Well, the President really wanted to.

Find me one statement the President of the United States made publicly that he wanted to leave a residual force behind, and I can find you 50 where he bragged about the last combat troop had left Iraq and we had left a safe, stable, prosperous Iraq behind—a lot of howlers about how well we had done in Iraq.

If we had left a residual force, the situation in Iraq would not be where it is today, which allowed Iraqi security forces to weaken, squandered our influence in Iraq, and harmed our ability to check Prime Minister Maliki's worst instincts.

Then there is his failure to support and arm the Free Syrian Army 2 years ago. I have been in Syria. I know how brave these people are. I know how disappointed they were when we failed to arm and equip them.

Two years ago, his entire national security team—including his Secretary of State, Secretary Clinton—strongly urged the President of the United States to arm, train, and equip the Free Syrian Army. The President of the United States turned them down. The President of the United States overruled the unanimous opinion of his national security team. That, my friends, was a huge impact—again giving rise to ISIS, giving Bashar al-Assad the ability and capability to slaughter innocent Syrians.

It breaks my heart that 192,000 Syrians have been massacred by Bashar al-Assad. He continues to drop these barrel bombs which are horrible killers.

Bashar al-Assad continues to have 150,000 Syrians dying in his prison camps.

I wish every American could see those pictures that were smuggled out of the tortured, killed, and starved-to-death Syrians—192,000 of them. We could have turned that around 2 years ago.

Then 3 years ago was when the President of the United States said: It is not a matter of whether Bashar al-Assad is leaving. It is a matter of when. He also said 3 years ago: It is time for Bashar Assad to leave.

Yet Bashar Assad today continues to slaughter innocent men, women, and children. Millions of refugees have fled the country. The horrors of this butchering continue, and what changed?

One aspect that changed the battlefield equation, when the President of the United States said it is not a matter of if but when, was when Iran—which some now are asking us to work with—sent in Hezbollah—5,000 of them from Lebanon—and it changed the momentum on the battlefield.

Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and I were called over to the White House. We went in to meet the President, after the President had said that he was going to strike Syria. We sat there, and the President looked us in the eye and he said, I want to do three things: degrade Bashar Assad, upgrade the Free Syrian Army, and change the battlefield equation.

Senator GRAHAM and I, taking his word for it, went out in the driveway and said: We are backing the President of the United States.

Several days later, without being notified, we were stunned to read that the President had changed his mind. He had not told us the truth in the Oval Office. That is a unique experience for me, where I have been in the Oval Office under many Presidents.

I am confident the steps the President laid out last night can degrade ISIS. But that is not sufficient to protect our people. We need Special Forces and advisers on the ground.

The President continues to say there will be no boots on the ground. There are 1,700 boots on the ground right now. There will be more boots on the ground, but they won't be in the form of combat units. If we are really going to defeat ISIS, we are going to need close air support, forward air controllers, intelligence capability, Special Forces, and many others. We will soon have more than 1,500 there, and there will have to be more.

Tell the American people the truth, Mr. President. Those young men and women are going there, they are going to be in harm's way, and they are going to be exposed to combat. Tell the

American people the truth. We need to do a lot more.

I wish to mention one other aspect before I turn to my friend from South Carolina, who was with me in 2008 at a townhall meeting.

A man stood up at the town hall meeting and said: Senator MCCAIN, how long are we going to be in Iraq?

I said: We may be in Iraq for a long, long time because although we have sustained this situation and we have stabilized it—that was after the surge had been implemented and succeeded—it is very fragile. We are going to have to leave a residual force behind—as we did in Japan, in Germany, Korea, Bosnia, where we have left residual forces behind for the sake of stability.

Well, in case any of my colleagues have forgotten, I was pilloried: MCCAIN wants to stay in Iraq.

Yes, I wanted a residual force in Iraq—not to engage in combat but to provide stability, intelligence, and other capabilities. Now we know what happened when we left Iraq. Now we know the consequences.

I hope all those people who called me all of the names which I am not going to repeat here will render an apology, because I was right. I said that if we left Iraq completely, then we risked the great danger of it deteriorating.

I say to my colleagues, the situation today didn't have to be this way. None of the challenges we now face in Iraq and Syria had to be this dire. The rise of ISIS did not have to happen. We have lost too much time and missed too many opportunities. But we can still defeat our terrorist enemies, and we must protect our people and our partners and secure our national interests in the Middle East.

The President's plan, if he implements it—if he understands that this is not Yemen and Somalia, if he understands that this is a direct threat to the United States of America, if he comes to Congress and asks for—not welcomes, but asks for—debate and amendments and votes that show the American people's representatives will support them in this effort, then I think we have a chance of succeeding. But I have to tell my colleagues I am not very optimistic from the start I saw last night.

I would like to yield to my colleague from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you. If I may, this is the anniversary of 9/11. Thirteen years ago on this date our country was attacked by radical Islamists who don't want your car, they don't want your bank account, they don't want your television. They are not criminals. They want to destroy your way of life. And the sooner we come to grips with the fact that there are people like this still out there, the better off we will be.

It is hard for the average American to understand why people think this way. I can't explain it. I have been to the Mideast more times than I can count, and I promise you there are plenty of devout Muslims who worship according to the Muslim faith, the Islamic faith, who would have plenty of places for me and you to reside in this world without fear. There are plenty of people—the vast majority of people of that faith we could live with in peace. But there is a strain called radical Islam that would kill every moderate Muslim, kill every Christian, destroy the State of Israel, and would kill as many of us as they could if somebody doesn't stop them.

Thirteen years ago close to 3,000 Americans were killed in the attacks on our country by the bin Laden group. The only reason it was close to 3,000 and not 3 million is because they couldn't get the weapons to kill 3 million of us. If they could, they would.

So what do we do? We have to keep them away from those weapons. We have to keep the war over there so it doesn't come back here. And we need allies. I am here to tell you that contrary to what I hear in my own party, most people in Syria have two things in common: They don't like Assad and they sure don't like ISIL. If you don't believe that about Syria, you really don't know much about Syria.

This whole enterprise in Syria started when people demanded to be free from the dictator. Our lack of attention in not responding to the needs of those Syrians who would have defeated Assad and lived in peace with us has cost us greatly.

Three years ago Senator MCCAIN said: It is in our national security interest to side with the Free Syrian Army to get rid of Assad because he is the guy who helped kill Americans during the Iraq war. He is the guy who is cozy with Iran.

We had them on the ropes. The Free Syrian Army was about to beat Assad, and then in came 3,000 to 5,000 Hezbollah fighters—Iranian-inspired militia from Lebanon—and the Russians doubled down, we withdrew our support, and the army eventually collapsed. That happened simultaneously with a decision by President Obama—President Obama's decision to withdraw all of our troops from Iraq. We disengaged from Iraq. We had no presence there, and the rest is history.

About the speech last night, what bothered me the most was the way it started. The President tried to tell us that as a nation we are safer today than we have ever been. Do you believe that? I don't. There are more terrorist organizations with more money, more capability, and more weapons to attack our homeland than existed before 9/11. We are not safer than we were before 9/11, and that is an unfortunate fact.

The President also said this operation against ISIL will be like other CT—counterterrorism—operations over the last 5 or 6 years. No, it will not. This is not a small group of people running around with AK–47s; this is a full-blown army. They were going to defeat the Kurdish Peshmerga—a pretty tough fighting group—if we hadn't intervened. To underestimate how hard this will be will bite us.

Mr. President, please square. Be honest with the American people about what we face. Somebody has to beat this army. This is not a small group of terrorists. They have howitzers, they have tanks, and they are flush with money. They are getting fighters from all over the world. But they can and will be defeated, and they must be defeated.

To the family members who remember this as the day their lives were turned upside down, you will always be in my thoughts and prayers, like everybody else in the country. This is a day for most of us to remember with sadness, and it is a hurtful day, but if it were one of your family members who lost their life that day, it would be the day your life was turned upside down.

There are four other Americans who died on September 11 whom I won't forget—Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Ty Woods, and Glen Doherty. They died 2 years ago in Benghazi. I am not going to forget them or their families, and we are going to get to the bottom of what happened in Benghazi. That is my commitment to you.

How do we move forward?

Mr. President, if you need my blessing to destroy ISIL, you have it. If you need to follow them to the gates of hell, I will send you a note—go for it. If you need Congress to authorize your actions, let me know. You say you don't. I agree with you, but if it makes us stronger for this body to vote in support of your plan to destroy ISIL, I will give you my vote. But here is what I expect in return: your full commitment to me.

I am tired of half measures. I am tired of misleading the American people about what we face. There is no way in hell we are going to beat these guys without an American ground component in Iraq and Syria. There is not a force in the Mideast that can take these guys on and win without substantial American help. We don't need the 82nd Airborne, but we are going to need thousands of troops over time on the ground holding the hands of the Arab armies that are going to do the fighting along with the Syrians to make sure we will win.

One thing I can promise the American people: If we take ISIL on and lose, we will unlock the gates of hell, and hell will come our way.

This is the last best chance to get this right, Mr. President. You made plenty of mistakes, and so have I, and so has Senator MCCAIN.

And Senator MCCAIN, nobody is going to apologize to you. I think they should, but they are not. I am not looking for anybody to apologize. We have all made mistakes. This is the time to do some soul-searching as a nation. You and I can do some soul-searching.

Those who have not seen the threat for what it is, all I ask of you is to be willing to embrace reality.

All I am asking of President Obama is to do what President Bush did: Change your tactics and your strategy because it is not working.

Senator MCCAIN and I went to the White House during the Bush years, and we told President Bush: This is not a few dead-enders, Mr. President. It is not working in Iraq. You don't have enough troops. And if we don't change course, you are going to lose the country.

To his credit, he went from training and advising the Iraqi Army to a full-blown counterinsurgency strategy, taking the fight to the enemy in the surge led by GEN David Petraeus, and it did work. That was an admission by President Bush that he had gotten it wrong and he had to change course.

Every President and every Senator makes mistakes. History judges you not by the mistakes you make but by what you learn from them.

Here is what I ask of the President: Quit caveating everything. Look the enemy in the eye and say, ''We will destroy you'' and stop. Look the American people in the eye and say, ''We have to win. We will win. And I will do what is necessary to win.'' Come to the Congress and say, ''We are in this together.''

The American military is tired, but they are not too tired to defend this country. If you had a bunch of them in front of you and you asked them to follow you—''Would you go to Iraq and Syria to fight ISIL?''—they would say ''Send me tomorrow'' because they know what these people will do to the rest of us. Why do they serve over and over again? Why do they go to Iraq three and four times, Afghanistan three and four times? They have seen the enemy up close. They know what comes our way if we lose.

So this is the day to reflect as a nation. I am so sorry that 13 years after 9/11 we are having to deal with greater threats than before 9/11. Fifty years from now, long after I am gone, there is going to be an American soldier somewhere in Africa or the Middle East helping indigenous populations fight radical Islam. But over time, just as sure as I am standing here, radical Islam will fall because—here is the truth—what they are selling, most people don't want to buy. They don't have the capacity yet by themselves to stand and stare these people down.

As to Americans who are frustrated with the pace of democracy in the Mideast and who believe those people can't do this, all I ask you to do is to pick up an American history book. Within the first 100 years of our country, we were at war with Canada and Mexico. Within the first 100 years of our country, we were at war with ourselves, and it started in my State.

This is not easy. It is not easy to this day. To expect people who have lived under brutal dictatorships and had their society divided and destroyed for decades to get to where we are in 12 or 13 years is unrealistic.

Here is the hope for me. There is good news. There is plenty of will throughout the world to stand up to radical Islam. Our goal is to provide capacity to that will. Sometimes it will be with American soldiers; sometimes it will be clean drinking water; a small health care clinic that you wouldn't send your child to for 5 minutes that will save lives in Africa; a small schoolhouse where a young girl can get an education. If we are not willing to do these things over there, they will come here.

Mr. MCCAIN. If my colleague will yield for one question.

Mr. GRAHAM. Absolutely.

Mr. MCCAIN. I note the presence of our colleague from California, so I will make it short.

Last night I had an exchange with the former spokesperson for the White House, and again this issue came up and the assertion, the incredible assertion that it was the Iraqis who did not want to leave a residual force behind—a statement that continues to amaze me, that anyone would believe such a thing, particularly given the circumstances which the Iraqis were left under, including—by the way, every single one of our military leaders urged that we leave a residual force behind, and many of them, such as General Keen, General Petraeus, and others, predicted what would happen if we pulled everybody out.

I wonder if for the record the Senator from South Carolina would relate the experience we had in Iraq and our personal experience with regard to the issue of residual force behind.

Mr. GRAHAM. I remember getting a phone call from then-Secretary Clinton asking me and Senator MCCAIN and Senator LEVIN to go to Iraq and see if we could intervene and help the Iraqis make a decision about a residual force because we thought it was in our interest.

President Obama has always looked at this issue as fulfilling a campaign promise. He got the answer he wanted, which was zero. The military told him we needed some people, but he really was intent on ending the war in Iraq.

Here is the problem: Without a residual force, we have lost everything we fought for. When we met with Barzani, Allawi, and Malaki, I was convinced they were willing to accept an American follow-on force; we just had to put it on the table in a way that it mattered.

When we were talking to Malaki, they said: Senator GRAHAM, how many troops are we talking about?

I turned to General Austin and our then-Ambassador Jeffrey and said: How many?

He said: We are still working on that.

We went from 18,000 recommended by General Austin—the last time I got a number from the White House, it was below 3,000. This cascading downward from 18,000 to below 3,000 was not because the Iraqis said it was too many; it was because the White House couldn't pick a number because they didn't want to stay. It is about as accurate to say the Iraqis didn't want us to stay as it is to say the President never called ISIS a JV team. The President did, but he is trying to rewrite that statement because it looks pretty naive.

Look forward. Let's beat on the Republicans for a minute. The Republican Party—the party of Ronald Reagan—embraced sequestration. For those who don't know what I am talking about, it is a budget proposal that will gut our military over the next decade. We have the smallest Army since 1940, the smallest Navy since 1950, and the smallest Air Force in modern history. Republicans embraced that concept.

If we want to defeat ISIL, we better change sequestration because we are about to gut the military at the time we need it most. There is plenty of blame to go around here.

Here is the key for me: We as a nation have one last chance to get this right.

I will make the same offer to President Obama that I made to President Bush: If you come up with a strategy that makes sense and you are understanding and learning from your mistakes, as I try to learn from mine, I will be there with you.

There was not much help coming from our friends on the other side when Iraq was bad. Bush got absolutely no support when his mistakes came back to haunt him. I will not make that mistake.

The mistakes President Obama has made are real, and they have to be corrected. If the President will correct them, I will stand with him no matter what the polls show about troops on the ground. And I know how the President stands with South Carolinians—not very well. It is not about the President; it is not about this Senator; it is about us.

So on this September 11 anniversary, I make an offer to my Commander in Chief, Barack Obama: If you will destroy ISIL and mean it, you will have an ally in Senator MCCAIN and Senator GRAHAM.

I yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 3 minutes, followed by Senator MERKLEY, who will speak for 8 minutes, followed by Senator VITTER, who will speak for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE WAR ON TERROR

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I watched every word of the President's address to the Nation last night, and I have this to say to him: Thank you for your clarity. Thank you for taking the time you needed to put the pieces together so that we don't march into another Iraq war.

When I hear my colleagues—cheerleaders for the war in Iraq who told us

it would be over in 6 months—come down here and try to lecture this President on how to deal with ISIL, I get the chills. When I watch Dick Cheney come up here to talk to House Republicans and lecture them about how they had it right—had it right? They couldn't have had it more wrong. Because we know that the tragedy of 9/11—and as we revere the heroes and mourn the loss of those on that horrific day—was an attack by Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda. It wasn't Iraq and Saddam Hussein.

Our then-President Bush turned around—he could have had the whole world in his hand—but instead marches into Iraq. Thank the Lord I voted no on that. I voted yes to going after bin Laden and no to going into Iraq.

All those sunny predictions—of the war being only 6 months, and they will have democracy, and we will get the oil and the money, and the rest—turned out to be the worst foreign policy disaster. These same people who backed that war now come down here and tell the President: Look me in the eye and tell me you want to do exactly what I want to do.

Well, Mr. President, since they addressed you, I want to address you. First, I thank you for taking your time in putting together a winning strategy to defeat ISIL. We have to. We cannot sit by and watch a group with tens of thousands of members who are vicious and trained—some foreign, some I believe from this country—go around and behead people who won't convert. They want territory. They want to make their own state. We have to stop them with the world, with combat boots that are combat boots of those in the region, such as we are seeing in Iraq, and we will see in Syria if we give the President the funds he wants to train the moderate Syrians.

Here is the deal from me: We are going to go after ISIL, we are going to do it with a coalition of the world, we are not going to have a drumbeat of going back into the Iraq war. This is a counterterrorism mission, and I voted for that when I voted to go after Osama bin Laden. I believe the President has this authority.

I also have no problem with voting to put my feelings right there and I would be happy to take that vote. But beware of the people here who were the cheerleaders of the Iraq war who want to get this President to now say he is going to put combat boots on the ground. That is the wrong recipe. We already learned that. There are 4,000 dead Americans and tens of thousands wounded.

Let's do this the right way and the way the President laid it out—with a coalition. Let's not make any of the same mistakes.

So, Mr. President, please keep on track—and Secretary Kerry—and keep building that coalition. We already have nine nations and NATO and the Arab League, and we are going to get the U.N. That is the way to go.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor to Senator MERKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. I rise to address an issue affecting millions of families across America, and that is our rising student loan debt and the impact it is having on the vision of opportunity for every single American. As college students return to campus this fall, they are thinking about their hopes and dreams for the future, but increasingly, they are also thinking about how that future might be constrained by the debt load they will carry by the time they graduate.

Education is the key to the pathway for the American dream. When I was young, my father took me to the schoolhouse doors and he said: ''Those are the doors to opportunity. If you study hard, you can do or be just about anything here in America.''

My father was a millwright, a mechanic who keeps the sawmill operating. The vision he had for America and the vision that I have for America is that every child should have the opportunity to thrive whether you are the son and daughter of a CEO or you are the son and daughter of a millwright. But the cost of college and the consequential student loan debt is diminishing, degrading, and destroying that vision.

I was the first in my family to go to college. I never dreamed I would have the chance to end up in this esteemed Chamber fighting for the vision of the American dream, but throughout my service in the Senate, that is exactly what I will do. It is the heart of what our Nation is about. It is the ''We, the People's'' vision, not the few and powerful's vision, but the ''We, the People's'' vision of our Constitution, that everyone should have the opportunity to thrive.

Today we are competing in a national and world economy that is much more knowledge based. It is a global knowledge economy, and we have to be able to compete, and that often means a path to career technical education and a path to college. But for too many young folks today, the doors to college are looking a little less like doors to opportunity and a little more like trapdoors. They see those doors and they are not sure they see opportunity and mobility. They are concerned they see a lifetime of unaffordable and inescapable debt.

I live in a blue-collar community, and I hear this all the time—parents wrestling with whether their children should incur the debt necessary to go to college, knowing that debt might be the size of a home mortgage and will be hung around their neck like a millstone and that possibly their monthly wages will not even be enough to pay the loan payments. The prospect of a high level of debt and low level of pay has parents sending a different message to their children—not the message my parents gave to me, that everyone has the opportunity to thrive in America, even from our blue-collar community. They are sending the message to their kids that the path of opportunity is being diminished by the enormous debt load and cost of college.

This situation is unacceptable. It is a threat to the future of our children, and it is certainly a threat to our economy. The economies that thrive in the world are the ones where the students have the education to compete in the global economy, and that is certainly destroying the aspirational vision of America—the American dream. There is a lot we can do to take on this challenge. We are not helpless in this effort. We must control the galloping costs and galloping inflation of tuition. We need to invest more in our community colleges because it is the most cost-effective portion of our higher education system. We need to enhance the bridges between our community colleges and our 4-year colleges and our high schools. We need to make sure students have the opportunity to get some college credit in high school through AP classes, the cheapest possible place to get that credit, and that gives them a step up in their route to college so they can see that vision and that path.

We should explore new models of financing, such as the pay-it-forward model, that would eliminate the fears students have between high debt and low pay. When Pell grants are not enough, when the job you carry at college is not enough, when tuition is too high and students of modest means still need loans, then those loans should be at the minimum possible interest rate.

Loans should never be viewed, as they have been by my colleagues across the aisle, as a source of profit to the U.S. Government. That vision is the wrong vision for America. That is why I so strongly support Senator WARREN's proposal that our students get the same low interest rate on their student loans that our big banks get when they borrow money from the Federal Reserve.

Moreover, we should enable every American to refinance their student loans, taking advantage of today's low interest rates.

In my home State of Oregon, there are 500,000 folks with student loans, many of them at high interest rates. These students would benefit enormously from being able to refinance. Just as you can refinance a mortgage or refinance a car, they should be able to refinance those loans, and not only would that help those individuals a lot—500,000 people in a State of about 3.7 million, which is a lot of people—but the additional purchasing power they have would enable them to contribute to the economy and raise everyone up, making them more likely to buy a house, for example.

Did you know that for the first time we have a situation where those young adults 25 through 30 who have gone to college and have graduated are less likely to own a home than are high

school graduates? The reason is simple: They are burdened by massive student debt that doesn't give them the credit standing and income necessary to buy a home. That shows how much is wrong.

So those individuals on this floor who are trapped in the few and powerful vision of America and have forgotten the first three words of the Constitution—that we are fighting so we can enable every child to thrive—they need to rethink their position. They need to quit blocking the bill that would allow every student to refinance their student loan.

Forty percent of graduates with student loans have delayed making a major purchase such as a car, 25 percent have put off continuing their education or moved in with relatives to save money. In other words, this is not an imaginary problem. This is extraordinary. It is real, and it is having a dramatic impact.

Let us give a fair shot for every child to thrive. Let us let every parent say to their children with confidence: If you go through the doors of the schoolhouse and work hard, you can do just about anything here in America.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S.J. RES. 19 AMENDMENT

Mr. VITTER. We have a significant proposal. It is a constitutional amendment to rewrite the First Amendment to the Constitution, the first portion of the Bill of Rights, and it would fundamentally alter and take away certain free speech rights of millions upon millions of Americans—not a few, not a few ultrawealthy, but many Americans.

I have a real problem with that. I think it is misguided. Instead, I think we should focus on other proposals and other provisions that can address what we all see and feel and hear from our constituents. They see a huge gap between Washington and the real world, Washington and Main Street U.S.A.

It is also unfortunate that this is, I believe, the first time in Senate history that we are debating a constitutional amendment on the floor of the Senate with no opportunity so far—zero opportunity of floor amendments. That is unheard of, and that is unfortunate.

That is why I wish to bring up two proposed floor amendments that I will strongly support that go to the real problem in America—Washington placing itself up here, separate and apart, higher than the American people in the real world.

The first idea was a floor amendment offered by my colleague TOM COBURN of Oklahoma. I strongly support it. I have the leading bill regarding this proposal in the Senate—term limits for Members of Congress. I believe this is a significant step, but it is one, unfortunately, necessary and long overdue because of the separation I have described between Washington and the real world. Americans of all political parties, all backgrounds, all races think that Washington is on a different planet and Members of Congress just don't get it because they come here and ''go Washington.'' We need to get back to the best traditions of our democracy, which include having true citizen legislators, to come here, to serve, to represent their constituents, yes, but for a limited period of time, knowing absolutely they are returning home after significant but limited service.

I strongly support Senator COBURN's amendment. I strongly support the same provisions in my stand-alone bill. I urge Senator REID to again open the floor of the Senate. Let's have the process the Founders intended. Don't be the first U.S. Senate leader in history to shut down all amendments under a constitutional amendment under debate on the floor.

The second proposal, which is a floor amendment I have at the desk, also goes to the same concern of Washington living on a different planet than real-world Americans, and it has to do with what I call the Washington exemption from ObamaCare. In the ObamaCare statute, we actually passed, through an amendment on the floor—through being able to pass a floor amendment—language that says every Member of Congress and all of our staff should be treated as all other Americans are treated, who are forced to go to the so-called exchanges. We will go to the exchanges for our health care—no special deal, no special exemption, no special subsidy, no special carve-out. Unfortunately, after that floor amendment passed, after the overall bill passed, I guess some folks took NANCY PELOSI's advice that we have to pass the bill in order to read it.

So after the fact, some folks around here started to read it and they got to that provision and they said, Oh, you-know-what; how are we going to deal with this? So a furious lobbying campaign began which resulted in President Obama issuing an Executive order—a special rule which is clearly illegal, in my opinion, because it is contrary to the statute—to create special treatment, a special carve-out, a special subsidy for Members of Congress and our staff. That is not right. We should live by that original language passed right here on the Senate floor in a floor amendment.

We should say, The first rule of American democracy should be that what Washington passes on America, it lives with itself, and we should treat ourselves the same way as we treat other Americans who have to go to the exchanges under ObamaCare. That should be the first rule of American democracy: What we pass for America, we live with ourselves, because that is the right thing to do. That is the right principle. Also, for a very practical reason: Because sometimes the chefs in the kitchen should eat their own cooking, but sometimes that makes the cooking get a whole lot better. It is a very practical rule to follow.

I urge support for this proposal and I urge an open amendment process and a real debate which, unfortunately, heretofore has been completely shut down. I urge consideration of this amendment. I urge us to place ourselves along with everyday Americans in how we are treated under ObamaCare and everything else. I urge full debate and consideration of the measure, and then passage of it.

To further that, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of S.J. Res. 19, that it be in order for my amendment No. 3786 to be called up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Reserving the right to object, the Senate has heard the reasons for these objections before, but the fact is that staff and Senators are covered by the exact same plan that is offered under the exchange to millions of Americans. It works just as it has always worked before for employees here in the Senate, and, frankly, for millions of employees in the private sector. Senate employees, House employees pay their premiums and the employer picks up the employer share—no different than it has always been before.

Specifically, the law doesn't allow for any employees here to take advantage of the tax credits that are available to many other Americans.

This is, of course, just another attempt to undermine the law that is, by every available metric, working. The uninsurance rate in this country is plummeting. Health care inflation is at a record low—

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I think there was an objection to my unanimous consent request, and I wish to reclaim the floor.

Mr. MURPHY. Outcomes are getting better, and for that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, reclaiming the floor, as the Senator knows, it is simply not true that we are being treated on the exchange as other Americans are treated. That is flat out not true. No other American at our income level is getting the huge subsidy that Members of Congress are getting—I am not accepting it—but that Members of Congress are getting under the President's illegal rule. No other American in our country, no other American gets that deal, and that was nowhere mentioned and nowhere included in the amendment we passed on this topic during the ObamaCare debate. So what the Senator says is just flat out misleading. If he wants to truly be treated as other Americans are treated under the exchange, absolutely. That is what I am asking for. But don't pretend that

present practice does that. It does exactly the opposite.

The American people are sick and tired of it. The American people are sick and tired of being put down as second class and Congress and Washington lifting itself up as above them. That is a fundamental thing that is wrong with American democracy today. That is what my amendment goes to with regard to treatment under ObamaCare. That is what Senator COBURN's amendment goes to with regard to term limits for Members of Congress.

Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor, and 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. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Mr. LEE. Madam President, September 11 should always be a day when we both remember those who were tragically lost on this day in 2001 and simultaneously reaffirm our solemn resolve to our country to keep America free, to keep America strong.

I rise today for a third time in opposition to S.J. Res. 19, the majority's Orwellian attempt to amend the Bill of Rights to permit the government to decide who is allowed to speak about political matters.

Make no mistake, this is an attack on the First Amendment's single most important protection. Under our Constitution, the government never gets to be the arbiter of permissible political debate—never, not ever. That is something we decided and we finally resolved back in 1791. Of all the things the government might do, it should never, it may never, it can never be the arbiter of what constitutes permissible political speech, of who gets to criticize the government, and how. That can never happen—not in our land, not in this free land, not ever.

Yet, under this proposed constitutional amendment, the one that is being debated on the floor of the Senate right now, S.J. Res. 19, Congress and the States would be given the power not just to become this kind of arbiter, not just to regulate this kind of speech, but to potentially prohibit churches, civic associations, labor unions, and even the ACLU from speaking about political matters. That is a shocking proposal, repugnant to our traditions, dangerous to our liberty, and utterly ineffective in combating corruption.

But what is even more shocking, quite frankly, is the manner in which an amendment to our Constitution has been debated on the floor of the Senate this week.

We have to remember our Founding Fathers painstakingly debated and discussed and crafted the text of the Constitution in Philadelphia for nearly 4 months. What we know today is the Bill of Rights was not even in James Madison's first draft. The first Congress extensively debated it. It eliminated objectionable parts, changed the language to better reflect Congress's consensus, and ultimately passed it and sent it out to the States for ratification. What we have seen this week, by contrast, is nothing like that. The majority leader has refused to permit any amendments to be introduced or considered or voted upon by this body—any amendments to S.J. Res. 19. Its language is not up for discussion, nor, in truth, is it really up for debate. In fact, ironically, many of the same people who have signed their names to this legislation, who have cosponsored it, who have supported it, have refused even to come to the floor to speak about it. In fact, some of those same people have been openly critical of the fact that the Senate is devoting time to debating this constitutional amendment, which would be the first time we have ever made a change to the First Amendment, or to the Bill of Rights, since 1791.

The American people should be offended that the majority thinks this is how changes to the U.S. Constitution should be discussed by the people's elected representatives in Washington. But watching the Senate this week has been a useful lesson. The majority says Congress can be trusted somehow to impose ''reasonable'' limits and ''reasonable'' restrictions on political debate, on core political activity. Look no further than this debate occurring on the floor of this legislative body to see what the majority thinks reasonable debate looks like. What it looks like here is a take-it-or-leave-it vote with no opportunity to provide amendments, no opportunity for discussion about the intricate details of this proposal.

There was very little discussion. One of the reasons I find this distressing in this particular circumstance is we are talking about what it is that enables the American people to remain in charge of their own form of government, of their own system of laws that affects their livelihood and will affect their day-to-day operations.

When we tinker with the processes that allow the American people to remain in control of their own government, we are playing with fire. Under this proposed amendment, if it were somehow to pass by a two-thirds supermajority out of this body, if it were somehow to pass by a two-thirds supermajority out of the House of Representatives, if it were somehow to be ratified by three-fourths of the States, and if it were to become say the 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, it would dramatically change the balance of power, not between America's two leading political parties, not between one State versus another State but between Washington, DC, and the American people.

Under this amendment, if it were to become part of the U.S. Constitution, Congress could have the power to set up a system of rules that would restrict many Americans and their ability to influence the political debate process. Under this proposed amendment, there is of course a carve-out that says it is there to protect freedom of the press. So presumably someone who owns a newspaper could still devote a lot of money, thousands of dollars, tens of thousands of dollars, maybe millions or even tens of millions of dollars, to promoting the candidate of her choice; that is, if she is fortunate to own a newspaper company.

But if the owner of a newspaper company could do that, why not someone who chooses not to own a newspaper company or more likely cannot afford a newspaper company but wants to enter into a contract with a newspaper company to run the political advertisement. Why should someone's ability to promote the candidate of her choice be restricted and limited on the basis of whether she owns a newspaper company? It should not and nor should the American people be prohibited from entering into voluntary associations.

Most Americans are not wealthy enough to own a newspaper company or a radio broadcasting company or a television broadcasting company, but many Americans, let's say thousands or tens of thousands at a time, could pool their resources, each of them contributing what money they choose to devote to political debate and discussion in order to promote the candidates of their choice.

Why should they lack that opportunity, the same opportunity the owner of a newspaper company has, simply because they cannot afford to own a newspaper company or a broadcast company? The fact is they should not.

The fact is there are many unanswered questions about this proposed constitutional amendment, but all of those questions relate back to how we debate issues. If the manner in which this proposed constitutional amendment is presented is any indication about what this constitutional amendment would do to debate in American society, it signals caution. It signals to us that a chill wind blows if this is the direction in which we are looking.

You see, when the power of government expands, it does so at the expense of individual freedom. When the power of government expands within the area of political speech, that is perhaps where the danger is at its greatest. That is perhaps where it comes at the greatest cost to the individual liberties of Americans because that affects not just their liberties but also their ability to control their own liberties in the future.

Because if they lack the capacity to decide who is in Washington representing them, making decisions that will dictate the future of their government, then they lack the ability to

make these changes. That is where the threat to liberty is at its greatest. That is why we should be so concerned about S.J. Res. 19. It is important for us to remember we are creative Americans not because of who we are but because of what we do. We have set in motion a sequence of events. We have adopted a Constitution, a rule book that has itself fostered the development of the greatest civilization and the strongest economy the world has ever known.

This is not because we are great so much as it is because we have made good choices. We have made good choices that delineate the proper boundaries of government. We decided what belongs to the people and what belongs to the government. Where there are appropriate actions to be taken by the government, we also set out a series of rules that decided which government may do which things. This transgresses those boundaries. This would undertake a critical breach into that realm which distinctively, unavoidably belongs to the people and not to the government.

Speech is sacred. The freedom of the press is sacred. We must never allow them to be trifled with. We must never allow them to be tampered with. We must never allow them to be weakened. This would weaken them. This is what the majority would have political debate in America look like. Here we are moments before casting a critical vote on a constitutional amendment that could forever change the political dynamics of this country that have made us strong. Yet I find myself speaking to an empty Chamber. The American people deserve better. The American people can expect more out of their government. The American people can expect freedom. This is incompatible with freedom. I would encourage each of my colleagues to oppose S.J. Res. 19, just as they would oppose any other effort to intrude on the sacred rights of the American people to express their political views, whether they be Republicans or Democrats or belong to some other political party.

Whether they be liberals or conservatives or whether they would describe their political ideology in some other way, this is an issue that is simply an American issue. This is an issue that is simply about freedom. The American people today will choose freedom. I hope and I pray they always will.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I have heard from many Vermonters concerned about the threat posed to our democracy by recent Supreme Court decisions that have eviscerated our campaign finance laws. Just as opponents of campaign finance reform in the past described a parade of horribles that would occur if we strengthened campaign finance protections, today we again hear those exaggerations from the other side of the aisle. Some Republicans have falsely asserted that this resolution would somehow repeal the First Amendment and would even result in the banning of books. That is pure hyperbole.

Restoring the role that Congress and the States have traditionally had to set reasonable limits on how much a corporation or a millionaire can spend to influence an election is simply not the equivalent of prohibiting an individual from speaking out on a candidate. The constitutional amendment before the Senate does not ban or proscribe anything. It restores the ability of future States or Congresses to set reasonable limits if they decide to act but of course those limits would be guided by the American peoples' desire for such laws.

Over the course of this debate, we have heard Senators talking as if the First Amendment is absolute. Most Americans can see right through this. They know that the First Amendment does not protect child pornography; or obscenity; or statements that incite imminent lawless action; or defamation or slander; or speech integral to criminal conduct; or fraudulent speech or perjury. And they know that the First Amendment is not violated when laws restrict even political speech by regulating the reasonable time, place, and manner of demonstrations or protests. The idea that any future law on campaign contributions and expenditures that has an incidental effect on speech somehow renders it the equivalent of censorship is just not a serious argument.

The Framers of our fundamental charter anticipated that it would need to be amended from time to time. The story of our how our Constitution has been amended over the years is a reflection on our democracy. It is a story of inclusion and expansion of our representative democracy. The 14th and 15th Amendments, for example, guaranteed equal protection of the law for all Americans, and ensured that all Americans have the right to vote regardless of their race. The 17th Amendment gave Americans the right to directly elect their representatives in Congress in the wake of concerns that corporations were corrupting state legislatures to choose Senators beholden to them. The 19th Amendment's expansion of the right to vote to women and the 26th Amendment's extension of the vote to young people made ours an even more representative democracy.

Those who oppose the amendment before us have made some outlandish claims. One of them was that we cannot consider this amendment because in their view it would be the first time that changes were made to the Bill of Rights. What is interesting is that opponents to previous constitutional amendments also claimed that they should not be adopted because they impacted the Bill of Rights. In the June hearing that I chaired before the Judiciary Committee, Professor Jamie Raskin testified that ''the people have been forced to amend the Constitution multiple times to reverse reactionary decisions of the Supreme Court that freeze into place the constitutional property rights and political privileges of the powerful against the powerless.'' The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, stripping the absolute individual ''property rights'' that white slave masters had enjoyed under the Fifth Amendment as found by the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott decision in 1857. Similarly, Section 4 of the 14th Amendment completely blocked and made illegal any future compensation of slave masters for the confiscation of their vested ''property rights'' in their slaves. Not only did the 14th Amendment strip slave masters of their ''property,'' it also made it impossible for them to seek restitution under the Fifth Amendment. Opponents to the 13th and 14th Amendments felt that their rights, granted by the Bill of Rights, were being undermined but history showed that those Amendments were necessary to move this great Nation toward a more perfect union. The amendment before the Senate would restore the First Amendment. It would not repeal it. It would, however, overturn several Supreme Court decisions that have distorted the First Amendment. If we fail to do so, many of us are concerned that corruption will flourish and our democracy will be distorted away from the needs of hard working Americans.

Millions of Americans have called on Congress to restore the First Amendment so that our democracy will be protected against corruption and so that everyone's voices can be heard in our democratic process. I have served in the Senate for almost 40 years and as chairman of the Judiciary Committee for nearly 10. It is a rare moment for this Senator to acknowledge that the threat to our democracy is so significant that it warrants an amendment to our Constitution. I applaud the Vermonters who have taken action on this issue. I urge my fellow Senators to join me in voting for cloture and passage of this important constitutional amendment.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, there is almost no measure Congress should consider more carefully than a proposal to amend the Constitution of the United States. Such amendments are reserved only for issues that relate to the foundations of our great American experiment.

The value of each American vote is one such issue. Our system of government depends on this basic principle, that every American, whether they are rich or poor, weak or strong, whether they were born in Michigan or Mississippi, has an equal voice in the selection of their elected representatives. Time and again, Congress has amended our Constitution to protect this principle.

But recently, a succession of Supreme Court rulings has unleashed a tide of unlimited and secret special-interest money into our elections. This

unregulated money drowns the voices of the public. It threatens to transform our government of the people, by the people, and for the people into one of campaign donors, by campaign donors, and for campaign donors. That is not democracy, and it is not America.

That is why I support this amendment to the Constitution concerning contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections. This amendment would allow Congress to do what we have always done, and what our Founders intended us to do: take action to protect the integrity of our Nation's government and electoral processes.

Posterity vindicates the moments in our Nation's history when Congress simply did what was right. We honor those who voted to ensure that the right to vote cannot be denied based on race, color, previous condition of servitude or gender. We honor those who voted to ensure that a poll tax could never again prohibit an American from voting for their own representatives. I urge my colleagues to act in this tradition, to simply do what is right, and to join me in supporting this proposed amendment to the Constitution.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, we have had an important debate this week. A debate about bringing sanity back to our elections. I want to thank all of my colleagues who have joined this fight. And I want to thank the millions of Americans, regardless of party, who stand behind us.

Over 150 years ago, Abraham Lincoln saw the danger of too much money in politics. Lincoln warned about ''corruption in high places . . . until the Republic is destroyed.''

Changing the Constitution is a big step. As James Madison said, it should be amended only on ''great and extraordinary occasions.'' I agree; but I also believe we have reached one of those rare occasions. The Supreme Court put up a ''for sale'' sign on our elections. On the foundation of our democracy. It is wrong. It is dangerous. It cannot stand.

Amending the Constitution can take a long time. The 19th amendment was first introduced in 1878. Opponents called it impractical, and immoral, for daring to give women the right to vote. It took more than 40 years to pass. But its proponents did not give up, and they eventually prevailed.

Today's vote is a step forward in that long process. One more step toward restoring our democracy. We will keep pushing until this amendment is reality.

But that will take the support of my Republican colleagues. I was disappointed that none of them voted in support of our amendment today, as it has a bipartisan history. Some of them have cosponsored and voted for similar amendments in the past, before the Supreme Court's Citizens United and McCutcheon decisions destroyed many of the bipartisan campaign finance laws that took years to pass.

Some of them said this was just an election-year stunt. But that ignores reality. This movement started decades ago—by a Republican. Many of our predecessors from both parties understood the danger. They knew the corrosive effect that money from sources across the political spectrum has on our electoral system. They spent years championing the cause.

In 1983—the 98th Congress—Senator Ted Stevens, a Republican icon from Alaska, introduced a constitutional amendment to overturn Buckley v. Valeo, the 1976 Supreme Court decision that established the flawed premise that money and constitutionally protected speech were the same thing.

Senator Stevens already saw the deteriorating effect unlimited campaign expenditures were having on Congress. In a speech on the Senate floor on the day he introduced the amendment, Senator Stevens said:

> I, for one, would like to see the time come when there would be a limitation on the expenditures and the upward pressure on candidates, so that those who are seeking reelection, those who are seeking to challenge incumbents, or those who are seeking to fill a vacancy would not have this pressure that is brought about by the necessity to raise ever-increasing amounts to campaign for Federal office.

Senator Stevens recognized over 30 years ago that we were in an arms race—that the drive for money would only get worse and Congress's ability to function would suffer.

This was only the beginning of the movement to amend the Constitution. In every Congress from the 99th to the 108th, Senator Fritz Hollings introduced bipartisan constitutional amendments similar to S.J. Res. 19. Senators SCHUMER and COCHRAN continued the effort in the 109th Congress. Even Minority Leader MCCONNELL once had his own constitutional amendment to limit the influence of money on our elections.

That was all before the Citizens United and McCutcheon decisions, before things went from bad to worse. The out-of-control spending since those decisions has further poisoned our elections.

But no matter how bad things get, an amendment can only succeed if Republicans join us in this effort, as they have in the past. I know the political climate of an election year makes it even more difficult, but today's vote is not the end. I will reintroduce this amendment in the next Congress, and I hope my Republican colleagues will join me. Poll after poll shows that our constituents—across the political spectrum—want this amendment. It's time we listened to them.

We had a great debate this week. It raised awareness of the issue across the country. But we also heard a lot of hysteria on this floor from some of my colleagues across the aisle. Michael Keegan, president of People For the American Way, summed up the debate from the other side of the aisle quite well. He said, ''A good rule of thumb in politics is that the scarier someone sounds, the more you should doubt what they're saying.''

So, we have been treated to a parade of imaginary horribles. Saturday Night Live creator Lorne Michaels is going to jail for writing political satire. So is the little old lady next door for putting up a $5 political yard sign. Books and movies will be banned. The NAACP and Sierra Club will be muzzled. Pretty scary stuff. And complete nonsense.

Congress has a long history, since 1867, of campaign finance reform. Any reading of this history is very clear. The reforms were sensible and reasonable. If they were not, they would have little chance of passing both houses of Congress. Or being signed by the President. And even under our constitutional amendment, extreme legislation can still be struck down by the Court. The other side knows this.

For over 150 years, Congress had a say in how money affects our elections. And it needed to. In the wake of scandals, it acted to curb excess and corruption. Reform was bipartisan. It was responsible. And it did not shut down the New York Times or the Heritage Foundation. Comedians and actors did not go to jail. It has not threatened free speech.

Those who think that money is speech need to look at where that flawed premise has led our country. Historically low approval ratings for Congress, polarization of the electorate, and a failure to compromise on the most pressing issues facing the Nation. Senator Hollings recognized the deterioration of our legislative branch due to the increasing influence of money on our elections. In a Huffington Post piece titled ''Money is a Cancer in Politics,'' he wrote:

> Money has not only destroyed bi-partisanship but corrupted the Senate. Not the senators, but the system. In 1966 when I came to the Senate, Mike Mansfield, the Leader, had a roll call every Monday morning at 9:00 o'clock in order to be assured of a quorum to do business. And he kept us in until 5:00 o'clock Friday so that we got a week's work in. . . Today, there's no real work on Mondays and Fridays, but we fly out to California early Friday morning for a luncheon fundraiser, a Friday evening fundraiser, making individual money appointments on Saturday and a fundraising breakfast on Monday morning, flying back for perhaps a roll call Monday evening.

I agree with his assessment, and also remember when fundraising was not the priority it is today. My father was elected to Congress in 1954, when I was in first grade. Back then, the legislative branch was a Citizens' Congress. Members were in Washington for 6 months, and then they went home for 6 months and worked at their profession. But during those 6 months in session, Congress focused on legislating.

Unfortunately, our current campaign finance system has locked Members of Congress into an endless campaign cycle. Elected officials spend far too much time raising money for campaigns, and not enough time carefully

considering legislation or listening to constituents. The drive to raise money is constant, and allowing vast new amounts of special interest money into the system will only increase the pressure. This causes a deterioration of Congress's ability to function, including its ability to adequately represent and respond to its constituents.

As the money raised and spent on campaigns by special interests continues to climb, Members of Congress will have to devote more time trying to keep up in the fundraising race. It is no wonder that, as the pursuit of campaign money has come to dominate politics, the American people have become increasingly dissatisfied with Congress' performance.

That is the whole point. That is why we are here. Because our elections cannot be for sale to the highest bidder. The Supreme Court has opened the floodgates. The American people are demanding that we close them.

Because they know, and we know, that we have a broken system. Today's New York Times editorial sums it up well. It states that, ''As long as money is officially categorized as protected speech, there will be no brake on the ability of the rich and special interests to drown out other voices.''

The First Amendment has already been hijacked by billionaires and special interests. Our amendment rescues it.

Here's the bottom line. Billionaires want to stay at the head of the table and our amendment will not let them. Let's be clear, they oppose any restriction. Any reform. Today's vote may have been along party lines, but I will leave it to the American people to judge why.

We will continue this fight. The momentum continues to grow, and we will eventually win. The American people hate the influence of money on our elections. They want elections to be about the quality of ideas, not the size of bank accounts. They want us to fight for the middle class, not the moneyed class. They want us to spend our time raising hopes, instead of raising cash.

As I said in my remarks earlier this week at the beginning of this debate, there is a well-known quote from the Watergate era. ''Follow the money.'' Because we all know the truth: The road to corruption, to undue influence, is paved with money. We need to get off that road. For the integrity of our electoral system. For the people who send us here. For the future of our country.

As we wrap up this week's debate, and this historic vote, I want to thank several people. Senator BENNET joined me in this effort over 4 years ago. Our amendment in the 111th Congress had four cosponsors. Today it has 49. I also want to express my appreciation for the efforts of Chairman LEAHY and Senator DURBIN, and thank their staff, particularly Josh Hsu and Albert Sanders. The amendment received a hearing in the Judiciary Committee. It went through markups in Senator DURBIN's subcommittee and in the full committee. It was debated, and revised, and improved.

I want to thank the diverse coalition of groups who have worked tirelessly to build support for our amendment. Groups like People For the American Way, Public Citizen, Common Cause, Free Speech For People, the Sierra Club, the NAACP, and all the organizations working under the banner of United For The People.

I ask unanimous consent that today's New York Times editorial, ''An Amendment to Cut Political Cash,'' be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the New York Times, Sept. 11, 2014]

AN AMENDMENT TO CUT POLITICAL CASH

(By the Editorial Board)

There are 48 Democratic senators sponsoring a constitutional amendment to restore congressional control to campaign spending that is expected to come up for a vote later this week. They are not under the illusion that it will become the 28th Amendment soon, if ever. But their willingness to undertake a long and difficult effort shows the importance they attach to restoring fairness to American politics by reducing the influence of big money.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in outside spending—most of it from big business and labor interests—continue to flow into political races after being unleashed by the Supreme Court and lower court decisions. Each year a record is set: already, outside spending on this year's midterm elections ($189 million so far) is more than three times what it was at this point in 2010.

The Supreme Court has said that's fine. In several misguided rulings, it has declared that spending money on politics is a form of free speech, and is thus deserving of constitutional protection. Beginning with the Buckley decision in 1976, the court ended the limitations on independent political spending in the name of speech, and with the Citizens United decision in 2010, it opened the spending floodgates to corporations and unions.

These decisions are the law of the land and cannot be overturned by simple legislation. Congress can encourage better behavior with public financing mechanisms, not that Republicans will agree even to that. As long as money is officially categorized as protected speech, there will be no brake on the ability of the rich and special interests to drown out other voices.

Barring a change in the makeup of the Supreme Court, it would take an amendment to reduce the flow of cash. The one under debate in the Senate declares that Congress and the states have the ability to ''regulate and set reasonable limits on the raising and spending of money by candidates and others to influence elections.'' Addressing the Citizens United decision, it says that governments can ''distinguish between natural persons and corporations'' in setting those regulations, thus allowing restrictions on corporate or union spending that would not necessarily apply to individuals. To protect the free flow of information in the news media, the amendment adds the assurance that it will not abridge the freedom of the press.

Republicans, fearful of deflating their cushion of cash, are trying to portray the amendment as an assault on the Bill of Rights. But writing unlimited checks on behalf of politicians was never part of the American birthright. This measure defines protected ''speech'' as it had been understood in the First Amendment for 185 years until the Buckley decision: actual words uttered or written by natural persons, not money spent, and certainly not from corporate treasuries.

The amendment would not be a cure-all. ''The press'' is an amorphous term in the digital age, and political groups could try to claim free-press status to get around regulation. And amending the Constitution should not be taken lightly. It is a last resort to fix a grave civic problem. But the backers of this amendment recognize that the nature of American democracy is at stake.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I yield the floor and 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. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES INTENDED TO AFFECT ELECTIONS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 19.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 3791 (to the committee-reported substitute to the joint resolution), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 3792 (to amendment No. 3791), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 3793 (to the language proposed to be stricken by the committee-reported substitute), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 3794 (to amendment No. 3793), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary, with instructions.

Reid amendment No. 3795, of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 3796 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3795), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 3797 (to amendment No. 3796), of a perfecting nature.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion.

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 S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Mark Begich, Joe Manchin III, Amy Klobuchar, Tammy Baldwin, Mazie K. Hirono, Sherrod Brown, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Robert P. Casey,

Jr., Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin.

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 S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections, 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 New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 261 Leg.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—42

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johanns	Shelby
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cornyn	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn	Gillibrand
Cruz	Murkowski

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 54, the nays are 42. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOHN HOOVER, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

NOMINATION OF ANNE E. RUNG TO BE ADMINISTRATOR FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY

NOMINATION OF DAVID RADZANOWSKI TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOMINATION OF MIRANDA A. A. BALLENTINE TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH L. NIMMICH TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH SEMBLER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

NOMINATION OF JUDITH M. DAVENPORT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

NOMINATION OF DAVID J. ARROYO TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of John Hoover, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Sierra Leone; Anne E. Rung, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy; David Radzanowski, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Miranda A. A. Ballentine, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force; Joseph L. Nimmich, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; Elizabeth Sembler, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2020; Judith M. Davenport, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2020; and David J. Arroyo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2016.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent to yield back the time on all the nominations that have just been reported.

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

VOTE ON HOOVER NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John Hoover, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Sierra Leone?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON RUNG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Anne E. Rung, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON RADZANOWSKI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Radzanowski, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BALLENTINE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Miranda A.A. Ballentine, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON NIMMICH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Joseph L. Nimmich, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SEMBLER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Elizabeth Sembler, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2020?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON DAVENPORT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Judith M. Davenport, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2020?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ARROYO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David J. Arroyo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2016?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

RADZANOWSKI CONFIRMATION

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, first of all, I thank the Senate for confirming the nominee for Chief Financial Officer of NASA, David Radzanowski. Now the team is fairly complete over there, and we can move to the next phase.

As we move to the next phase, as we are getting ready to test the capsule called Orion that will ultimately be part of the vehicle that will take us to Mars in the decade of the 2030s, the rocket itself is being readied and its final design will be tested on a test stand in Mississippi at the Stennis Center in the next couple of years. So we are well on the way for NASA being able to get out and explore the cosmos beyond low Earth orbit.

As you know, we have an International Space Station that is 120 yards long. Think of a football field from one goalpost to the other, that is how big it is. There are six humans up there. We rotate the crews out with the Russians and with the Europeans and in some cases we have had Japanese astronauts, so it is an International Space Station with an international crew. I thank the Senate for the confirmation today.

ISIS

Madam President, I am here to speak about the threat to America by ISIS. Every one of us has seen how brutal, how inhumane, how savage this group is. It was certainly brought home by the killing—the beheading—of the two journalists, one of them from my State of Florida.

I would invite anyone to go on the Internet to see the images of what this group has done to others, just because someone has a different religious faith, in this particular case the Christians near Sinjar Mountain. You should see the photographs. Maybe you don't want to see the photographs of the infants they have beheaded because their parents are of a different faith.

You should see the photographs of the women whom they are slitting their throats and letting their lifeblood drain into a basin bowl as they hold down the women. This is the savagery. That is why the President so appropriately, eloquently, very directly and very firmly last night spoke about he is using his constitutional power as Commander in Chief to go after them. The President also said he wants the support of Congress.

It is true the President—in this Senator's opinion—has the authority to strike, but as he clearly reminded us last night, this is not a short-term deal. This is going to be a long-term and involved effort. So the Congress should register its support of the authorization to use military force. That is what we can do as we get into the debate of should that force be limited.

I have filed one version. I have no pride of authorship. I want it to be debated. I have suggested there would be the ability to use all the defense force except rotational ground forces, which is the term of art in the Department of Defense meaning big ground armies. That is what the President wants to avoid when he talks about boots on the ground, that he doesn't want that. That is what the American people do not want, and that is what this Senator does not want.

But we certainly don't want to handcuff the Department of Defense and our military in carrying out the successful objective of being able to go after and help eliminate this savage beast called ISIS or ISIL or as they characterize themselves, the Islamic State.

Today Secretary Kerry is in the Middle East. He is working on the coalition. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is making phone calls. Last week at the summit—the NATO summit—along with the President, he was already talking with his counterparts there. They are knitting together the coalition that will be a coalition not only of NATO but a coalition of so many in the region, including, we hope, a lot in the Arab League.

So isn't it time we know this effort that is hugely supported by the American people—isn't it time for the Congress to register our approval by exercising our constitutional duty? I would suggest it is.

I know some of the hearings are starting next week. Later this afternoon the Senate will have a classified briefing on the threat of ISIS. Many of us have already had a number of those briefings and know this is a threat like we have not faced before—not only because of the savagery but also the fact that they are well organized, they have a jihadist mission, and they are well funded.

Part of our effort as we reach out to our coalition is to get them to stop the avenues of funding that is going in to this organization.

I will close by saying that for the Congress to register our support, by the support of this type of legislation, is to show our allies and the world—not only to show the unity of America behind this effort, both clandestine and overtly military—but also to show our enemies the unity of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise to speak to regret that the constitutional amendment proposed by Senator UDALL lost 54 to 42. Of course, a majority voted for it, but we need two-thirds for a constitutional amendment. I first want to thank Senator UDALL for his great leadership on this issue. As chairman of the rules committee and a member of the Judiciary Committee, I have worked with him on this, and I know his passion and dedication to straightening our country out, straightening our system of campaign finance out.

Second, I want to say this: We are going to keep fighting until we get this done. The only way really to cure the Supreme Court's misguided ruling, whether it is in Citizens United or McCutcheon, is with a constitutional amendment. Our day will come. We are not giving up.

When the Supreme Court issued its ruling in McCutcheon several months ago, it was another step on the path towards destruction of our system of campaign finance laws. First in Citizens United and then in McCutcheon, the Supreme Court has been chipping away at the actual foundation of our democracy that everyone is equal in the political arena. It just does not mean equal in terms of votes; it means that if you are a multimillionaire, you should not be allowed to drown out the messages of everybody else.

If Congress does not respond, our system is going to collapse. This year, the amount of independent expenditures from a small number of individuals will exceed the money spent by all the others. It is just amazing. We cannot have it. That is why Democrats will continue to fight for a constitutional amendment that would finally allow us to fight back and regulate the dark

money that is flooding our elections and threatening to take us back to the era of the robber barons. The Federal Government and the States should be allowed to pass laws that prevent unregulated sums of undisclosed money from pervading our elections.

This constitutional amendment would do just that. Unfortunately, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not see it that way. They have argued that the amendment would curtail freedom of speech. The Republican leader said in an op-ed earlier this week that Democrats are trying to take an eraser to the First Amendment.

Well, he is dead wrong. All Democrats are trying to erase is the hundreds of millions dollars—undisclosed—that are tainting our elections, whether they are coming from the Koch brothers or George Soros or Tom Steyer. All of them should not be allowed to have such huge influence.

Many other Republicans have portrayed this sensible amendment as an unparalleled attack on the First Amendment, which, they seem to argue, is absolute. I would say, for instance, to the Senator from Texas and my Republican friends that no amendment is absolute.

You cannot yell ''fire'' in a crowded theater. Child pornography is illegal. We have libel laws. These are all sensible limits to the First Amendment.

This amendment is similarly a sensible amendment. It creates balance. Every amendment—and the Founding Fathers, when they created the Bill of Rights, and the States, when they ratified them, realized that ''balance'' is a watchword. We believe in the right to buy arms, but people shouldn't be allowed to buy a tank and ride down the street in it. We believe in all of the amendments, but none should be stretched to ridiculous extremes, which any law can be.

This amendment would go a long way to restoring fairness and credibility to a system of campaign laws that the Supreme Court has ripped to shreds over the past years.

I don't know if these Supreme Court Justices know the harm they are doing to our system in their abstract view that limiting many kinds of campaign finance violates the First Amendment, but I wish they could be on the ground and see the harm they are doing.

Simply put, unregulated dark money is poisoning our elections, and this amendment is the antidote. The American people want us to change the way elections are financed in this country not just for the sake of the system itself but because the current system results in a Congress that fails to do what average folks—the middle class—want it to do. Democrats want to raise the minimum wage, but the Koch brothers spend millions electing candidates who oppose it. Democrats want equal pay for equal work, but shadowy billionaires and corporate interests funnel millions to the campaigns of candidates who would block it.

We have to have fair elections in order to give the middle class a fair shot. And on the amendment the Presiding Officer has so valiantly sponsored, all we want to say is if you are a multimillionaire, you ought to pay taxes at the same rate as everyone else and use the money we gain to help make it easier for everyone to afford college and pay their college debts at a reasonable interest rate after they get out of college. But those who would be the small number who would be hurt by this have a few clarion voices who have billions of dollars who spend the money and prevent candidates who believe in this view—which most Americans believe in—from getting elected.

We have to have fair elections in order to give the middle class a fair shot. We hope our Republican colleagues will drop their objections and work with us to restore some semblance of fairness to our electoral system.

I yield the floor, and 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. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HAMAS

Mr. REID. Madam President, much has been said about the terrorist group ISIS in the past few days—and rightfully so. ISIS is a vile mob of fanatics whose butchery knows no bounds. I am confident President Obama's targeted action will degrade and destroy this menace.

But there is another evil organization in the world today that, like ISIS, has zero regard for humanity. They are kidnappers and executioners. They are violent extremists who murder innocent civilians. They are terrorists who cower behind women and children, even using them as human shields. They are saboteurs of peace and provocateurs of bloody conflict who will not stop their butchery. Once again, I am not talking about the Islamic State of Iraq; I am talking about Hamas.

Hamas and ISIS are both vicious, corrupt, hateful, evil groups. Both are extreme, outrageous, irrational, excessive, harsh, and radical. Yet for some reason Hamas's brutality doesn't elicit the same horror in the international community as ISIS. How can that be?

One of the few differences between these two terrorist organizations is that Hamas has a narrow, ghastly focus: the destruction of the State of Israel. Consider its actions over the past few months.

Hamas raided its own limited supplies for housing and general infrastructure, intended to repair the destruction that occurred during the last conflict they initiated. Hamas instead used the stolen materials to build tunnels to hide and infiltrate Israel—infiltrating to kill, maim, kidnap, and murder the innocent.

These depraved agitators launched thousands of rockets into Israel, hoping to inflict death and destruction. Their rockets had no aiming devices, no aiming capabilities. They fired indiscriminately, not caring whether they hit a child, a family, a school, or a place of worship. It begs the question: Without specific targets, why fire the rockets into Israel? We know why—provocation. Hamas knew Israel would be forced to defend itself, and, of course, that is what the Israelis did. Israel responded as any nation would to such attacks against its nation—by trying to protect its people. And what did Hamas do? They had such little regard for the people of Gaza that they used their own as human shields. Hamas used Palestinians as shields to carry out a sinister ploy, hoping they and their apologists could dupe the world into blaming Israel.

David Brooks, a distinguished columnist, said 2 months ago on PBS's ''NewsHour,'' referring to Hamas:

It's a rare moment in military history where a party rejects a cease-fire in order to get more of their own people killed. But that's part of the strategy.

When Hamas wasn't scheming for more Palestinian fatalities to blame on Israel, it was carrying out more public executions of Gaza residents. For example, this is an article from the Wall Street Journal: ''Alleged Collaborators With Israel Killed in Gaza. Deaths Follow Israel's Targeted Killing of Three Top Hamas Military Commanders.''

Hamas executed 18 people on Friday, some of them in the streets of Gaza City in the middle of the day, after accusing them of collaborating with Israel, according to media linked to the Islamic group, which rules the Gaza Strip.

In one instance, about 20 militants dressed in black and with their faces covered brought six of the condemned men, their heads covered with cloth bags, to an alley near the Great Omari Mosque in Gaza City after midday prayers, witnesses said. A militant shot the men in the head one at a time with a pistol, after which he sprayed them with automatic rifle fire, the witnesses said. The bodies were loaded into government ambulances and taken away.

These are the fanatics Israel faces every day, terrorist organizations as violent and extreme as any other on the face of the planet, as indicated by this Wall Street Journal article I just read.

There are those who refuse to condemn Hamas as they would ISIS. The hypocrisy is stunning. Those who reject tyranny, corruption, and terrorism should denounce Hamas. All those who honor peace and sovereignty should stand for Israel.

I stand with Israel. The United States of America stands with Israel. President Barack Obama and Congress continue to affirm America's unshakeable bond with Israel and our strong support for the security and safety of its people.

For my part, I will continue to do all I can to support Israel's right to self-defense. I know my colleagues join me in supporting the State of Israel and condemning Hamas for the depraved, horrid, repugnant terrorist organization that it is.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

ISIS

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I haven't watched the gruesome videos of the beheadings of James Foley and Steven Sotloff, and I have no plans to do so. I don't think I need to do so in order to understand the brutality of ISIS and the threat this radical movement poses to our partners in the Middle East and Europe—and ultimately to the United States' national security interests.

As we stand here in the Capitol today with the flags at half-mast in remembrance of the 9/11 attacks, I think we all understand that we can't just ignore this crisis and hope that it passes. The risks are too high. ISIS presents a new and unique threat to global stability, and it must be met with a robust global response. Whether we like it or not, in today's world of decentralized power, it is still up to the United States to lead this effort.

Last night the President of the United States laid out a strong and compelling case for taking the fight to ISIS. I wholeheartedly agree with the imperative for action he outlined. ISIS represents a serious threat, and we would betray our bond of trust with the world if we ignored it simply because of a wariness here at home with protracted military engagements abroad.

So for me the question is not if or whether we should confront ISIS. Rather, it is about the most effective way to go about this important task, and it is about making sure this debate happens in the proper context.

Americans today, more than ever, feel like they have lost control of their lives, of their ability to feel financially and economically and even physically secure. These videos and reports of ISIS's unconscionable brutality add to this feeling of insecurity, and they invoke rage—justifiable, appropriate rage—about those who would carry out such acts.

In this case this fear and anger we feel about ISIS's actions is complemented by the legitimate threat this group poses. So we shouldn't hesitate to act simply because our desire to do so is fueled by the intense emotion this enemy engenders in us. But our response—the details of our strategy—cannot be dictated by these impulses.

Our plan of attack against ISIS needs to be well thought out, nuanced, not rushed into because we feel an emotional compulsion to do something—anything—right now. We made that mistake in the past as a nation, and we shouldn't misstep again. We certainly shouldn't allow election-year politics to play into our calculations.

This is a debate about ISIS, but it is also a debate about how we are going to meet a potential plethora of anti-Western extremist groups that are organized and will organize against us throughout the world. We are creating a precedent for action, and we shouldn't rush into war simply because we feel pressured to get something done before an election.

As the President noted last night—and it is important to repeat—ISIS today does not have imminent plans to attack the United States. That doesn't diminish the necessity of taking them on. It simply means that we don't need to engage in a panicked response.

So today I will lay out four principles that I believe should serve as the foundation for action against ISIS.

First, our strategy needs to be guided by the recognition that ISIS's power comes in the first instance from a political vacuum in Iraq and Syria, and, second, from a military vacuum. Any strategy must lead with economic and political tactics to undermine ISIS's legitimacy, using military power as a tool to create the space for those efforts.

We can't defeat an ideology of extremism with an air campaign. Bombs and drone strikes will not help win the hearts and minds of Sunnis who currently feel disenfranchised or ostracized by the Iraqi Government. As with any conflict, the real solution has to come from the people of the region. Elements of Iraq's Sunni population will continue to support radical Islamic insurgents—or, at best, just passively allow them to operate—as long as they see no future for them in their country.

So I applaud President Obama for making the centerpiece of his speech last night a call for continued efforts to create a truly inclusive political process in Iraq. The new Prime Minister has a difficult road ahead, and both Congress and our regional partners should do our part to support this tough political work.

For instance, as a complement to new military funding for operations in the Middle East, we should be debating funding a surge for political and economic work in the region. If we are going to spend hundreds of millions of dollars dropping bombs inside Iraq, we and our allies should commit to double that amount to support political efforts to empower moderates in the region.

Second, we will fail if we do not unite Shiite and Sunni nations in the region behind a military plan to confront ISIS.

I agree with the President that in the short term the United States is going to need to step up its military operations in Iraq, and I cannot disagree with the President that there may be limited imperatives to use the Air Force inside Syria should we have intelligence that ISIS there poses a threat to the United States. But any military campaign has to be fully cloaked in the legitimacy of a true regional coalition with Sunni partners front and center.

Further, it is clear that ISIS is getting funding and a flow of equipment and recruits from countries in the region. We need to turn off this spigot immediately. We need to hear from our partners in the region that ISIS does not truly represent Islam, that they do not condone the slaughter and rape of other innocent Muslims, Christians or Yazidis, for that matter. The United States needs to lead the effort to combat ISIS, but we must do so as part of a broad international coalition.

Third, a strategy to confront ISIS does not require America to become fully and overtly enmeshed in the increasingly complicated civil war in Syria. Over the last 2 years I have consistently opposed arming and training the Syrian rebels. Since the last time Congress debated this subject, the prospect that this intervention could be counterproductive to our national security interests has only increased. To begin with, it will be very difficult to thread the needle of supporting a Shiite regime against a Sunni insurgency in Iraq while at the same time supporting a Sunni insurgency against a Shiite regime in Syria. That inconsistency is going to make it difficult to put together lasting regional coalitions.

More importantly, it is increasingly impossible to sort out the so-called vetted moderate rebels from the truly bad rebels. All of our focus on ISIS over the past months has diverted our attention from the fact that, increasingly, some moderate Syrian rebels are openly collaborating with Jabhat al-Nusra, a wing of Al Qaeda, inside Syria, and there are even reports that ISIS itself is working with elements of the moderate rebels.

Our goal would be to support the rebels and simultaneously defeat ISIS and Assad. But the very real possibility exists that the rebels could align with ISIS to defeat Assad or our military campaign against ISIS allows Assad to prevail. Both are plausible and unacceptable options.

I want ISIS defeated in Syria. I want Bashar Al-Assad to pay for his crimes against humanity. But too much can go wrong for not enough possible gain for the U.S. to increase our involvement in the Syrian civil war—if necessary, using limited counterterrorism measures to attack ISIS in Syria, but leave the civil war inside Syria to parties that, whether we like it or not, have much more at stake in the fight than we do.

This brings me to my fourth point. All of this should be done with congressional authorization. There is no viable excuse for Congress to abdicate its constitutional responsibility to authorize war.

President Obama finished his speech last night with a spectacular charge to the American people, and few can disagree with it: America is exceptional.

We continue to stand as a symbol and a beacon of freedom and democracy to the world. Because of that standard that we bear, we should respect the version of democracy that our Founding Fathers granted to us by having a debate in Congress about the policy that the President has proposed.

Respectfully, I disagree that the authorization for military force passed in the days following September 11 grants the President the power to conduct an open-ended, long-term war against ISIS. If that were to be the case, then there is absolutely no congressional check upon the Executive's power to open military fronts against extremist groups anywhere in the world at any time.

The 9/11 AUMF was not intended to be perpetual, but it would transform into a permanent, easily manipulated authorization if we interpret it to cover ISIS, a group that specifically disavows an association with the only named group in the 9/11 AUMF.

Frankly, I believe a well-crafted, limited authorization of military force against ISIS could pass the Congress. I also believe the Constitution requires us to find out if it can.

I commend the President for having the courage to refuse to rush to rash judgment. We need to build a strategy that uses military action as a complement to political reform—not the other way around. We need to build a real sustainable regional coalition to support any military action, with Sunni nations as the lead. We need to recognize the limits of American power and stay out of the Syrian civil war. And we need to unite the Nation by a congressional authorization of a sound plan to take on ISIS.

I am glad my Commander in Chief made his case last night, understanding the foreign policy mistakes of the past decade and with a willingness to learn from them. I am confident that if we get this strategy right, the American people will stand squarely with him as we fight back against an enemy like few we have ever faced before.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2199

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of S. 2199 it be in order for my amendment No. 3808 to be called up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut

Mr. MURPHY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I know that in just offering the amendment I sought to offer on the Senate floor I have received an objection. Let me briefly describe what I am trying to offer. The objection that I just received from the other side of the aisle is a demonstration of what is wrong in the Senate right now.

What is happening in the Senate right now is the majority leader keeps bringing legislation to the floor, and people are not allowed to offer amendments that directly pertain to the legislation.

In fact, right now pending on the Senate floor is the so-called Paycheck Fairness Act. I have an amendment I want to offer on the Senate floor to that act that deals with addressing pay discrimination, but I am not going to be allowed to offer that amendment.

I guess the first question we have to ask is: Why is that? Why is it that when we have such an important issue, which I acknowledge is an important issue—that people in this country be treated fairly, that we be paid solely based on our experience and qualifications, that we eliminate discrimination in the workplace; something I would hope we could work together on and about which we could have a real debate on this Senate floor—if someone comes to the floor and offers an amendment, what we get is an objection, because, really, what we are doing right now on the floor—let's be clear about it—is a political charade. It is trying to score political points on an issue that is very important that we shouldn't be sitting here trying to score political points on.

Why can't both sides of the aisle offer their amendments on ideas on how to eliminate discrimination in the workplace? It seems to me that if they are serious about the issue, the majority leader would allow individuals like me and other Senators on both sides of the aisle to come to the floor and offer their amendments. But we have just seen that when I have done that, I got an objection instead of allowing my amendment to be debated fully on this floor.

All Americans should be treated fairly and paid solely based on their experience and qualifications, and discrimination has no place in the American workforce.

There are important laws we have passed on a bipartisan basis in the Congress. Laws like the Equal Pay Act and title VII of the Civil Rights Act are there to combat workplace discrimination. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 became the first Federal law designed to protect U.S. workers from employment discrimination based upon a person's sex.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 requires employers to pay female employees the same wages that they pay male employees for equal work—very important laws.

Both title VII and the Equal Pay Act provide a way for those who are discriminated against to file complaints against their employers and pursue financial remedies if they are discriminated against in the workplace. Our focus, of course, always needs to be on enforcing those important laws that were passed by the Congress to ensure that both men and women in the workplace will be judged based on their performance and not based on their gender.

Unfortunately, despite these laws there are instances where pay discrimination still exists. With 60 percent of women serving as the primary earners in their households, this disparity must be addressed, and this is an important issue. But the so-called Paycheck Fairness Act that is pending on the floor, in my view, is not the answer. Instead of ensuring that women are treated fairly, the Paycheck Fairness Act would limit the ability of women in some instances to have flexible work schedules if that is what they need, and it would make it easier—much easier—to file frivolous lawsuits that, frankly, are a boon to trial lawyers. One concern I have about the bill pending on the floor—and I think it is a legitimate concern—is that it could have an impact on reducing the ability of employers to award merit pay.

I had the privilege of serving as the first woman attorney general in New Hampshire, and before that I worked in private practice in a law firm. In my position and in the work I have done throughout my life, I have had the opportunity to meet incredible women in all fields in New Hampshire and throughout this country, whether it is leaders in the health sector, in the business sector—women working very hard every day in this country. There are many instances, I have to tell you, where women, based on merit, have outperformed their male colleagues. So what we don't want to do is create a law and pass a law that actually reduces the opportunities for employers in the workplace to reward merit, because women—like men—want the opportunity to earn more than their male counterparts when we do a better job.

We had this debate last April on the Senate floor, and when we had this debate on the Senate floor we experienced what we are experiencing right now. Paycheck fairness was brought to the floor and, in fact, I worked on an amendment with some of my colleagues—Senator FISCHER, Senator COLLINS, and Senator MURKOWSKI. We offered an amendment that we thought would help address the discrimination that can occur in the workplace and to address retaliation when employees discuss the salaries they make so that they can become informed in the workplace. But when we offered that amendment in April, we were denied a vote on it. We were in the same situation we are now.

So it is like ''Groundhog Day.'' The Senate rejected the bill pending in April, and we were denied all amendments and the ability to really debate and amend it and have a real discussion about this important issue. Here we are again leading into the November elections, and again the bill is on the floor, and again Senators like me who have offered an amendment that I hoped we could discuss and consider

are going to be denied the ability to do so.

When I came to this floor in April, when this bill was pending on the Senate floor before, I said then and I firmly believe it now: If the majority leader believes this is an important issue, then we should have a real debate and an open amendment process and not engage in a political charade. I think the American people deserve better.

In New Hampshire, Republicans and Democrats actually got together and they were able to pass a bipartisan pay equity law which was signed into law in July. It is a commonsense measure that helps address wage disparities between men and women, and that law was the basis for the proposed amendment which I have just tried to offer on the Senate floor so that the Senate could consider some of the very good ideas that were worked through on a bipartisan basis in my State as a way to address discrimination in the workforce.

This amendment that I have filed—but that I am not being permitted to offer—is modeled on New Hampshire's law and, again, it was bipartisan. In fact, the amendment that I have offered is called the Ensuring Fairness in Pay Act. It would make clear that employers have to pay men and women equal wages for equal work. It ensures equal pay for workers performing equal work under similar conditions regardless of sex. In fact, it also prohibits retaliation against employees who discuss their pay information and prohibits employers from requiring employees to sign a contract or a waiver that prohibits the employees from disclosing their pay. This would allow employees to know what their situation is so they can ensure that they are being treated fairly.

What was passed in New Hampshire—my amendment here—also contains teeth. In fact, similar to New Hampshire's law, my amendment would impose a $2,500 penalty for any violation of this law and for pay discrimination. So putting teeth in it is important as well. We did that at the State level, and I thought we should consider doing this at the Federal level if my amendment could be considered by this body.

It also requires employers to post a notice that sets forth excerpts or summaries of the pertinent provisions of what is the law—title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—and information pertinent to how you file a complaint if you feel you are subject to discrimination in the workforce.

Finally, my amendment encourages States to provide pay disparity statistics including historical analysis and any information that would help the public understand and address this issue.

I urge the majority leader to put politics aside so that we can work together on a bipartisan solution, just as New Hampshire was able to do. In my home State of New Hampshire, when there is an amendment offered, you actually will get a vote on it. I think we are doing a real disservice to the American people, regardless of what the issue is, that Senators on both sides of the aisle when they are offering an amendment aren't permitted to have a vote on it on the Senate floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to proceed to the Baran and Burns nominations reported out of the Environment and Public Works Committee earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JEFFERY MARTIN BARAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1003.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2015.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Harry Reid, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Barbara A. Mikulski, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie K. Hirono, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tom Udall, Edward J. Markey, Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Cory A. Booker, Thomas R. Carper.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN G. BURNS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1004.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen G. Burns, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2019.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Stephen G. Burns, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Harry Reid, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Barbara A. Mikulski, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie K. Hirono, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tom Udall, Edward J. Markey, Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Cory A. Booker, Thomas R. Carper.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2199

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that not withstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to S. 2199 occur at 5:30 p.m. Monday, September 15, 2014.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, September 15, 2014,

notwithstanding rule XXII, following the vote on cloture on S. 2199, the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 1003 and 1004; further, that if cloture is invoked on either of these nominations, on Tuesday, September 16, at 2:15 p.m., all postcloture time be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote, and all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE EBOLA CRISIS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, over the past several months the world's attention has been focused on the Russian invasion of Crimea and fighting in the eastern Ukraine, the explosion of violence in Gaza, the flood of migrant children from Central America, and the horrific death and destruction in Iraq and Syria.

In each of these places vast numbers of innocent people have suffered terribly, and our own policies and capability to respond have been severely tested.

Yet one of the most urgent, difficult, and frightening challenges facing the world today is not the result of armed conflict or ethnic or religious extremism. It is the world's first Ebola epidemic, and it poses a potentially devastating threat to Africa and people everywhere.

Before the August recess we were preparing to receive dozens of African heads of state to Washington. At that time, Doctors Without Borders and other nongovernmental organizations had been ringing alarm bells for weeks about the worsening Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

But the World Health Organization and governments, including our own, were slow to respond to what was viewed as a manageable, localized public health problem, rather than a crisis that could spin out of control.

No longer. Infections and deaths in Liberia and Sierra Leone are increasing rapidly, with exponential acceleration in these countries and potentially in neighboring Guinea. Official reports may be only a piece of the picture. The ability of these countries to locate, diagnose, isolate and treat patients, trace and monitor contacts, and safely bury the dead cannot possibly keep pace.

Unfortunately, the lack of urgency exhibited by much of the international community was exacerbated by budget cuts at the World Health Organization, for which there is ample blame to go around. After the 2009 global financial crisis, WHO's budget dropped by roughly 1 billion dollars, nearly 25 percent of their budget today.

By the time of the current Ebola outbreak, staff levels at WHO had been cut by 35 percent, and their ability to prepare for and respond to health emergencies suffered accordingly.

Today, the Ebola crisis has the full attention of the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USAID, President Sirleaf of Liberia, and other governments. They recognize that unless aggressive, coordinated actions are taken immediately, there will soon be tens of thousands of cases, the disease will spread into much of Africa, and it will be an ongoing global threat for many years to come.

The challenges are immense: weak government institutions; dysfunctional public health systems that cannot conduct reliable disease surveillance and response; lack of roads and other basic infrastructure; ethnic and political divisions in societies recovering from war; misconceptions about the disease and low levels of literacy; and inadequate and uncoordinated international aid.

While the epidemic is finally beginning to receive the attention it deserves, it is spiraling out of control. Huge numbers of cases are overwhelming local capacity to isolate and treat patients, trace their contacts, and safely bury the dead. The cost of personal protection gear is exorbitant and there is an acute shortage of trained people.

Also, the secondary effects of this crisis are increasingly apparent. Food insecurity is worsening and the economies of these countries, already fragile, are facing collapse as imports and exports are plummeting.

We and others have the knowledge and tools to contain and control this disease if cases are quickly isolated and contacts identified, but actions to date have not been well coordinated and have not always addressed the most urgent needs.

Just as for a raging wildfire, the focus should be on deploying all available resources to provide immediate support for urgent needs identified on the front lines to stop its spread, while there is time. It will require mobilization of the type and complexity as occurred after the Haiti earthquake.

In West Africa, that means immediately scaling up staff, transport, isolation and treatment capacity, infection control including personal protective equipment for health workers, funding through rapid and flexible funding mechanisms, training and supervision, laboratory services, communications resources, and management and logistics support.

There is nothing new about this approach. But it is required on a far larger scale than was used to control Ebola outbreaks in the past.

The situation today is grave, but we can prevent many of these deaths. And as we do so we need to help build stronger public health systems that can contain future disease outbreaks.

Past efforts to build capacity have clearly been woefully inadequate. As public health systems in these countries have been overwhelmed by Ebola, patients suffering from malaria, TB, pneumonia, and other illnesses are unable to get treatment.

We should all pay tribute to the courageous public health workers who have risked their lives—and in many cases, lost their lives—trying to save others from this terrible disease. It is inspiring to read the stories of nurses and doctors, and those who dig the graves and bury the dead, who have labored on as their colleagues have died, who live with the daily reality that at any moment they could be next. They are as brave as any soldier on the front lines of battle.

I also want to commend President Sirleaf, her Minister of Defense, and others who have tried their best to deal with this unprecedented emergency in the face of woefully inadequate resources.

The United Nations says that $600 million is needed immediately to fight this disease. The United States has already provided tens of millions of dollars. USAID announced another $75 million last week. The White House has requested additional funding for CDC, which would bring the U.S. contribution to over $250 million.

The Department of Defense announced that it will provide logistical, laboratory, and other support. The World Bank has pledged over $200 million. Other governments are also coming forward, as are private donors. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation recently pledged $50 million to enhance response efforts and accelerate research on potential treatments and vaccines.

The Congress has a role to play, and I am hopeful that as additional funds are needed we will act responsibly and provide them. I am a cosponsor of S. Res. 541, which recounts the history of this outbreak and the steps that are urgently needed to control it. I commend Senators COONS, DURBIN, MENENDEZ and others who introduced it. This is not a partisan or political issue. It is a public health issue, a moral issue, and one that should unite us all to do what is necessary to defeat this epidemic.

REMEMBERING JAMES M. JEFFORDS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, earlier this week, the Senate passed a resolution recognizing the life and career of Senator Jim Jeffords. This Vermont icon passed away over the August recess, nearly 8 years after concluding a decades-long career in public service. That career, marked by historic moments on the national stage, was one in which Vermont came first. I ask unanimous consent that an article from the Burlington Free Press, ''Tributes pour in for Vermont GOP giant Jeffords,'' be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

Jim and I came to Washington together in 1975, he to represent Vermont as our lone Member in the House of Representatives, and I as Vermont's first Democratic Senator. But our years working together go back further, to the days when I was a State's attorney in Chittenden County, and he the State's attorney general. Our families knew each other. Marcelle and Liz knew each other well, having both attended Cathedral High School in Burlington. Both Jim and I would readily acknowledge that our wives were the hearts and souls of our families.

That longtime relationship served us and Vermont well when Jim came to the Senate in 1989. Together, we worked to protect Vermont's dairy farmers, to preserve Vermont's celebrated natural landscape, and to give Vermont a strong and powerful voice in Washington.

I joined many Vermonters in celebrating Jim's life last month in his home town of Rutland. Our sympathies are with his children Laura and Leonard, and his grandchildren.

Jim was a humble man, a Vermonter through and through, and a true friend. His legacy is that he held Vermont in his heart, and worked to advance the best interests of his constituents on the national stage.

For that, this Vermonter will join many others in simply saying, ''Thanks, Jim.''

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

[From the Burlington Free Press, Aug. 19, 2014]

TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR VERMONT GOP GIANT JEFFORDS

(By Sam Hemingway)

The Jim Jeffords For Governor campaign camper was headed up U.S. 2 toward East Montpelier in the summer of 1972 with the candidate behind the wheel.

''He almost drove off the road,'' recalled Bruce Post of Essex, who was aboard the camper as a just-out-of-college campaign volunteer. ''He was the world's worst driver.''

What Post also remembers from that day is that Jeffords, Vermont's attorney general at the time, telling him about a decision Jeffords had made to give no special treatment to a powerful Republican who had run afoul of Vermont's environmental laws.

''He told me that day, 'It might cost me my political career, but it's not going to cost me my political conscience,' '' Post remembered Monday, the day Jeffords died.

Jeffords did lose the primary, but he went on to serve seven terms in the U.S. House and three in the Senate. In 2001, his conscience led him to leave the GOP, a stunning move that shifted control of the chamber to the Democrats.

Monday, Jeffords died shortly after 7 a.m. at Knollwood, a retirement home for military veterans in Washington, D.C. He was 80 and the last Republican to hold federal office elected from Vermont.

''While we are saddened by our father's passing, we take comfort in the knowledge that he lived a full life, from the hills of Vermont to the halls of Congress,'' Laura and Leonard Jeffords, the senator's son and daughter, said in a statement. ''We will miss his kindness, his good humor, and his generosity of spirit.''

Jeffords, afflicted with Alzheimer's disease, had been in declining health and had lived at Knollwood since retiring from his Senate seat in 2006. Jeffords was a veteran of the Navy and the Navy Reserve, but never served in combat. Jeffords' wife, Elizabeth Daley Jeffords, died in 2007.

News of Jeffords' death Monday morning, first reported by the Burlington Free Press, quickly spread across the state and the nation.

''Jim never lost the fiercely independent spirit that made Vermonters, and people across America, trust and respect him,'' President Barack Obama said in a statement.

''Whatever the issue—whether it was protecting the environment, supporting Americans with disabilities, or whether to authorize the war in Iraq—Jim voted his principles, even if it sometimes meant taking a lonely or unpopular stance.''

In Vermont, Gov. Peter Shumlin mourned Jeffords' death. Flags at public buildings across the state were lowered at half-staff and will remain so through Saturday.

''The passing of Senator Jim Jeffords will be felt throughout Vermont and our country,'' Shumlin said in a statement. ''We need more like Senator Jeffords. My heart goes out to his children and extended family.''

THE MAVERICK

Jeffords's maverick political instincts served in him good stead as he navigated Vermont's shifting political currents over 40 years, emphasizing his moderate positions as the state leaned increasingly toward more liberal, Democratic positions.

As a House member, he was the only Republican to vote against President Ronald Reagan's tax cuts in 1981. In 1991, he voted against George H.W. Bush's nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court. He supported President Bill Clinton's health care reform and, in 1999, voted against his impeachment.

''He was a partner in our work for Vermont, and he was a friend,'' Sen. Patrick Leahy said of Jeffords in a statement. ''He was a Vermonter through and through, drawn to political life to make a difference for our state and nation. Part of his legacy will also stand as an enduring chapter of the Senate's history.''

Leahy and Jeffords both won their first elections to federal office in 1974 and were rivals for a time. They grew closer over the years as they worked on dairy issues and others important to Vermont.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I–Vt., who won the election to replace Jeffords in 2006, said Jeffords was a common-sense Vermonter who accomplished a lot.

Sanders toyed with running against Jeffords in 2000 but decided against it and said Monday he would have passed on challenging Jeffords had Jeffords run for re-election in 2006.

''Vermonters admired him because of his low-key and down-to-earth qualities, and because of his obvious and strong love of the state and the Vermont way of life,'' Sanders said. ''He was an effective champion of education, disability rights, the environment and the arts—and millions of Americans have benefited from his efforts.''

Rep. Peter Welch, in an interview, spoke of how Jeffords and his wife helped him during his successful run for the House in 2006, and then in Welch's early months as a freshman congressman.

''He spoke softly but got a lot done,'' Welch said of Jeffords'' career. ''There are colleagues of his in the House who still remember him with great respect.''

Former Republican Gov. Jim Douglas said Jeffords ''will be long remembered as a Vermonter who gave his all and his best in every season of his storied career. As a friend, I will miss him dearly.''

Republican Lt. Gov. Phil Scott said he fashioned his career after the example set by Jeffords. ''He did what he felt was right, not what he felt would make him popular,'' Scott said.

THE SWITCH

Jeffords' decision to become an independent in 2001 rocked the nation. His move changed the balance of power in the Senate, which had been 50 Republicans and 50 Democrats.

The move cost his GOP colleagues their committee chairmanships and, for Jeffords, the loss of several lifelong friendships.

''I have changed my party label, but I have not changed my beliefs,'' Jeffords said in his May 24, 2001, speech at a jam-packed Radisson Hotel in Burlington where he announced the switch.

''Indeed, my decision is about affirming the principles that have shaped my career. I hope that the people of Vermont will understand it. I hope in time that my colleagues will as well. I am confident that it is the right decision.''

The move catapulted Jeffords to rock-star national prominence, praised by Democrats and vilified by Republicans.

He wrote later that even members of his family opposed his decision. Sen. Trent Lott, R-La., and a member of the Singing Senators quartet along with Jeffords, fumed that Jeffords had carried out a ''coup of one.''

In the aftermath, Jeffords appeared on the covers of Newsweek and Time magazines in the same week. He also was the subject of several death threats, requiring required him to receive Capital Hill police protection for a time.

Back home, he was treated as a flat-out hero. His decision to leave the GOP spawned a popular ''Thanks, Jim'' bumper sticker and a special-edition beer called ''Jeezum Jim,'' a reference to his modest nature and Vermonty accent.

''I have never been prouder of anything I've done in my life than being with him at that time, the time preceding the announcement and the time after that,'' said Eric Smulson, Jeffords' spokesman for 15 years. ''How he handled himself, how he stood for his principles. He was a great statesman, a great Vermonter, but an even better person.''

Others, including close friends and some Vermont Republican leaders, were distraught about the 2001 decision.

''I was very upset over it,'' said James Johnston of Montpelier, a former Jeffords campaign adviser and close personal friend. ''But I know he had good reason to do it at the time.''

Johnston became emotional describing the loss of his old friend.

''I guess I knew this day was coming,'' he said, choking up as he spoke. ''I'm not so sure I'm ready to deal with it.''

Jeffords later wrote two books reflecting on his controversial move: a 2001 explanation of his decision titled ''My Declaration of Independence'' and a 2003 memoir, ''An Independent Man.''

A POLITICAL LIFE

Jeffords, the son of a Vermont Supreme Court justice, grew up in Rutland, studied at Yale University, received his law degree from Harvard University and entered politics in 1966, winning a race for state Senate from Rutland County.

Two years later, he was elected attorney general, and soon he became embroiled in a fight with International Paper's plant in Ticonderoga, N.Y., regarding the discharge of mercury-laden sludge into Lake Champlain.

Jeffords ran for governor in 1972, but many in the party resented his liberal positions on the environment and other matters, and he lost a bitter primary battle to Luther Hackett, a business-oriented Republican.

''He took it fine,'' said Bruce Post, recalling his time as a volunteer with the Jeffords for Governor campaign. ''I don't think he was bitter or anything.''

Hackett lost to Democrat Tom Salmon in the general election. Two years later, Jeffords won the state's lone U.S. House seat when incumbent Rep. Richard Mallory ran for U.S. Senate.

Jeffords initially lived in a camper in Washington after taking the House seat. He went on to win six House re-election contests, then won a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1988 when Sen. Robert T. Stafford, R-Vt., another Republican moderate, retired.

Jeffords was a consistent champion of education, helping to pass the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as a freshman House member and becoming so immersed in efforts to support dairy farmers that he was dubbed ''Mr. Dairy.''

He also worked behind the scenes to help Soviet dissidents Alexander Solzhenitsyn by secretly arranging Solzhenitzyn's move to Cavendish, where the author lived for 18 years before returning Russia. Jefford also aided Soviet dissident Alexander Ginzburg after he was expelled from Russia in 1979.

During the Reagan years, Jeffords fought the president's plans to cut back on environmental regulations and lower taxes. In 1987, he was the only Republican House member to vote with Democrats to pass a $12 billion tax increase. The measure passed the House by a single vote.

Surveys of his votes by liberal and conservative groups determined he leaned slightly toward liberal positions, and Jeffords continued to irritate GOP leaders.

He supported gay-rights legislation, voted for a gun-control measure after saying he opposed it and introduced a bill to force power producers to lower their emissions.

Opinions are divided on what caused him to finally decide to leave the Republican Party. Shortly before he made the decision, he voted against President George W. Bush's budget, saying it was too big on tax cuts and undercut spending on education, child care, veterans and the environment.

Jeffords also might have been irked that the White House had not invited him to an event celebrating the Vermont winner of the teacher of the year, even though Jeffords was chairman of chairman of the Senate education committee.

''Looking ahead, I can see more and more instances where I'll disagree with the president on very fundamental issues—the issues of choice, the direction of the judiciary, tax-and-spending decisions, missile defense, energy and the environment, and a host of other issues, large and small,'' Jeffords said in the speech announcing his decision.

Jeffords, who had just been re-elected to the Senate in 2000, vowed to run for re-election in 2006 and repeated that assertion until 2005, when he abruptly scheduled a news conference at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in South Burlington to announce he would leave the Senate at the end of 2006.

''I am feeling the aches and pains that come when you reach 70,'' he said in his speech. ''My memory fails me on occasion, but Liz would probably argue that this has been going on the last 50 years.''

Uncharacteristically, he took no questions at the news conference, and appeared tired and unsteady on his feet.

Jeffords' funeral is set for 11 a.m. Friday at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ in Rutland.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today we remember 9/11. The President, First Lady and Vice President led a moment of silence at the White House this morning. The anniversary was observed at the Pentagon, at Ground Zero in New York, and in a field in Shanksville, PA. Across the country, we are connected by the sadness we all feel as we reflect on the lives lost, some 3,000 Americans, to this blatant act of terrorism.

We can all recall that moment. I recall looking down the Mall toward the Washington Monument and watching the black smoke billowing across the Mall from the Pentagon, where that deadly crash took the lives of passengers on that plane and innocent people working in defense of America. That was a moment that will never be forgotten.

There's a Hebrew word used in the Old Testament known as ''selah.'' It doesn't have an easy translation but it is meant to serve as a pause-and-consider moment between passages. At 8:46 a.m. this morning, we observed a moment of silence to remember those souls lost on that day. We should all experience a ''selah'' moment today because we will never forget 9/11. Pause and consider, pause and remember.

Thirteen years later, we still live in the shadow of the fallen towers of the World Trade Center and the attack on the Pentagon. Al Qaeda brought its darkness to our shores and took the lives of innocent people. President John F. Kennedy said, ''We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light the candle that can guide us through that darkness to a safe and sane future.''

It was in our bleakest moments in those tragic days that we found the light. Remember the outpouring of compassion and common purpose that united us on 9/11 and for weeks after. The attacks were the worst humanity could provide. Our response as a people was the best. The American people are always the candle that guides us.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to remember the precious lives lost 13 years ago in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. Our perception of the world changed in very dramatic ways by sunset on that day of infamy and we awoke on September 12 to what we believed to be a much more dangerous reality. We have learned a number of lessons since that day. Some were crystal clear almost immediately while others required us to walk a more difficult path to gain clarity. As we reflect on the 13th anniversary of 9/11, I would like to remind my colleagues of the two principles that can serve as our anchor amidst uncertainty and stormy circumstances.

First is that the followers of Osama bin Laden turned the openness and freedom of American society against us by savagely using civilian passenger jets as missiles to demolish the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and destroy a large section of the Pentagon. They wield the weapons of fear, chaos, and destruction. We must remember that our foundation is built on freedom, justice, and equality. The greatest weapon in our arsenal is not a munition or aircraft but our light that remains shining upon the hill. Ours is the greatest democracy this planet has ever known and that is why it is a threat to those who seek darkness and destruction. We build, we progress, we encourage, we respect, but we do not sink to the level of our adversaries even if that means the fight is not fair. I am reminded of the words of President Kennedy, who said, ''In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it.''

The second principle that we must remember is that the United States of America remains an indispensable Nation and to those to whom much is given, much is expected in return. We have a unique role in the world to lead the international community in providing stability, humanitarian relief, and defense of the innocent. Today we remain engaged in a war against elements of extremist terror organizations bent on the destruction of all people regardless of faith, nationality, or race who do not accept their tyrannical 9th century vision of the world. They are unlike any enemy we have ever faced in that they respect no boundaries, have no clear end, target civilians and servicemembers indiscriminately, and they are determined to make our home front the front lines.

Thirteen years ago, as the attacks unfolded and we learned of the scope of the Al Qaeda network, we all questioned how our Nation would respond and whether we could recover. But as the days rolled by and we saw the determination, the compassion, and the commitment of so many individuals giving freely of their time and their money to help those affected by the attacks, we laid that question to rest. The bravery, resourcefulness, and the shared sense of purpose we witnessed that day and every day since 9/11 have

shown the world the ''stuff'' of which Americans are made: an unquenchable love of freedom and an unwavering commitment to democracy. I have heard it said that 9/11 did not test America's character; it revealed it.

For the better part of the 20th century the United States and our allies fought a successful battle against the genocidal forces of fascism and totalitarianism. We defeated the Nazis. We won the Cold War. In the bloody struggle between ideologies, democratic governments triumphed over repressive regimes.

Since that day, we have consecrated the time and place where these terrorist acts occurred. We have commemorated the brave and dedicated individuals who faced 9/11 and its consequences head-on. We have honored and laid to rest our fallen war heroes. We have rebuilt the mangled section of the Pentagon, honored Flight 77's bravery in the Pennsylvania countryside and returned Ground Zero in New York City to the world's vibrant center of economic activity. When I think of these locations, I am reminded of the words President Lincoln delivered at Gettysburg that ''we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract''.

We have also made mistakes but we acknowledge and learn from those mistakes.

I believe we will prevail against this enemy for the same reason we have been victorious in previous conflicts: the overwhelming majority of people in the world want freedom and justice and dignity and opportunity. I am confident because America remains a beacon of hope to the oppressed everywhere. I am confident because I know this generation will meet all challenges and threats we face as a Nation as successfully as we met the challenges and threats of the last century. We must remain clear-eyed as to identity and objectives of our enemy and the distinction between us. We cannot shrink when the oppressed cry for freedom and the enslaved call for justice.

The 9/11 anniversary is especially poignant this year as it falls just 3 days short of the bicentennial of the Star-Spangled Banner, our National Anthem. The greatest navy in the world bombarded Fort McHenry for 25 hours, starting on September 13, 1814. British troops were poised to move into Baltimore after Fort McHenry fell. The Nation's capital was in flames; the Nation's future was in grave doubt. And then, an amazing thing happened: Fort McHenry did not fall to the British. A huge, glorious flag was flying over the fort as dawn broke on September 14, 1814. The British forces retreated. One of the darkest hours in America's history turned into one of its brightest moments, and Maryland lawyer Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the Star-Spangled Banner.

We will have additional challenges in the months and years ahead. But we must never forget the sacrifice previous generations of Americans have made to safeguard our liberty. And we must never forget that our enemies fight because they have so little freedom while we Americans fight because we have so much freedom and that makes all the difference.

RECOGNIZING CANYONLANDS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, thank you for the opportunity today to pay tribute to a timeless feature of Utah's beautiful geography: Canyonlands National Park. This week, citizens of Utah and friends around the United States join together in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Canyonlands National Park. As one of the ''Mighty Five'' national parks in Utah, the Canyonlands celebrate a landmark anniversary, and are a source of great pride for Utahns and the outdoors community nationwide.

Canyonlands National Park is located in the southeast of our State where the otherworldly cliffs, recesses, and red rock attract climbing, mountain biking, and rafting enthusiasts from across the globe. Anyone who walks down Main Street in Moab can hear languages from German to Japanese to English, as well as accents from all over America. People plan and save for years to visit Utah to behold the invulnerable landscapes of the Canyonlands. As one stands on the edge of a 1,000-foot cliff, while seeing hundreds of miles in all directions, nature somehow puts life in perspective.

This perspective gained should not be underestimated. There is a story in common between those who visit the park and the land they experience. It is a story told in rock layers that echo ancient seas, coastal mud flats, braided streambeds, and wind-blown dunes hundreds of feet thick. It is the story of time and change, to which all of God's creation is subject. Clues to this past lie preserved in stone, along the walls of deep gorges where great rivers once roared. The three main regions of Canyonlands: the Island in the Sky, Needles, and the Maze, were once an environment quite different and more luscious. In what is now desert, shallow seas once ebbed and flowed. In many ways the story of Canyonlands is a story of transformation, and this is something to which we can all relate. We are reminded of the hunter-gatherer peoples who once flourished in Canyonlands by the Native American rock art, in the ''Great Gallery'' region, that dates back as early as 2000 BC. When I consider those painted figures together with the mosaic of colors, shapes, and pinnacles of Canyonlands, I, like many others, recall the enduring relationship between man and nature. It is this continuing legacy that we call our attention to today.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the people, both elected officials and citizens, who possessed the foresight to recognize the value of Canyonlands and created the park 50 years ago. These efforts did not come without controversy and today much controversy remains. The area around the park holds diverse importance to the local community and a variety of stakeholders. Many spend their free time exploring over 2,500 miles of roads around the park in four-wheel drive vehicles while others find a special peace in the solitude of the Canyonlands desert. These interests may seem in conflict, but the vast lands of Utah amply accommodate the equally vast spectrum of pursuits.

For several years now, the Utah congressional delegation has been developing a public lands bill that will bring certainty and balance to the areas around Canyonlands and other landscapes in Utah. The land surrounding the national park would be protected with designations to ensure that our grandchildren can stand on the same red rock cliffs to look at the glorious sunsets that our pioneer ancestors saw and view vistas people from around the world come to see today. The bill will benefit our children by exchanging State lands in areas that do not produce revenues, with Federal lands that can be developed responsibly. The revenues derived, as a result of the thoughtful development enabled by these exchanges, will benefit school children in Utah. Only Congress can make these changes to the way our public lands are managed. At a time of congressional dysfunction, this is one area of positive happenings.

What better way to celebrate the anniversary of Canyonlands National Park than by bringing certainty to a region that has been denied stability for one-half century? I am proud to be a part of this ongoing process to protect the land surrounding Canyonlands National Park.

AMERICORPS PROGRAM ANNIVERSARY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the AmeriCorps program.

I want to take a moment to say thank you—thank you to all of the volunteers and service workers out there. They are selflessly taking time out of their lives to help their fellow Americans in times of need. They are the ones out there building homes, clearing thousands of acres of forest burnt by wildfires, tutoring and mentoring our children, and assisting the elderly. They are unflagging, unflinching, and determined to make a difference.

National service has always been a passion of mine. When we started in the 1970s with the establishment of a domestic volunteer corps—similar to Peace Corps—I wanted to capture the fervor, the passion, and dynamic qualities of a social movement that would bring people to arms wielding change. At some point, it seemed we lost sight of what Alexis de Tocqueville called

''habits of the heart''—neighbor helping neighbor. I wanted to help turn the ME generation into the WE generation.

That is why in 1989 I, along with Senators Kennedy and Nunn, introduced the National and Community Service Act—a bill to establish the Corporation for National and Community Service to oversee and coordinate our national volunteer efforts. This important legislation also created a demonstration program that has since evolved into what we know today as AmeriCorps.

I believe that AmeriCorps is the embodiment of the spirit of volunteerism and service to our country. When creating this program, I did not just want to create another government program. I did not want this to be another bureaucratic agency. What I wanted to do was capture the fervor, passion, and dynamic qualities of a social movement that would bring people to arms wielding change. I think we were successful in doing just that.

I am so proud of what AmeriCorps has accomplished and become. I never dreamt that I would be standing here 20 years later knowing that the AmeriCorps program would be the force that it is today. The data doesn't lie—it is quite impressive. Over the past 20 years, more than 820,000 AmeriCorps members have served our communities and country, providing more than 1 billion hours of service.

My home State of Maryland is lucky. We have 1,600 AmeriCorps members, and 5,400 Senior Corps members. Their stories are poignant, whether it is a Teach for America Corps member helping a child with long division after school, or a National Civilian Community Corps member helping restore order to communities after a devastating storm or an AmeriCorps member helping veteran families readjust to civilian life. Every day, national service changes lives. They all meet compelling human needs by helping out in our neighborhoods and communities across the country.

I used to be a social worker for Baltimore, but now I am a social worker for America, and I believe civic responsibility is worth investing in. I want to continue to make sure that we make this kind of investment in AmeriCorps because the next generation is carrying the torch for national service. We must remember that it is not only young people signing up to serve their country. It is seniors serving as a foster grandparent to children who have been abused or neglected. It is veterans trading in their uniforms to work with Habitat for Humanity, building homes for their fellow service members. It is seasoned professionals heading into the corps, trading in corporate cubicles for classrooms and putting their real-world education to use. The next generation knows the importance of national service. Their dedication to its mission is inspiring.

Five years ago, I was at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore recovering from ankle surgery. An aide was helping me get back in bed and asked me if I knew Senator Kennedy. She said, ''They tell me you had something to do with National Service. I was in AmeriCorps.'' She was working in modest means—she had heard you could work parttime, earn a bachelor's degree from college, and that there wasn't an age limit. At the local health department, she started to do some outreach. Her supervisor told her, ''You have a real talent.'' This woman said, ''People like me are never told they have a talent, but I found I had a talent by working for AmeriCorps.'' Through an AmeriCorps stipend, she completed her degree in social work and helped her grandson get into college. She is just one of the many who have been touched by AmeriCorps, who have changed the lives of others through service.

These stories and the work that AmeriCorps volunteers do give me profound hope, because while one person can make a difference, together we can make a change. I am so pleased to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the AmeriCorps program and look forward to the next 20 years.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to recognize the bicentennial of our national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, and of Defenders Day. I thank Senator CARDIN, my partner in the Senate, for submitting a resolution to commemorate this occasion. Defenders Day, which inspired our national anthem, is momentous in the history of our Nation, the State of Maryland, and the City of Baltimore.

Two hundred years ago, the brave City of Baltimore led the way in the War of 1812 defending our Nation and holding the American line. Our troops stopped the British advance and claimed a much-needed victory for Baltimore and for the Nation.

Some call the War of 1812 the forgotten war. I believe it was the war that forged our Nation. As the United States entered the war, it was a loose collection of States. As we emerged from it, we were on the path to becoming a true Nation.

It was also during this war at the Battle of Baltimore that we gained an enduring icon of national patriotism in our National anthem, inspired by the naval battle at Fort McHenry. Fort McHenry is now a revered National monument and a historic shrine.

The Battle of Baltimore was a rousing victory in the dark days following the British attack on our Capitol. The British had just burned Washington, setting our Capitol and White House ablaze, and hurting America's morale.

Less than a month later, the British sent a fleet of ships toward Baltimore sailing up the Bay to break America at the war's frontline in what is known today as Patterson Park, but first they had to get past Fort McHenry.

The British bombed the Fort for twenty-five consecutive hours. Nearby, a young lawyer named Francis Scott Key watched from a ship where he was being held. When the smoke cleared on the morning of September 14, 1814, he saw the fifteen stars and fifteen stripes of the American flag streaming over the Fort. He was so thrilled that despite the bombs bursting in the air, ''our flag was still there.'' He went on to write the lines of the song that later became our National anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.

That day the line was held in Baltimore in our young country's war against the world's most powerful Nation. Fort McHenry has made history, and Fort McHenry has seen history. I am proud to represent Fort McHenry and Baltimore, and I encourage the passage of this resolution commemorating Fort McHenry, Defenders Day, and the Star Spangled Banner.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812's Battle of Baltimore. The State of Maryland is proud of its contributions to this ''Second War for Independence,'' which reinforced United States sovereignty and gave birth to our national anthem. While Star-Spangled 200 events are already underway in my home State, I wish to spend a few minutes to discuss the War of 1812 and the story of Francis Scott Key's poem ''Defense of Fort M'Henry.''

A generation after the United States declared its independence from Great Britain, the mercantilist ties between the two countries were not fully severed. The British impressed American merchant seamen, enforced illegal and unfair trade regulations, colluded with certain Native American tribes to attack frontier settlements, and attempted to block westward expansion. The United States declared war to reassert autonomy over its own affairs, establish free trade, protect sailors' rights, and ensure that our Nation could prosper from sea to shining sea.

President James Madison eloquently outlined these justifications more than 200 years ago when he called on ''all the good people of the United States, as they love their country, as they value the precious heritage derived from the virtue and valor of their fathers . . . . . [to] exert themselves in preserving order, in promoting concord, in maintaining the authority and efficacy of the laws, and in supporting and invigorating all the measures which may be adopted by the constituted authorities for obtaining a speedy, a just, and an honorable peace.''

The contributions of the U.S. Navy were instrumental in repelling the British during the War of 1812. The U.S. Navy barely had a dozen warships compared to the hundreds of ships comprising the British fleet. British ships were undermanned, however, while well-trained and talented officers and seamen took command of American ships. These men were largely from coastal States, like Maryland, and

were accustomed to seafaring. Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry took on the British Navy on Lake Erie in 1813 with a scrappy fleet of light ships. Even though his force was seemingly decimated by the British, Master Commandant Perry resorted to paddling a rowboat with a banner that read ''Don't Give up the Ship.'' He then boarded the USS Niagara, double-loaded the carronades, and sailed directly into the British line, ultimately claiming victory.

The following summer, in 1814, the British Navy sailed up the Chesapeake Bay to attack our Nation's capital and seize the valuable port city of Baltimore. The British dealt heavy blows to Washington, DC, setting both the U.S. Capitol and the Executive Mansion—which we now know as the White House—ablaze. British forces then moved toward Baltimore. Citizens of Baltimore, including free Blacks, quickly mobilized to protect their city. Barricades stretching more than one mile long were constructed to protect the harbor, hulls were sunk to impede navigation, and a chain of masts was erected across the harbor entrance. When the British fleet approached Baltimore at North Point, Marylanders fought the British Army and helped repulse the British Navy from Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore. It is important to note that American forces during the Battle of North Point were volunteer militia, heavily outnumbered by the highly trained British infantry, but they managed to delay the British forces long enough for 10,000 American reinforcements to arrive, preventing a land attack against Baltimore. Following 25 hours of intense British naval bombardment at Fort McHenry by more than 1,600 cannonballs, the American defenders refused to yield, and the British were forced to end the Chesapeake Campaign and withdraw.

During the British bombardment, American lawyer Francis Scott Key, who was being held on board an American flag-of-truce vessel in Baltimore Harbor, took notice of the American flag still flying atop Fort McHenry. Key realized then that the Americans had survived the battle and had stopped the enemy advance. He was so moved by the sight of the American flag flying following the horrific bombardment, he composed a poem called ''The Defense of Fort M'Henry,'' which was published in the Baltimore Patriot & Advertiser newspaper later that year. This poem, and later the song, inspired love of country among the American people and not only helped usher in the ''era of good feelings'' immediately after the war, but became a timeless reminder of American resolve. ''The Star Spangled Banner'' officially became our national anthem in 1931. The flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired this anthem is now a national treasure on display at the Smithsonian Institution, a very short distance from where we are today.

The War of 1812 confirmed the legitimacy of the Revolution and served as a critical test for the U.S. Constitution and newly established democratic government. Our young Nation battled against the largest, most powerful military on the Earth at that time and emerged with an enhanced standing among the countries of the world, both militarily and diplomatically. The U.S. economy was freed of its dependence on British goods, which unleashed domestic manufacturing and spawned the industrial revolution. The U.S. Navy proved its worth and the U.S. Congress rewarded the Navy with funding for a permanent, more expansive fleet. A new generation of Americans too young to remember Lord Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown, which effectively ended the Revolutionary War, and an older generation proud of defending American independence twice in their lifetimes, were inspired by Francis Scott Key's words, which embody our universal feelings of patriotism and courage.

I am proud that Maryland will lead the Star-Spangled 200 celebration, a 3-year celebration that began with Baltimore's ''Sailabration'' in June 2012. The Navy's Blue Angels treated more than 1.5 million spectators to dazzling air shows; the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra premiered the ''Overture for 2012,''' composed by Philip Glass; and forty-six tall ships and naval warships from around the world anchored in the Inner Harbor, open for public tours. Through the course of 2014, Maryland will host numerous events along the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail to commemorate the Chesapeake Campaign, and at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine to celebrate the bicentennial of the Battle of Baltimore. This weekend, the Star-Spangled Spectacular celebration will conclude with a fireworks display over Fort McHenry that Francis Scott Key would be proud of. These ceremonies are an opportunity to showcase to the world that Maryland is an exceptional place with a rich, colorful, and important history.

I am also proud that the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution I sponsored in the 112th Congress—S. Res. 388—to mark the beginning of the bicentennial of the War, to celebrate the heroism of the American people during the conflict, and to recognize the various organizations involved in the bicentennial celebration, including the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Park Service, and the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

The Senate may soon consider another resolution I have sponsored, along with my colleagues, the senior Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the junior Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), to commemorate the bicentennial of the Battle of Baltimore and the creation of the Star-Spangled Banner, which officially became our national anthem in 1931. As we recognize all of these ongoing efforts during this commemorative period, I encourage all Americans to remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives to defend our Nation's freedom and democracy in its infancy, and to join in the bicentennial celebration of our victory in the War of 1812.

RECOGNIZING PAM HAZE

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I honor the distinguished career of Pamela K. Haze, who retired from the U.S. Department of the Interior this past August after 34 years of Federal service.

Ms. Haze served as the Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition for the past 5 years. Her most recent position was the culmination of many years of experience working in various capacities within the Department's budget office. Her career prior to that time was spent in other bureaus of the Department, where Pam worked as a biologist and hydrologist, and served in other management roles with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

As the primary liaison between the Department and the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations, Pam has been an indispensable and trusted adviser. I have had the good fortune as chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to both work and travel with Pam, most notably on a trip to Alaska that included our subcommittee's ranking member, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, and former Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. I have witnessed firsthand Pam's dedication to the Department's mission. She has worked tirelessly with me and my staff during the annual appropriations process and we have steadily relied on Pam's vast store of knowledge and keen insights to help resolve challenges that have arisen over the years.

The appropriations process simply would not be the same without her and the dedication, wisdom, and the good humor she brought to her work. I join with many in wishing her all the best as she begins a well-deserved retirement.

BETHEL MURDOCH CHURCH BICENTENNIAL

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I wish to recognize the Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church as it celebrates its 200th anniversary. The Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church was founded in Warren County, OH, by a small group of faithful and passionate Christians.

In 1814, the Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church began when 12 pioneer settlers to Warren County first met in a maple grove to worship. The location of their first meeting spot is the site of the Murdoch Cemetery, where many of the early members are buried. The congregation's current home is a 140-year-

old church building that was built with the financial assistance of James Murdoch, a well-known Shakespearean actor at the time.

On September 14, 2014, the church will be holding a Service of Celebration, during which this small but strong congregation will celebrate the anniversary of the church and all the good that it has brought to the community.

I would like to personally extend my congratulations to the Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church on 200 years of faith, service and worship.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE MCKINSEY

• Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I wish to honor Mrs. Jackie McKinsey of Springfield, MO, for her dedication and service to the Ozarks Technical Community College, locally known as OTC. Twenty-four years ago, McKinsey became a founding member of the board of trustees as the school began operations. McKinsey has been a guiding force in OTC's evolution into the dynamic school it is today, providing a wide range of technical, highly sophisticated curricula for post-secondary education for more than 14,000 students. Since 1990, OTC has transitioned into a modern campus with a series of new facilities in Springfield and the construction of a second campus with three additional education centers.

McKinsey led the search committee that resulted in the hiring of the current school president, Dr. Hal Higdon, in 2006. She has served in every office on the board of trustees, including chairperson, and has been a tireless advocate for community colleges in Missouri.

In fact, Jackie McKinsey has dedicated her life to activism in education. For 12 years she was a member of the Springfield School Board and spent 2 years on the Missouri School Board Association. She also served on the Missouri Special Education Advisory Board for 20 years. In 1996, she was appointed by the Governor to the Missouri Women's Council. Mrs. McKinsey is an experienced mediator and has served as a trained hearing officer in cases between parents of special education students and schools districts.

Jackie McKinsey announced her retirement last summer, and the board of trustees honored her with the title of trustee emeritus. McKinsey is the fifth individual to receive this honor, joining other founding trustees Dolores Brooks, Don Clinkenbeard, Frank Farmer, and Don Wessel. This team of Springfieldians gave OTC the steady direction to be a successful open admission, 2-year college dedicated to technical education. Offering students the opportunity to earn a 1-year certificate, a 2-year associate of applied science degree, A.A.S., or an associate of arts degree, A.A., OTC is now widely praised for its professional faculty and diverse curriculum. I wish Jackie McKinsey all the best in this next chapter.

Jackie McKinsey has played a major role in that success, and her legacy will continue to impact future generations through the foundations she help put in place at OTC. I wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.•

RECOGNIZING THE SPRINGFIELD LASERS

• Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, Philadelphia, PA; Boston, MA; Washington, DC; San Diego, CA; Austin and Irving, TX; and Springfield, MO, are the seven cities represented by teams in the World Team Tennis, WTT, league. For the second year in a row, the Washington Kastles and the Springfield Lasers met in the Mylan WTT finals. With similar results as 2013, the Kastles prevailed at the Springfield home court, Mediacom Stadium in the Cooper Tennis Complex. The Springfield Lasers were the WTT Western Conference champions in 1999, 2001, and 2009. This year's Springfield squad, led by head coach John-Laffnie de Jager, made the finals with a changing roster of 12 different players rotating in and out of 4 spots on the team.

The Springfield Lasers are a remarkable story. The franchise was purchased and donated to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board in 1996 by the Cooper family, who also donated funds for the municipal tennis complex. The complex includes 12 indoor tennis courts and 16 outdoor courts, including the center court stadium used for WTT events.

Now preparing for their 20th season, the Lasers are one of the oldest teams in the WTT league, and Springfield, by far, is the smallest market in the 40-year-old tennis league. However, the Lasers play in front of big crowds—an average of more than 1,400 turned out for the first six home matches this season. The James Blake-Andy Roddick match drew more than 2,400 spectators.

Harry and John Cooper and family continue to support the team as their biggest fans. The new Lasers' general manager, Paul Nahon, Jr., has worked on building a fan base with a growing demand for season tickets. Nahon has hinted at more innovations to grow that base for the upcoming 2015 season.

The Springfield Lasers continue to make the State of Missouri proud with their success, and I wish them many more years of great tennis, growing and building the fan base for tennis in my hometown.•

CONGRATULATING ELVIRA CENOZ

• Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I wish to congratulate Elvira Cenoz on her retirement from the Overland Hotel in Gardnerville, NV. Despite the name, the Overland is not actually a hotel, but one of the finest places for a traditional Basque meal in Nevada.

Since its construction in 1908, the Overland Hotel has been a stopping point for many travelers making their way through Nevada. Conveniently situated on America's First Transcontinental Highway, the Lincoln Highway, the Overland Hotel has a long history of welcoming local ranchers, politicians, civic leaders, and weary travelers. The Overland Hotel has since become a place for the Basque culture to be celebrated in Gardnerville. Nevada has a proud Basque history, and the Overland Hotel and Saloon embodies that long and rich tradition. The Basque people originally settled in Nevada due to our proud ranching traditions. Their hearty cooking and family-centric meals quickly became a staple of Nevada's local cuisine.

The Overland Hotel is known throughout the State and to all of its patrons for its authentic Basque cuisine and charm, which is greatly attributed to Elvira and her late husband Eusebio Cenoz. Eusebio bought the Overland Hotel in 1972 after many years as a sheep herder. He and Elvira were married in 1980, and she joined her husband to run the restaurant. She soon worked her way back to the kitchen, where she has remained until her retirement this year. Her love of cooking is exemplified in the menu of the Overland Hotel, which changes daily. The Overland Hotel is not just known for its great food, but also for its friendly service, further embodying the spirit of the Silver State. Patrons are often pleasantly surprised when Elvira herself greets them warmly at their table and takes their orders.

Throughout her years owning and operating the Overland Hotel, Elvira has demonstrated a commitment to preserving and sharing the Basque tradition. I am both humbled and honored by her many years of hard work and am proud to call her a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Cenoz on her much deserved retirement.•

CONGRATULATING JUAN GUZMAN

• Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I congratulate Juan Guzman on his retirement from his career as Carson City's open space manager. As a longtime resident of Carson City, I have had the pleasure of getting to know and work with Juan and have seen the impact his contributions have made within the Carson community. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him on his retirement after 14 years of hard work and dedication to the Silver State.

Juan, a native of Puerto Rico, earned his degree in geography from the University of Puerto Rico and then went on to complete his graduate studies in the geography department with an emphasis on urban studies at the University of California. Upon the completion of his studies, Juan began his career as a planner in California. After a trip to

the Sierra Nevadas, Juan decided to make the move to Nevada, where he became an associate planner in the community development department. He worked in Douglas County for 5 years before eventually settling in Carson City, where he began work in a similar capacity. His diligent work and commitment to the betterment of the Carson community did not go without public recognition, and when the position of open space manager was created in 2000, he transitioned from the community development's planning division to open space within the parks and recreation department.

During his tenure, Juan is credited with opening up 14 areas for recreational purposes and for natural preservation as well as acquiring several land transfers from the Federal government. I had the privilege of working closely with Juan on the Carson City Community Vital Act, public lands legislation I introduced while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives that enhanced open space opportunities, strengthened flood control measures, and ensured easy public access to Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands surrounding Carson City. That bill, which became law in 2009, still serves as an example in Congress on how an intensive collaborative process between the public and officials at the local and Federal levels can yield positive results for an entire region. Without Juan, this legislation would have never come together, let alone become law.

While we will all miss Juan, his impact in the Carson City community will live on. He exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and community service and should be proud of his long and meaningful career. Today, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Juan on his retirement, and I offer my deepest appreciation for all that Juan has done to make the great State of Nevada an even better place. I offer my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT JOHN A. CARROLL

● Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army SGT John A. Carroll, of Ponca City, OK who died on September 6, 2006, of injuries sustained when he came in contact with enemy forces using small-arms fire during a dismounted security patrol while serving his Nation in Ramadi, Iraq.

John was born September 1, 1980 in Greene County, PA and moved to Lawrenceville when he was 8 years old. In his mid-teens he left to live with his father in Georgia where he earned his general education development degree. While traveling from State to State in search of employment, he was approached by an Army recruiter in Oklahoma promising a chance to continue his education and a large signing bonus. He was sold and enlisted in 1999.

John met his wife Jessica Carroll in Florida while on leave from the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany. He was on his third tour of Iraq and was due to be discharged in October 2006. After completing his service, they planned to live in Tennessee because they loved the mountains and the scenic surroundings.

A graveside service was held on September 17, 2006 at Mount View Cemetery, McMinnville, TN. Full military honors were administered by the Fort Campbell Honor Guard.

John is survived by his wife Jessica; mother Dawn Petrakovits; father Roger Carroll; two brothers Micah Carroll and Ben Beardsley; two sisters Liz Carroll and Rebecca Petrakovits; and mother-in-law Nancy Hicks and father-in-law Jerry Hicks.

Today we remember Army SGT John A. Carroll, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

CORPORAL WILFRED FLORES, JR.

Madam President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army CPL Wilfred Flores, Jr., of Lawton, OK, who died on March 31, 2007, of injuries sustained after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle while serving his Nation in Ramadi, Iraq. He was 11 days short of his 21st birthday.

The son of retired Army Sergeants First Class Wilfred Sr. and Vicky, he was born April 10, 1986, at Fort Sill, OK. A member of the Jr. ROTC program, he graduated from Eisenhower High School in Lawton in 2004 and entered the Army Delayed Entry Program.

While waiting for his enlistment time, he volunteered at Giddy Up & Go, a non-profit therapeutic horse riding program for disabled children and adults. Wilfred joined the Army as an infantryman after completing basic and advanced individual training at Fort Benning, GA. After training he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY. He was on his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A memorial service was held on April 15, 2007, at Frontier Chapel on Fort Sill, OK. Burial with full military honors followed on April 16, 2007, in the new Fort Sill National Cemetery near Elgin, OK.

Wilfred is survived by his parents Wilfred Sr. and Vicky Flores; sister Theresa Siegrist; grandfather retired Air Force SSG Modesto Flores, Jr.; three nieces; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Vicky Flores said her son was very religious, very generous and believed ''God had a hand in everything. He loved his job,'' she said. ''He was there because he wanted to be there. He died doing what he loved the most.''

Today we remember Army CPL Wilfred Flores, Jr., a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SERGEANT BUDDY J. HUGHIE

Madam President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army SGT Buddy J. Hughie, of Poteau, OK, who died while serving his Nation in Kamdesh, Afghanistan on February 19, 2007.

Born October 23, 1981 in Carlsbad, NM, and a 2005 graduate of Poteau High School, Buddy and his unit were conducting a joint mission with the Afghan National Army and the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division in the country's Nuristan province when the group came under enemy small-arms and rocket-propelled-grenade fire. After two Afghan soldiers in the group were wounded, he left his position to provide medical assistance when he was shot and killed.

''Sgt. Buddy Hughie was a great American,'' said LTC Bobby Yandell, commander of the 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry. ''Sgt. Hughie was one of those soldiers that you did not have to worry about; he always did the right thing. We mourn his loss, but celebrate the life of a great soldier.'' Buddy, who previously deployed to Afghanistan in 2002–2003, volunteered to return to the country, Yandell said.

More than 600 people filled Poteau High School's Sherman Floyd Fieldhouse to honor Buddy's life. Burial was conducted on February 28, 2007, in Live Oak Memorial Gardens in Charleston, SC.

''He didn't have to be in Afghanistan, he didn't have to serve that 45 days in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. He was there because he believed in what he was doing. More importantly, he backed those beliefs by action'' said BG Myles L. Deering, the commander of the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade.

He is survived by his wife Alexis Hughie; son Cooper; grandparents Kenneth and Delores Hughie; his mother Julie Hicks; a sister Jennifer Claiborn; a brother Dennis Hicks; and his great-grandparents Andrew ''Buddy'' and Dimple Rogers.

Today we remember Army SGT Buddy J. Hughie, a remarkable young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SERGEANT JUSTIN L. NOYES

Madam President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Marine Sgt Justin L. Noyes, of Vinita, OK, who died on July 2, 2006, of injuries sustained while attempting to disarm an improvised explosive device in Al Anbar Province, Fallujah, Iraq.

Born August 8, 1982 in Tulsa, OK, Justin played football and baseball at Vinita High School where he graduated in 2002.

Just 1 day before his 18th birthday and shortly after graduating from high school, Justin enlisted in the Marine Corps. He and his brother, Jeremy were first deployed to Iraq for the start of the war in 2003 and were there when

Saddam Hussein's statue came tumbling down.

While conducting training in North Carolina, he met his wife Sarah and they were married on May 15, 2005, in Florida in a ceremony overlooking the Gulf of Mexico.

In August 2005, Justin was reassigned as an explosive ordnance disposal technician with the 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan.

A memorial service was held on July 17, 2006 at Cowboy Junction Church in Vinita, OK. As the hearse carrying his body made its way to the church, it passed more than 500 American Legion members lined along the road, each holding an American flag. Justin's death apparently touched the Craig County community to its core. Hundreds of residents, some saluting, some with their hands over their hearts, and all waving flags of every size, poured out of homes, offices, department stores and convenience stores to line the funeral route, which flowed through downtown Vinita. As the funeral procession traveled through neighborhoods, young boys with flags on their bicycles stopped out of respect. Full military honors were rendered for the burial at Fairview Cemetery in Vinita, OK.

Justin is survived by his wife Sarah; his mother Stacey Noyes; father and stepmother Mark and Karen Noyes; brothers Jeremy Norsworthy and Chris Barnes; and sisters Hannah and Rachel Noyes.

Today we remember Marine Sgt Justin L. Noyes, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

LANCE CORPORAL TREVOR A. ROBERTS

Madam President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Marine Corps LCpl Trevor A. Roberts, of Oklahoma City, OK, who died on March 24, 2007, of injuries sustained after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle while serving his Nation in Anbar province, Iraq.

Trevor was born October 6, 1985 in Moore, OK. He joined the Marine Forces Reserve's 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Oklahoma City in his senior year before graduating from Westmoore High School in 2004. After graduation he attended 1 year at Oklahoma City Community College before being one of 30 people from his unit who volunteered to go to Iraq as an artillery specialist.

Nearly 1,000 people attended a memorial service at Eagle Heights Church with burial in Heritage Burial Park in Oklahoma City, OK.

At the memorial service, the Rev. Rob Olmstead recalled Trevor going on numerous mission trips, including one to Bangkok to work with orphaned children the summer before he attended boot camp. Trevor felt ''God is calling me to go work for these children in the foreign mission field,'' said his father, Chuck. While in Iraq, seeing the plight of the people solidified in his mind that he wanted to be a missionary, Roberts' parents said. ''He saw some stuff he did not want to have to see,'' Chuck Roberts said. ''It hurt him. He could look at the Iraqi people and see their hurt and their pain, and he could also see their joy. He could look in their eyes and just see.''

Trevor was preceded in death by his grandfather Carl Roberts. He is survived by his parents Chuck and Twyla Roberts; brother Nathan Roberts; maternal grandmother Helen JoAn Hey and her husband Lester; grandfather Willis Ferguson; paternal grandmother Rita Roberts; uncles Andy Ferguson and his wife Angie, Barry Ferguson and his wife Amy, and Mike Roberts and his wife Sandra; aunts Susan Hall, Linda Roberts, and Patty Bratton and her husband Mark; and numerous extended family, friends, and his beloved Corp.

Joey Ware, who knew Trevor more than 10 years, said his friend always looked out for those around him. ''Trevor would do anything for anybody no matter what it cost him,'' Ware recalled.

Shortly before his death he wrote on his web page about his faith and the dangers he faced: ''Sometimes I'm awakened at night, and I can not go back to sleep for hours because something is heavy on my heart. For some reason, this is one such thing. How fast life can change on us. Over here, it might be a firefight or a roadside bomb that makes a normal drive a stir of chaos. Things most definitely don't always work out the way we dream and hope, but we have to keep going, for you never know what tomorrow might bring.''

Today we remember Marine Corps LCpl Trevor A. Roberts, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST JOSHUA D. SHEPPARD

Madam President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army SPC Joshua D. Sheppard, of Quinton, OK, who died on December 22, 2006 of wounds sustained when his patrol came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire while serving his Nation in Baghdad, Iraq.

Born July 10, 1984 and a 2003 graduate of Quinton High School, Josh enlisted in the Army in July 2003 at the age of 19. After completing basic combat training at Fort Benning, GA, and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, he was assigned to the 642nd Engineer Support Company, 7th Engineer Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, Fort Drum, NY, in December 2003. He deployed to Iraq in September 2006.

An avid outdoorsman, Josh enjoyed fishing and working with wood. He was hoping to use his GI bill for an education and to learn skills that would allow him to come back to his community and work as a contractor with heavy equipment, his mother said. He wanted to become a contractor and open a saw mill. ''It was his love. He loved the outside,'' said his mother, Julie Young. ''If he got too claustrophobic sitting inside, he would go down to the woodshop.''

Funeral services and burial were conducted at Lona Valley Cemetery in Kinta, OK.

''He would have done great things,'' said his brother Reuben, an Army private. ''When we were in school, he was my best friend, and he was my best friend when he was in the service.''

He is survived by his mother Julie Young; stepfather Marty Young; and four brothers.

Today we remember Army SPC Joshua D. Sheppard, a remarkable young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

CORPORAL JARED M. SHOEMAKER

Madam President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Marine Corps Cpl Jared M. Shoemaker, of Tulsa, OK, who died on September 4, 2006, of injuries sustained after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle while serving his Nation in Al Anbar Province, Fallujah, Iraq.

The second son of Ken and Linda Shoemaker, Jared was born April 22, 1977. He graduated from Edison High School in 1995, a 3-year letterman in football, with area coaches naming him to the Oklahoma All-State team. He continued his football career, earned a degree in psychology and a minor in criminal justice and met his future wife Kari at Northeastern State University.

In January 2003, Jared joined the Marine Corps Reserve. After graduating from basic training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, CA, he reported to the Infantry Training Battalion at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA, where he graduated as a machine gunner. He was then assigned to Company I, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment and later reassigned to the 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, Broken Arrow, OK.

In January 2005 he was hired by the Tulsa Police Department. In June of that year he graduated from the police academy and served as a patrol officer until he was mobilized to active duty status in December 2005. His friends recalled that he excelled as a police officer in every capacity, graduating at the top of his class academically. He also excelled in military service, earning the Albert Schwab Award for Marine of the Year in 2005.

A memorial service was held on September 15, 2006 at First United Methodist Church in Tulsa, OK. Full military honors were rendered for the burial at Floral Haven Cemetery in Broken Arrow, OK.

Jared is survived by his wife Kari; his parents Ken and Linda Shoemaker; brother Steve Shoemaker; brother and sister-in-law Ben and Kristen Shoemaker and their daughter Ellie; grandparents Forrest and Gloria Shoemaker;

Betty Ellsworth; Howard and Christa Ellsworth; uncle Stephen F. Shoemaker and family; mother-in-law Darla Harrison; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Today we remember Marine Corps Cpl Jared M. Shoemaker, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

CORPORAL DEREK A. STANLEY

Madam President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army CPL Derek A. Stanley, of Tulsa, OK, who died on June 5, 2006, of noncombat injuries while serving his Nation at Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khowst province, Afghanistan.

Derek was born November 25, 1985, in Claremore, OK. After attending a Tulsa high school, he enrolled in Thunderbird Youth Academy in Pryor, OK, and graduated in December 2003 in the top quarter of his class with his general education development degree.

After enlisting in the Army in March 2004, he received training at Fort Leonardwood, MO. Upon completing basic training, he remained at Fort Leonardwood for 19 additional weeks of Chemical Brigade training before being assigned to the 710th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, Fort Drum, NY. His unit deployed to Afghanistan on March 15, 2006.

About 100 friends and relatives filled Millsap Funeral Service Chapel in Fort Gibson, OK, on June 15, 2006, to remember Derek. Burial services were conducted at Fort Gibson National Cemetery where BG James E. Chambers presented a flag to Derek's mother.

Derek is survived by his mother Darlyn Smith; father Faron Stanley; brother Aaron Stanley; grandparents Winnie Young, R.C. Smith, and Leona Weesner; great-grandfather Otto Smith; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Today we remember Army CPL Derek A. Stanley, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

STAFF SERGEANT CLINT J. STOREY

Madam President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army SSG Clint J. Storey, of Enid, OK, who died on August 4, 2006, of injuries sustained after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle while serving his Nation in Ramadi, Iraq.

Born February 27, 1976, Clint's life crumbled around him in 1993, quitting school as he struggled to come to terms with the death of his father. However, he found his purpose a few years later when he earned his general education development degree and enlisted in the Army in February 1998.

After completing training at Ft Knox, KY, Clint reported to HHC 1/5 Infantry Battalion at Ft Hood, TX, where he served as a scout platoon driver and gunner and deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina. In September 2000, he reported to HHC 2–34 Armor Battalion in Ft Riley, KS, as a Squad Leader and Section Sergeant before volunteering to serve as a recruiter in Los Angeles, CA, from September 2002 to 2005.

In September 2005, Clint was assigned to 1st Calvary Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany, where he served as the Headquarters Platoon Sergeant and later as the senior scout in 2nd Platoon. From there he deployed to Biaj and later to Ar Ramadi, Iraq in January 2006.

Dozens of flags lined the streets as funeral services were held at Central Christian Church in Enid, OK, on August 16, 2006. About 100 people held flags as family and friends gathered around Storey's casket at Enid Cemetery, where he was buried with full military honors. While home on leave from Iraq, Clint and his wife Melissa became pregnant with the couple's second child. Melissa was presented with the folded flag that had laid atop her husband's casket. Military officials then presented another folded flag to his mother.

On August 27, 2006, close to 200 mourners gathered in the garden outside St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Palmer, MA, as a second memorial service was held in his wife's hometown. The Vietnam Veterans of America Western MA Chapter 111 organized military honors at the service, which included an honor guard, a 21-gun salute, a recording of ''Taps'' and a carefully folded American flag offered to Adela the couple's 4-year-old daughter.

Clint is survived by his wife Melissa; daughter Adela; mother Carolyn Inherst; stepfather Bill Inherst; sisters Charlene Phillips, Tammy Divine and Tonja Whitehead; and numerous other family members and friends.

Today we remember Army SSG Clint J. Storey, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SERGEANT CLINT E. WILLIAMS

Madam President, it is my honor also to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Army SGT Clint E. Williams, of Kingston, OK, who died on September 14, 2006, of injuries sustained after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle while serving his Nation in Baghdad, Iraq.

Born August 6, 1982, in Durant, OK, Clint graduated from Kingston High School in 2001 where he was the senior class president and a member of the baseball team.

He joined the Army in April 2003 and was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He previously deployed to Iraq from October 2003 through November 2004 and returned in November 2005.

In June 2006, he was seriously wounded after a bomb exploded near him outside of Hawr Rajab south of Baghdad. Although the explosion killed a fellow soldier, Clint kept firing on enemy positions, held his ground and ran more than 300 meters to get additional fire support despite receiving wounds to his legs and hand. A fearless man, his favorite quote was ''All one really needs in life is a few good pals and together they can take on anything in life.'' Even after being injured in that battle, he volunteered for dangerous duty on raids rather than sit and wait for battle.

A memorial service was held on September 23, 2006 at Jerald Barton Memorial Gymnasium in Kingston, OK.

At the memorial service, his friend B.J. Bush recalled Clint as ''a good ol' boy with a knife in his front pocket and a can of snuff in the back. He was happiest with his gun and bow sighted in and his pole rigged with hook and line.'' He was laid to rest in Willis Cemetery, overlooking his beloved Lake Texoma.

Clint is survived by his father Lavoyed Williams; mother Marci Sprouse; three brothers Duron Williams, Dalton Williams and Daniel Williams; sister Jessica Williams; grandmothers Jean Williams and Nancy Sprouse; grandfather Jack Sprouse; and two nephews Jarren Williams and Devin Williams.

Today we remember Army SGT Clint E. Williams, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.●

CONGRATULATING TASSO DE CASTRO LUGON

● Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I wish to extend warm wishes and gratitude to my dear friend, Tasso de Castro Lugon, who is retiring after a lifetime of outstanding public service as a southwestern Brazilian judge in his State of Espirito Santo and as a member and former chairman of the Partners of the Americas.

I first met Tasso when I served as Secretary of State of West Virginia and have had the pleasure of working with him continuously as Governor and now as a Senator. We immediately established a friendship over shared philosophies, including the importance of forging meaningful relationships, working together for the common good, and creating lasting connections with the people we represent—something I also like to call retail government.

In West Virginia we value hard work, loyalty, and our cultural practice of neighbors helping neighbors. These values depict who we are as West Virginians and as Americans, which is why I am so very honored to congratulate Tasso on not only his countless achievements throughout his professional career but also his devotion to always staying true to those defining principles.

Always committed to the rule of law, Tasso served as a judge in the Brazilian court throughout his career. But true to his staunch dedication to building long-lasting relationships with local communities and those abroad, Tasso also became a member of the Partners of the Americas for 36 years before

reaching the pinnacle of his career serving as chairman of the board.

Throughout his tenure, Tasso has upheld an unfailing devotion to the friendship between the sister States of Espirito Santo and West Virginia. From the shores and peaks of Espirito Santo to the mountains, valleys, and rivers of the Mountain State, our friendship grew out of a common bond of respect to strengthening the relationship between our sister States. I cannot thank Tasso enough for cultivating that respect through a lifetime of unwavering service and dedication.

West Virginians will continue to advance in many endeavors based on the new relationships and contacts that Tasso has formed, and our State will continue to benefit from his promotion of cultural, economic, and educational development between North and South America.

I join my fellow West Virginians in sending our warmest regards to Tasso and his family for a happy and healthy retirement. We are deeply grateful for his loving and carefree spirit that he has dedicated to a lifetime of public service.●

TRIBUTE TO EDITH MESSINA

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, today I congratulate Judge Edith Messina on her retirement from the 16th Circuit Judicial Court of Jackson County and to thank her for her many years of leadership and service. For over 30 years, Judge Messina demonstrated exceptional litigation skills, judicial integrity, and professionalism while serving the State of Missouri. I am pleased to recognize her outstanding career today.

Judge Messina, a native of Kansas City, MO, received her bachelor's degree in English Literature and her master of science in counseling psychology from Avila University. Upon graduation, Judge Messina served in the Peace Corps in northern Nigeria where she taught and worked to advance community development. She returned to Kansas City and obtained her juris doctor degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1974.

Prior to her appointment by Governor Bond in 1984, Judge Messina worked in private practice and as an assistant public defender. She became the first female circuit judge in Jackson County, and in January 1998 the first woman to serve as the 16th Circuit Court's presiding judge. As an administrative judge for the Criminal Court and Family Court, she played an instrumental role in establishing the Family Court Division, which remains in place today.

In 2008, Judge Messina was honored by the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, KCMBA, with the ''Dean of the Trial Bar'' award for her longstanding commitment to law, legal knowledge and professionalism. She is well-known and admired for guiding and helping young lawyers develop their skills and pursue their passions which has made a positive impact in the legal community. Beyond the courtroom, Judge Messina is an adjunct instructor for Avila University's MBA program.

Judge Messina's dedication to Missouri's judiciary for over 30 years has helped improve the way our courts function today. Judge Messina is a much-loved member of the Kansas City community and has left a lasting legacy of public service.

I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating and honoring Judge Edith Messina.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:30 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2678. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10360 Southwest 186th Street in Miami, Florida, as the ''Larcenia J. Bullard Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4751. An act to make technical corrections to Public Law 110–229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2678. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10360 Southwest 186th Street in Miami, Florida, as the ''Larcenia J. Bullard Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5078. An act to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on September 10, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 231. An act to reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp.

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–6890. A communication from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's 2014 Annual Report of the Supplemental Security Income Program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6891. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Review of Medicare Contractor Information Security Program Evaluations for Fiscal Year 2012''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6892. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on the Administration, Cost, and Impact of the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program for Medicare Beneficiaries for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6893. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of the Expiration Date for State Disability Examiner Authority to Make Fully Favorable Quick Disability Determinations and Compassionate Allowances'' (RIN0960–AH69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6894. 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 ''Guidance Regarding Dispositions of Tangible Depreciable Property'' ((RIN1545–BL52) (TD 9689)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6895. 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 ''Procedures for Automatic Change in Method of Accounting under the Retail Inventory Method'' (Rev. Proc. 2014–48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6896. 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 ''Health Insurance Providers Fee'' (Notice 2014–47) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6897. 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 ''Retail Inventory Method'' ((RIN1545–BJ64) (TD 9688)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6898. 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 ''Debt That Is a Position in Personal Property That Is Part of a Straddle'' ((RIN1545–BL24) (TD 9691)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6899. 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 ''Applicable Federal Rates—September 2014'' (Rev. Rul. 2014–22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate

on August 27, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6900. 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 ''Automatic Disaster Relief under Section 142(d)'' (Rev. Proc. 2014–50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6901. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; FY 2015 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update; Hospice Quality Reporting Requirements and Process and Appeals for Part D Payment for Drugs for Beneficiaries Enrolled in Hospice'' ((RIN0938–AS10) (CMS–1609–F)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6902. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Modifications to the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program for 2014 and Other Changes to the EHR Incentive Program; and Health Information Technology: Revisions to the Certified EHR Technology Definition and EHR Certification Changes Related to Standards'' ((RIN0991–AB89 and RIN0991–AB97) (CMS–0046–F and CMS–0052–F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6903. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System and Fiscal Year 2015 Rates; Quality Reporting Requirements for Specific Providers; Reasonable Compensation Equivalents for Physician Services in Excluded Hospitals and Certain Teaching Hospitals; Provider Administrative Appeals and Judicial Review; Enforcement Provisions for Organ Transplant Centers; and Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program'' ((RIN0938–AS11; RIN0938–AR12; RIN0938–AR53) (CMS–1607–F and CMS–1599–F3)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6904. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a section of the Arms Export Control Act (RSAT 14–3948); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6905. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–072); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6906. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–065); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6907. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–032); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6908. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to activities under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6909. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6910. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the text of an agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6911. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Corrections, Clarifications, and Movement of Definitions'' (RIN1400–AD64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6912. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–073); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6913. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (P.L. 107–243) and the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (P.L. 102–1) for the April 16, 2014–June 14, 2014 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6914. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period April 1, 2014 through May 31, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6915. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014–0095–2014–0112); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6916. A communication from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's 2014 Annual Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6917. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act'' (RIN1210–AB67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6918. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act'' ((RIN0938–AR42) (CMS–9939–IFC)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6919. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Acquisition Regulations'' (RIN0991–AB87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6920. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Specifications for Medical Examinations of Coal Miners'' (RIN0920–AA57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6921. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medical Devices; Technical Amendment'' (Docket No. FDA–2014–N–0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6922. 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 ''Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act'' ((RIN1545–BM38) (TD 9690)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6923. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final priorities. Rehabilitation Services Administration—Capacity Building Program for Traditionally Underserved Populations—Vocational Rehabilitation Training Institute for the Preparation of Personnel in American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Projects'' (CFDA No. 84.315C.) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6924. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final priority. Technical Assistance on State Data Collection—IDEA Fiscal Data Center'' (CFDA No. 84.373F.) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6925. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final priority. Rehabilitation Services Administration—Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program'' (CFDA No. 84.224D.) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6926. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final priority. Rehabilitation Training: Job-Driven Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center'' (CFDA No. 84.264A.) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6927. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an alternative plan for pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6928. A communication from the General Manager and Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6929. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal years 2012 and 2013 annual reports relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6930. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedules of Controlled Substances: Rescheduling of Hydrocodone Combination Products From Schedule III to Schedule II'' (Docket No. DEA–389) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6931. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the activities and operations of the Public Integrity Section, Criminal Division, and the nationwide federal law enforcement effort against public corruption; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6932. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the activities of the Community Relations Service for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6933. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Substitution in Case of Death of Claimant'' (RIN2900–AN91) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 3, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–6934. A communication from the President of the United States to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to the deployment of certain U.S. forces to the Central African Republic, received during adjournment of the Senate on September 11, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–321. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of West Virginia urging the United States Congress to begin the process of amending the United States Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or rights of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, In 2010 the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election. Commission, holding that independent spending on elections by corporations and other groups could not be limited by government regulations; and

Whereas, This decision rolled back the legal restrictions on corporate spending in the electoral process, allowing for the unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection and policy decisions; and

Whereas, In reaching this decision, a narrow majority of the Supreme Court, relying on and expanding prior decisions, interpreted the First Amendment of the Constitution to afford corporations the same free speech protections as natural persons; and

Whereas, The Supreme Court relied on other prior decisions which afforded the spending, of money to influence elections the full protection of the .First Amendment and disregarded the distorting and corrupting effects of unlimited money in elections; and

Whereas, In his eloquent dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens rightly recognized that, ''corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their 'personhood' often observes as a useful legal fiction; But they are not themselves members of 'We the People' by whom and for whom our Constitution was established''; and

Whereas, The court's decision in Citizens United severely hampers the ability of federal, state and local governments to enact reasonable campaign finance reforms and regulations regarding corporate political activity; and

Whereas, Corporations should not be afforded the entirety of protections or rights of natural persons, such that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is a form of constitutionally protected speech; and

Whereas, In 2012 the same narrow majority of the Supreme Court voted to strike down longstanding campaign finance laws in the State of Montana without hearing any evidence or argument on that state's own history and experience with corporate spending and corruption; and

Whereas, Several proposed amendments to the Constitution have been introduced in Congress that would allow government to regulate the raising and spending of Money by corporations to influence elections; and

Whereas, On Election Day, 2012, over six million voters across the United States, including the states of Colorado and Montana, had the opportunity to vote on state and local ballot measures, calling for a constitutional amendment to limit money in politics, and all proposed initiatives passed overwhelmingly, averaging, seventy-five percent support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the Senate opposes the United States Supreme Court is interpretation of the Constitution in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission regarding the constitutional rights of corporations; supports an amendment to the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or rights of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech; and calls on Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate respectfully opposes the United States Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and related cases allowing unlimited corporate election spending; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate supports an amendment to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations are not entitled to the same rights and protection as natural persons under the Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That such an amendment should assure the power of the federal, state and local governments to limit, regulate and require disclosure of sources of all Money spent to influence elections; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate charges the West Virginia Congressional Delegation with the duty to support such an amendment, to work diligently towards its passage and to vote at all stages to advance such legislation in the Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate declares its intention to ratify such an amendment if and when the Congress shall submit it to the states; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk is hereby directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States and the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of both houses of Congress and to each United States Senator and Member of the House of Representatives from West Virginia.

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

(By Senators Snyder, Kessler (Mr. President), Beach, Cann, Edgell, Fitzsimmons, Green, Laird, McCabe, Miller, Tucker, Unger, Wells, Yost, Plymale, Palumbo and Williams)

[Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary]

Whereas, In 2010, the United States Supreme Court issued its ruling in Citizens United v, Federal Election Commission that enabled corporations and unions. to spend unlimited amounts of money in support of or in opposition to candidates for election; and

Whereas, The people of West Virginia and all other states should have the power to limit by law the extent to which money can be spent in their political systems: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the Senate hereby calls upon the United States Congress to propose a constitutional amendment addressing the Supreme Court. decision in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission; and be it further

Resolved, That the West Virginia Senate supports an amendment to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations and unions are not entitled to the same rights and protections as natural persons under the Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That such an amendment should assure the power of the federal, state and local governments to limit, regulate and require disclosure of sources of all money

spent in the course of political elections; and be it further

Resolved, That the West Virginia Senate requests that the West Virginia Congressional Delegation support such an amendment, work diligently towards its passage and vote at all stages to advance such legislation in the Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States and the President pro Tempore of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the House. of Representatives, to the majority and minority leaders of both houses of Congress and to each United States Senator and Member of the House of Representatives from West Virginia.

POM–322. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the Congress of the United States, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states for the sole and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution that would provide for a balanced budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

Whereas, the failure of the federal budget process has produced an enormous federal budget deficit, and growing national debt presently burdens the American people and threatens to burden their descendants for generations to come; and

Whereas, the congressional practice of deficit spending and repeated raising of the ceiling on the federal debt has had the effect of endangering the jobs, incomes, retirement security, welfare, and future of American citizens; and

Whereas, such debt diverts scarce resources from crucial programs to pay interest on the national debt, constricts the ability of the federal government to address long-standing national problems and to respond to new needs, and increases pressures to raise taxes on the American people; and

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States provides that an amendment to the constitution may be proposed by congress, or on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states, congress is required to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing an amendment, which, in either case, shall become part of the constitution when ratified by three-fourths of the several states: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby make application to the Congress of the United States to call a convention pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States of America for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for ratification, to require that in the absence of a national emergency the total of all federal outlays made by congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year, together with any related and appropriate fiscal restraints; and be it further

Resolved, That this application is to be considered as covering the same subject matter as the presently outstanding balanced budget applications from other states, including but not limited to previously adopted applications from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas; and that this application shall be aggregated with such applications for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require the calling of a convention but shall not be aggregated with applications on any other subject; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted by the secretary of state to the president and the secretary of the United States Senate, to the speaker and clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of this state's delegation to the congress, and to the presiding officer of each house of each state legislature in the United States, requesting their cooperation; and be it further

Resolved, That this application by this legislature supersedes all previous applications by this legislature on this same subject matter and that this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made application for a similar convention pursuant to Article V.

POM–323. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida applying to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution to provide for a balanced federal budget and limit the ability of Congress to dictate to states requirements for the expenditure of federal funds, and rescinding all previous applications of the State of Florida for the calling of a federal constitutional convention to amend the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 10

Whereas, fiscal discipline and economic integrity have been core principles of American governance, and

Whereas, the American people have historically demanded the same prudent, responsible, and intellectually honest financial behavior from their elected representatives as ultimately compels individual behavior, and

Whereas, it is the firm conviction of the Legislature of the State of Florida that it is wrong to fund the prosperity of the present generation by robbing future Americans of their own, and

Whereas, mortgaging the birthright of our children and grandchildren is a dangerous departure from traditional American values which threatens to permanently undermine the strength of our nation, and

Whereas, the national debt has nearly doubled over the past 8 years and Florida's share of that debt is $727 billion, more than all Floridians make in wages and salaries in 2 years, and

Whereas, for the nation to pay off the entire federal debt by 2015, Congress would have to triple the federal income taxes of every American and devote the increase exclusively to debt payments, and

Whereas, our debt is increasingly owed to the governments of foreign nations, not to the citizens of the United States; therefore, our wealth is transferred to others and will not be available to supply the means for America's future growth and prosperity, and

Whereas, this generation will bequeath to its children one of the world's most indebted industrial democracies, and

Whereas, high federal deficits cause increasingly high payments for debt interest in the future, make future borrowing more costly, reduce investment activity, and thus reduce the size of the future economy, and

Whereas, the people of Florida recognized the wisdom of fiscal discipline and enshrined in its State Constitution the requirement for a balanced budget to place a prudent limit on the tendencies of government, and

Whereas, the Florida Legislature has made fiscally responsible decisions, maintaining a balanced budget and saving the citizens of this State from crippling deficits, massive debt burdens, and bankruptcy, and

Whereas, we the Legislature of the State of Florida call for the Constitution of the United States to be amended to require the Federal Government to operate with fiscal responsibility, common sense, and the revenues granted to it by the people, and

Whereas, the Federal Government has for too long relied on revenue increases and borrowing against our future rather than on prudent spending decisions within the limits of current revenues, and

Whereas, lasting resolution of this nation's budget deficit can be achieved only by addressing the spending habits of our Federal Government, not by increasing the tax burden under which our citizens already labor, and

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States makes provision for amending the Constitution on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, calling a convention for proposing amendments that shall be valid to all intents and purposes if ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida, the House of Representatives Concurring:

That the Legislature of the State of Florida, with all due respect and great reluctance, does hereby make application to the Congress of the United States pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States to call an Article V amendments convention for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States:

(1) To achieve and maintain a balanced budget by:

(a) Requiring that such balanced budget account for all obligations of the Federal Government;

(b) Allowing flexibility in federal balanced budget requirements by providing exceptions related to exigencies such as national emergencies or threats to the nation's security;

(c) Imposing spending limits on the Federal Government;

(d) Setting extraordinary vote requirements for new or increased federal taxes and other revenues; and

(e) Prohibiting federal mandates on states to impose taxes or fees.

(2) To control the ability of the Congress and the various federal executive agencies to require states to expend funds by:

(a) Limiting the ability of Congress and the various federal executive agencies to pass legislation requiring states to spend money or to take actions requiring the expenditure of money unless federal funds are provided in ongoing amounts sufficient to offset the full costs of such requirements; and

(b) Limiting the ability of Congress to dictate to states requirements for the expenditure of federal funds other than such requirements as may be necessary to measure outcomes to be achieved through the expenditure of the federal funds, leaving to the several states the ability to decide how to best accomplish those outcomes; and be it further

Resolved, That this concurrent resolution supersedes all previous memorials applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, including Senate Memorial

234 and House Memorial 2801, both passed in 1976, and superseded, revoked, and withdrawn in 1988 by Senate Memorial 302, and that such previous memorials are hereby revoked and withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the same effect as if they had never been passed; and be it further

Resolved, That this concurrent resolution is revoked and withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the same effect as if it had never been passed, and retroactive to the date of passage, if it is used for the purpose of calling a convention or used in support of conducting a convention to amend the Constitution of the United States for any purpose other than requiring a balanced federal budget or limiting the ability of the Federal Government to require states to spend money; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this concurrent resolution be dispatched to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress, and to the presiding officers of each house of the several state legislatures.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. LANDRIEU for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

By Mrs. BOXER for the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

*Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2015.

*Stephen G. Burns, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2019.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2792. A bill to establish a tax credit for on-site apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2793. A bill to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2794. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to direct the task force of the Office of Veterans Business Development to provide access to and manage the distribution of overseas excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2795. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the definition of eligible program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2796. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the income protection allowances; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2797. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to update a program to provide assistance for the planning, design, and construction of treatment works to intercept, transport, control, or treat municipal combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows, and to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to update certain guidance used to develop and determine the financial capability of communities to implement clean water infrastructure programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2798. A bill to require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to create an electronic database of research and information on the causes of, and corrective actions being taken with regard to, algal blooms in the Great Lakes, their tributaries, and other surface fresh waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2799. A bill to extend the authority of satellite carriers to retransmit certain television broadcast station signals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 2800. A bill to create a patient-centered quality of care initiative for seriously ill patients through the establishment of a stakeholder strategic summit, quality of life education and awareness initiative, health care workforce training, an advisory committee, and palliative care focused research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2801. A bill to provide for conditions on the renewal of health insurance plans purchased through Exchanges; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 542. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week, including raising public awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles and increasing personal financial literacy; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HATCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. JOHANNS):

S. Res. 543. A resolution designating November 1, 2014, as National Bison Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 403

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 851

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to all veterans with a serious service-connected injury eligibility to participate in the family caregiver services program.

S. 896

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 896, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1251, a bill to establish programs with respect to childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1417

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1417, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.

S. 1535

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1535, a bill to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 2089

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2089, a bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update eligibility for the supplemental security income program, and for other purposes.

S. 2094

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2094, a bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 2258

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2258, a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2501

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2501, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the Medicare Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program.

S. 2545

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2545, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2694

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2694, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary care services.

S. 2695

At the request of Mr. KAINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2695, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to have an independent advocate for campus sexual assault prevention and response.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2781, a bill to improve student and exchange visitor visa programs.

S. 2789

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2789, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S.J. RES. 41

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 41, a joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate the more than 5,000 slaves and free Black persons who fought for independence in the American Revolution.

S. RES. 541

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 541, a resolution recognizing the severe threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to populations, governments, and economies across Africa and, if not properly contained, to regions across the globe, and expressing support for those affected by this epidemic.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2794. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to direct the task force of the Office of Veterans Business Development to provide access to and manage the distribution of overseas excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 2794

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 ''Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. ACCESS TO OVERSEAS EXCESS OR SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 32(c)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b(c)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(vii) providing access to and managing the distribution of excess or surplus property located outside the United States that is owned by the United States to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding between the task force and the head of the applicable state agency (as defined in section 549 of title 40, United States Code).''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 542—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK, INCLUDING RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE VARIOUS TAX-PREFERRED RETIREMENT VEHICLES AND INCREASING PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 542

Whereas people in the United States are living longer, and the cost of retirement is increasing significantly;

Whereas Social Security remains the bedrock of retirement income for the great majority of the people of the United States but was never intended by Congress to be the sole source of retirement income for families;

Whereas recent data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute indicates that, in the United States, only approximately ⅗ of workers or their spouses are saving for retirement, and the amount that workers have saved for retirement is much less than the amount they need to adequately fund their retirement years;

Whereas the financial literacy of workers in the United States is important to their understanding of the need to save for retirement;

Whereas saving for retirement is a key component of overall financial health and security during retirement years, and the importance of financial literacy in planning for retirement must be advocated;

Whereas many workers may not be aware of their options in saving for retirement or may not have focused on the importance of, and need for, saving for retirement;

Whereas, although many employees have access through their employers to defined benefit and defined contribution plans to assist them in preparing for retirement, many of those employees may not be taking advantage of those plans at all or to the full extent allowed by Federal law;

Whereas saving for retirement is necessary even during economic downturns or market declines, which makes continued contributions all the more important;

Whereas all workers, including public and private sector employees, employees of tax-exempt organizations, and self-employed individuals, can benefit from developing personal budgets and financial plans that include retirement savings strategies that take advantage of tax-preferred retirement savings vehicles; and

Whereas the week of October 19 through October 25, 2014 has been designated as ''National Save for Retirement Week'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week, including raising public awareness of the importance of saving adequately for retirement;

(2) acknowledges the need to raise public awareness of a variety of ways to save for retirement that are favored under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which are utilized by many people in the United States but could be utilized by more; and

(3) calls on States, localities, schools, universities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Save for Retirement Week with appropriate programs and activities, with the goal of increasing the retirement savings and personal financial literacy of all people in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 543—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 1, 2014, AS NATIONAL BISON DAY

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HATCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 543

Whereas bison are considered a historical symbol of the United States;

Whereas bison were integrally linked with the economic and spiritual lives of many Indian tribes through trade and sacred ceremonies;

Whereas there are more than 60 Indian tribes participating in the Intertribal Buffalo Council;

Whereas numerous members of Indian tribes are involved in bison restoration on tribal land;

Whereas members of Indian tribes have a combined herd on more than 1,000,000 acres of tribal land;

Whereas the Intertribal Buffalo Council is a tribal organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as ''Indian Reorganization Act'') (25 U.S.C. 477);

Whereas bison can play an important role in improving the types of grasses found in landscapes to the benefit of grasslands;

Whereas a bison has been depicted on the official seal of the Department of the Interior since 1912;

Whereas bison hold significant economic value for private producers and rural communities;

Whereas, as of 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture estimates that 162,110 head of bison were under the stewardship of private producers, creating jobs and contributing to the food security of the United States by providing a sustainable and healthy meat source;

Whereas a bison is portrayed on 2 State flags;

Whereas the bison has been adopted by 3 States as the official mammal or animal of those States;

Whereas the buffalo nickel played an important role in modernizing the currency of the United States;

Whereas several sports teams have the bison as a mascot, which highlights the iconic significance of bison in the United States;

Whereas on December 8, 1905, William Hornaday, Theodore Roosevelt, and others formed the American Bison Society in response to the near extinction of bison in the United States;

Whereas on October 11, 1907, the American Bison Society sent 15 bison to the first big game refuge in the United States, which was known as the ''Wichita Reserve Bison Refuge'';

Whereas in 2005, the American Bison Society was reestablished, bringing together bison ranchers, managers from Indian tribes, Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, and natural and social scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to create a vision for the North American bison in the 21st century;

Whereas there are bison herds in National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks;

Whereas there are bison in State-managed herds across 11 States;

Whereas there is a growing effort to celebrate and officially recognize the historical, cultural, and economic significance of the North American bison to the heritage of the United States; and

Whereas members of Indian tribes, bison producers, conservationists, sportsmen, educators, and other public and private partners have participated in the annual National Bison Day since 2012 and are committed to continuing this tradition annually on the first Saturday of November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 1, 2014, the first Saturday of November, as National Bison Day; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3800. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

SA 3801. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3800 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2199, supra.

SA 3802. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2199, supra.

SA 3803. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3802 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2199, supra.

SA 3804. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3803 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3802 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2199, supra.

SA 3805. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3806. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3807. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3808. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3809. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3800. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 20, line 4, strike ''6 months'' and insert ''7 months''.

SA 3801. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3800 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''7'' and insert ''8''.

SA 3802. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 20, line 4, strike ''6 months after the date of enactment'' and insert ''7 months after the date of enactment''.

SA 3803. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3802 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''7 months'' and insert ''8 months''.

SA 3804. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3803 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3802 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''8'' and insert ''9''.

SA 3805. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 11, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 3A. NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.—

(1) RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES.—Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 157) is amended by striking ''except to'' and all that follows through ''authorized in section 8(a)(3)''.

(2) UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES.—Section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking '': *Provided*, That'' and all that follows through ''retaining membership'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or to discriminate'' and all that follows through ''retaining membership''; and

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking ''covered by an agreement authorized under subsection (a)(3) of this section''; and

(C) in subsection (f)—

(i) by striking clause (2); and

(ii) by redesignating clauses (3) and (4) as clauses (2) and (3), respectively.

(b) AMENDMENT TO THE RAILWAY LABOR ACT.—Section 2 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 152) is amended by striking paragraph Eleven.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Notwithstanding section 11(a), this section, and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3806. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PAYMENT OF HIGHER WAGES.

Section 9(a) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 159(a)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(a)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) Notwithstanding a labor organization's exclusive representation of employees in a unit, or the terms and conditions of any collective bargaining contract or agreement then in effect, nothing in either—

''(A) section 8(a)(1) or 8(a)(5), or

''(B) a collective bargaining contract or agreement renewed or entered into after the date of enactment of this paragraph,

shall prohibit an employer from paying an employee in the unit greater wages, pay, or other compensation for, or by reason of, his or her services as an employee of such employer, than provided for in such contract or agreement.''.

SA 3807. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 715, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 2842. BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR.—The term ''National Heritage Corridor'' means the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

(2) PARK.—The term ''Park'' means the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park established by subsection (b).

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

(4) STATES.—The term ''States'' means—

(A) the State of Massachusetts; and

(B) the State of Rhode Island.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the States a unit of the National Park System, to be known as the ''Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park''.

(c) HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS.—The Park shall include—

(1) Blackstone River State Park; and

(2) the following resources, as described in Management Option 3 of the study entitled ''Blackstone River Valley Special Resource Study-Study Report 2011'':

(A) Old Slater Mill National Historic Landmark District.

(B) Slatersville Historic District.

(C) Ashton Historic District.

(D) Whitinsville Historic District.

(E) Hopedale Village Historic District.

(F) Blackstone River and the tributaries of Blackstone River.

(G) Blackstone Canal.

(d) ACQUISITION OF LAND; PARK BOUNDARY.—

(1) LAND ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may acquire land or interests in land that are considered contributing historic resources in the historic sites and districts described in subsection (c)(2) for inclusion in the Park boundary by donation, purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(2) PARK BOUNDARY.—On a determination by the Secretary that a sufficient quantity of land or interests in land has been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit, the Secretary shall establish a boundary for the Park by publishing a boundary map in the Federal Register.

(3) OTHER RESOURCES.—The Secretary may include in the Park boundary any resources that are the subject of an agreement with the States or a subdivision of the States entered into under subsection (e)(4).

(4) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—On the acquisition of additional land or interests in land under paragraph (1), or on entering an agreement under paragraph (3), the boundary of the Park shall be adjusted to reflect the acquisition or agreement by publishing a Park boundary map in the Federal Register.

(5) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The maps referred to in this paragraph shall be available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(6) ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES.—The Secretary may acquire not more than 10 acres in Woonsocket, Rhode Island for the development of administrative, curatorial, maintenance, or visitor facilities for the Park.

(7) LIMITATION.—Land owned by the States or a political subdivision of the States may be acquired under this paragraph only by donation.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer land within the boundary of the Park in accordance with—

(A) this section; and

(B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(i) the National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

(ii) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(2) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the Park—

(i) in consultation with the States and other interested parties; and

(ii) in accordance with section 12(b) of the National Park System General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–7(b)).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan shall consider ways to use preexisting or planned visitor facilities and recreational opportunities developed in the National Heritage Corridor, including—

(i) the Blackstone Valley Visitor Center, Pawtucket, Rhode Island;

(ii) the Captain Wilbur Kelly House, Blackstone River State Park, Lincoln, Rhode Island;

(iii) the Museum of Work and Culture, Woonsocket, Rhode Island;

(iv) the River Bend Farm/Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, Uxbridge, Massachusetts;

(v) the Worcester Blackstone Visitor Center, located at the former Washburn & Moen wire mill facility, Worcester, Massachusetts;

(vi) the Route 295 Visitor Center adjacent to Blackstone River State Park; and

(vii) the Blackstone River Bikeway.

(3) RELATED SITES.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance, visitor services, interpretive tours, and educational programs to sites and resources in the National Heritage Corridor that are located outside the boundary of the Park and associated with the purposes for which the Park is established.

(4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To further the purposes of this section and notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the States, political subdivisions of the States, nonprofit organizations (including Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Inc.), and other interested parties—

(i) to provide technical assistance, interpretation, and educational programs in the historic sites and districts described in subsection (c)(2); and

(ii) subject to the availability of appropriations and subparagraphs (B) and (C), to provide not more than 50 percent of the cost of any natural, historic, or cultural resource protection project in the Park that is consistent with the general management plan prepared under paragraph (2).

(B) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of the receipt of funds under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall require that any Federal funds made available under a cooperative agreement entered into under this paragraph are to be matched on a 1-to-1 basis by non-Federal funds.

(C) REIMBURSEMENT.—Any payment made by the Secretary under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be subject to an agreement that the conversion, use, or disposal of the project for purposes that are inconsistent with the purposes of this section, as determined by the Secretary, shall result in a right of the United States to reimbursement of the greater of—

(i) the amount provided by the Secretary to the project under subparagraph (A)(ii); or

(ii) an amount equal to the increase in the value of the project that is attributable to the funds, as determined by the Secretary at the time of the conversion, use, or disposal.

(D) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Any cooperative agreement entered into under this subparagraph shall provide for reasonable public access to the resources covered by the cooperative agreement.

(f) DEDICATION; MEMORIAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress dedicates the Park to John H. Chafee, the former United States Senator from Rhode Island, in recognition of—

(A) the role of John H. Chafee in the preservation of the resources of the Blackstone River Valley and the heritage corridor that bears the name of John H. Chafee; and

(B) the decades of the service of John H. Chafee to the people of Rhode Island and the United States.

(2) MEMORIAL.—The Secretary shall display a memorial at an appropriate location in the Park that recognizes the role of John H. Chafee in preserving the resources of the Blackstone River Valley for the people of the United States.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 2843. JOHN H. CHAFEE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR AMENDMENTS.

Public Law 99–647 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; 100 Stat. 3625) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of section 2 (110 Stat. 4202), by striking ''the map entitled 'Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Boundary Map', numbered BRV–80–80,011, and dated May 2, 1993'' and inserting ''the map entitled 'John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor—Proposed Boundary', numbered 022/111530, and dated November 10, 2011'';

(2) in section 7 (120 Stat. 1858, 125 Stat. 155)—

(A) in the section heading, by striking ''termination of commission'' and inserting ''termination of commission; designation of local coordinating entity'';

(B) by striking ''The Commission'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—

''(1) DESIGNATION.—The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Inc., shall be the local coordinating entity for the Corridor (referred to in this section as the 'local coordinating entity').

''(2) IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The local coordinating entity shall assume the duties of the Commission for the implementation of the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan developed and approved under section 6.

''(c) USE OF FUNDS.—For the purposes of carrying out the management plan, the local coordinating entity may use amounts made available under this Act—

''(1) to make grants to the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island (referred to in this section as the 'States'), political subdivisions of the States, nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

''(2) to enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to the States, political subdivisions of the s, nonprofit organizations, Federal agencies, and other interested parties;

''(3) to hire and compensate staff, including individuals with expertise in—

''(A) natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resource conservation;

''(B) economic and community development; or

''(C) heritage planning;

''(4) to obtain funds or services from any source, including funds and services provided under any other Federal law or program;

''(5) to contract for goods or services; and

''(6) to support activities of partners and any other activities that further the purposes of the Corridor and are consistent with the approved management plan.'';

(3) in section 8 (120 Stat. 1858)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the local coordinating entity designated by paragraph (1) and other public or private entities for the purpose of—

''(A) providing technical assistance; or

''(B) implementing the plan under section 6(c).''; and

(B) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) TRANSITION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the local coordinating entity to ensure—

''(1) the appropriate transition of management of the Corridor from the Commission to the local coordinating entity; and

''(2) coordination regarding the implementation of the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan.'';

(4) in section 10 (104 Stat. 1018, 120 Stat. 1858), by striking subsection (c); and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 11. REFERENCES TO THE CORRIDOR, INC.

''For purposes of sections 6, 8 (other than section 8(d)(1)), 9, and 10, a reference to the 'Commission' shall be considered to be a reference to the local coordinating entity.''.

SA 3808. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Ensuring Fairness in Pay Act''.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON WAGE DISCRIMINATION.

Section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''(1)'' and inserting ''(1)(A)'';

(B) by striking ''made pursuant to'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''made—

''(i) pursuant to a seniority system;

''(ii) pursuant to a merit or performance-based system;

''(iii) pursuant to a system which measures earnings by quantity or quality of production;

''(iv) on the basis of work-related expertise;

''(v) due to a shift differential, if the shift with the higher wage rate requires more work, or work that is more difficult or dangerous; or

''(vi) on the basis of a demonstrable factor other than sex, such as education, training, or experience.

''(B) An employer who is paying a wage rate differential in violation of this subsection shall not, in order to comply to comply with the provisions of this subsection, reduce the wage rate of any employee.'';

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

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

''(4) Every employer, employment agency, and labor organization, as the case may be, shall post and keep posted in conspicuous places upon its premises where notices to employees, applicants for employment, and members are customarily posted, a notice to be prepared or approved by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that sets forth excerpts from, or summaries of, the pertinent provisions of this Act (relating to section 6(d)) and of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.), and information pertinent to the filing of a complaint.''.

SEC. 3. NONRETALIATION.

Section 15 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 215) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking ''employee has filed'' and all that follows and inserting ''employee—

''(A) has made a charge or filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action under or related to this Act, including an investigation conducted by the employer, or has testified or is planning to testify or has assisted or participated in any manner in any such investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action, or has served or is planning to serve on an industry committee; or

''(B) has inquired about, discussed, or disclosed the wages of the employee or another employee;''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c)(1) Subsection (a)(3)(B) shall not apply to instances in which an employee who has access to the wage information of other employees as a part of such employee's essential job functions discloses the wages of such other employees to an individual who does not otherwise have access to such information, unless such disclosure is in response to a charge or complaint or in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action under section 6(d), including an investigation conducted by the employer.

''(2) Any employer who requires an employee to sign a contract or waiver that would prohibit the employee from disclosing information about the employee's pay shall be considered to have committed an unlawful act under subsection (a)(3)(B).

''(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the rights of an employee provided under any other provision of law.''.

SEC. 4. CIVIL PENALTY.

Section 16(e) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''(2)'' and inserting ''(2)(A)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) Any person who violates section 6(d) shall be subject to a civil penalty of $2,500 for each employee affected (less the amount of any penalty the person has paid under State law for the wage differential involved), in addition to any penalty that may apply under subparagraph (A).''; and

(2) in paragraph (3), in the first sentence, by striking ''this subsection'' and inserting ''this subsection (other than paragraph (2)(B))''.

SEC. 5. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

Section 16 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) An action brought under this section, alleging a violation of section 6(d), shall be brought—

''(1) not later than 4 years after the date on which the alleged violation occurred; and

''(2) not later than 3 years after the date on which the employee involved became aware of the wage differential that is the basis for the alleged violation.''.

SEC. 6. INFORMATION ON WAGE RATE DIFFERENTIALS.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 is amended by inserting after section 18C (29 U.S.C. 218c) the following:

''SEC. 218D. INFORMATION ON WAGE RATE DIFFERENTIALS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective July 1, 2015, the Secretary of Labor may reserve a portion of the funds available under section 169 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3224), and use the portion to award grants to States that collect and disseminate information on wage rate differentials in their States.

''(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a), a State shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary

may require, including information demonstrating that the State has collected and disseminated on the Web site of the relevant State agency and by any other means the State may determine to be appropriate—

''(1) accurate information, including statistics, on differentials in the State in wage rates on the basis of sex;

''(2) historical analyses of differentials described in paragraph (1);

''(3) an explanation of employee rights related to wage rate differentials;

''(4) instructions for employers on compliance with laws related to wage rate differentials; and

''(5) any other information that will assist the public in understanding such differentials.''.

SA 3809. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 626. ELIGIBILITY FOR PAYMENT OF BOTH RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR MILITARY RETIREES WITH COMPENSABLE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

(a) RESTATEMENT OF CURRENT CONCURRENT PAYMENT AUTHORITY WITH EXTENSION OF PAYMENT AUTHORITY TO RETIREES WITH COMPENSABLE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES RATED LESS THAN 50 PERCENT DISABLING.—Subsection (a) of section 1414 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) and subsection (b), a member or former member of the uniformed services who is entitled for any month to retired pay and who is also entitled for that month to veterans' disability compensation for a service-connected disability or combination of service-connected disabilities that is compensable under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (hereinafter in this section referred to as 'qualified retiree') is entitled to be paid both for that month without regard to sections 5304 and 5305 of title 38.

''(2) ONE-YEAR PHASE-IN FOR QUALIFIED RETIREES WITH TOTAL DISABILITIES.—During the period beginning on January 1, 2004, and ending on December 31, 2004, payment of retired pay to a qualified retiree is subject to subsection (c) if the qualified retiree is any of the following:

''(A) A qualified retiree receiving veterans' disability compensation for a disability rated as 100 percent disabling by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(B) A qualified retiree receiving veterans' disability compensation at the rate payable for a disability rated as 100 percent disabling by reason of a determination of individual unemployability.

''(3) 10-YEAR PHASE-IN FOR QUALIFIED RETIREES WITH DISABILITIES RATED 50 PERCENT DISABLING OR HIGHER.—During the period beginning on January 1, 2004, and ending on December 31, 2013, payment of retired pay to a qualified retiree is subject to subsection (c) if the qualified retiree is entitled to veterans' disability compensation for a service-connected disability or combination of service-connected disabilities that is rated not less than 50 percent disabling by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(4) 10-YEAR PHASE-IN FOR QUALIFIED RETIREES WITH COMPENSABLE DISABILITIES RATED LESS THAN 50 PERCENT DISABLING.—During the period beginning on January 1, 2016, and ending on December 31, 2025, payment of retired pay to a qualified retiree is subject to subsection (d) if the qualified retiree is entitled to veterans' disability compensation for a service-connected disability or combination of service-connected disabilities that is rated less than 50 percent disabling by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs but is compensable under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.''.

(b) PHASE-IN FOR QUALIFIED RETIREES WITH COMPENSABLE DISABILITIES RATED LESS THAN 50 PERCENT DISABLING.—Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

''(d) PHASE-IN OF FULL CONCURRENT RECEIPT FOR QUALIFIED RETIREES WITH COMPENSABLE DISABILITIES RATED LESS THAN 50 PERCENT DISABLING.—During the period beginning on January 1, 2016, and ending on December 31, 2025, retired pay payable to a qualified retiree that pursuant to subsection (a)(4) is subject to this subsection shall be determined as follows:

''(1) CALENDAR YEAR 2016.—For a month during 2016, the amount of retired pay payable to a qualified retiree is the amount (if any) of retired pay in excess of the current baseline offset, plus $100.

''(2) CALENDAR YEAR 2017.—For a month during 2017, the amount of retired pay payable to a qualified retiree is the sum of—

''(A) the amount specified in paragraph (1) for that qualified retiree; and

''(B) 10 percent of the difference between (i) the current baseline offset, and (ii) the amount specified in paragraph (1) for that member's disability.

''(3) CALENDAR YEAR 2018.—For a month during 2018, the amount of retired pay payable to a qualified retiree is the sum of—

''(A) the amount determined under paragraph (2) for that qualified retiree; and

''(B) 20 percent of the difference between (i) the current baseline offset, and (ii) the amount determined under paragraph (2) for that qualified retiree.

''(4) CALENDARY YEAR 2018.—For a month during 2019, the amount of retired pay payable to a qualified retiree is the sum of—

''(A) the amount determined under paragraph (3) for that qualified retiree; and

''(B) 30 percent of the difference between (i) the current baseline offset, and (ii) the amount determined under paragraph (3) for that qualified retiree.

''(5) CALENDAR YEAR 2020.—For a month during 2020, the amount of retired pay payable to a qualified retiree is the sum of—

''(A) the amount determined under paragraph (4) for that qualified retiree; and

''(B) 40 percent of the difference between (i) the current baseline offset, and (ii) the amount determined under paragraph (4) for that qualified retiree.

''(6) CALENDAR YEAR 2021.—For a month during 2021, the amount of retired pay payable to a qualified retiree is the sum of—

''(A) the amount determined under paragraph (5) for that qualified retiree; and

''(B) 50 percent of the difference between (i) the current baseline offset, and (ii) the amount determined under paragraph (5) for that qualified retiree.

''(7) CALENDAR YEAR 2022.—For a month during 2022, the amount of retired pay payable to a qualified retiree is the sum of—

''(A) the amount determined under paragraph (6) for that qualified retiree; and

''(B) 60 percent of the difference between (i) the current baseline offset, and (ii) the amount determined under paragraph (6) for that qualified retiree.

''(8) CALENDAR YEAR 2023.—For a month during 2023, the amount of retired pay payable to a qualified retiree is the sum of—

''(A) the amount determined under paragraph (7) for that qualified retiree; and

''(B) 70 percent of the difference between (i) the current baseline offset, and (ii) the amount determined under paragraph (7) for that qualified retiree.

''(9) CALENDAR YEAR 2024.—For a month during 2024, the amount of retired pay payable to a qualified retiree is the sum of—

''(A) the amount determined under paragraph (8) for that qualified retiree; and

''(B) 80 percent of the difference between (i) the current baseline offset, and (ii) the amount determined under paragraph (8) for that qualified retiree.

''(10) CALENDAR YEAR 2025.—For a month during 2025, the amount of retired pay payable to a qualified retiree is the sum of—

''(A) the amount determined under paragraph (9) for that qualified retiree; and

''(B) 90 percent of the difference between (i) the current baseline offset, and (ii) the amount determined under paragraph (9) for that qualified retiree.

''(11) GENERAL LIMITATION.—Retired pay determined under this subsection for a qualified retiree, if greater than the amount of retired pay otherwise applicable to that qualified retiree, shall be reduced to the amount of retired pay otherwise applicable to that qualified retiree.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO PHASE-IN FOR QUALIFIED RETIREES WITH DISABILITIES RATED 50 PERCENT DISABLING OR HIGHER.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) in the subsection caption, by inserting ''FOR QUALIFIED RETIREES WITH DISABILITIES RATED 50 PERCENT DISABLING OR HIGHER'' after ''FULL CONCURRENT RECEIPT''; and

(2) by striking ''the second sentence of subsection (a)(1)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(3)''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 1414. Members eligible for retired pay who are also eligible for veterans' disability compensation: concurrent payment of retired pay and disability compensation''.

(2) The item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 71 of such title is amended to read as follows:

''1414. Members eligible for retired pay who are also eligible for veterans' disability compensation: concurrent payment of retired pay and disability compensation.''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 31, 2015, and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

SEC. 627. COORDINATION OF SERVICE ELIGIBILITY FOR COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION AND CONCURRENT RECEIPT.

(a) AMENDMENT TO STANDARDIZE SIMILAR PROVISIONS.—Paragraph (2) of section 1414(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR RETIREES WITH FEWER THAN 20 YEARS OF SERVICE.—The retired pay of a qualified retiree who is retired under chapter 61 of this title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service is subject to reduction by the lesser of—

''(A) the amount of the reduction under sections 5304 and 5305 of title 38; or

''(B) the amount (if any) by which the amount of the member's retired pay under such chapter exceeds the amount equal to 2½

percent of the member's years of creditable service multiplied by the member's retired pay base under section 1406(b)(1) or 1407 of this title, whichever is applicable to the member.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on July 1, 2015, and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will to meet on September 16, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH–216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Ebola in West Africa: A Global Challenge and Public Health Threat.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Emily Schlichting of the committee staff on (202) 224–6840.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in executive session on Wednesday, September 17, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to mark-up S. 2141, The Sunscreen Innovation Act; H.R. 4366, The Strengthening Education through Research Act; S. 2154, Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act of 2014; and Sharon Block, of the District of Columbia, to serve as a Member of the National Labor Relations Board; as well as any additional nominations cleared for action.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the Committee at (202) 224–5375.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on September 18, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Fulfilling the Promise: Overcoming Persistent Barriers to Economic Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Zoe Gross of the committee staff on (202) 224–5484.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has scheduled a hearing entitled, ''Tax Audits of Large Partnerships.'' The Subcommittee hearing will examine IRS audits of large partnerships, including trends and audit issues identified in a Government Accountability Office report to be released at the hearing. Witnesses will include representatives of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service, and U.S. Government Accountability Office. A witness list will be available Tuesday, September 16, 2014.

The Subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at (202) 224–9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 11, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 11, 2014.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 11, 2014, at 3:15 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 11, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 11, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

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

ALL CIRCUIT REVIEW EXTENSION ACT

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 506, H.R. 4197.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4197) to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the period of certain authority with respect to judicial review of Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 4197) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2258 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2258) to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, today, as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I applaud my colleagues for their support and Senate passage of S. 2258, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2014.

All of my colleagues on the committee, including Ranking Member BURR and Senators ROCKEFELLER, MURRAY, BROWN, TESTER, BLUMENTHAL, HIRONO, ISAKSON, JOHANNS, MORAN, BOOZMAN, and HELLER, joined me in supporting this important legislation, introduced by Senator BEGICH. I look forward to continuing our bipartisan efforts to improve the lives of our Nation's veterans.

This important measure directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the rates of veterans' compensation to keep pace with the increasing cost-of-living in this country. The rate adjustment is equal to that provided on an annual basis to Social Security recipients and is based on the Consumer Price Index. Last year's cost-of-living adjustment of 1.5 percent affected so many important benefits, including veterans' disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. VA has projected that more than 4.5

million veterans and survivors will receive these benefits in fiscal year 2015.

I have been chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee for nearly 2 years, but during that period I have learned several very important lessons. First and foremost, the cost of war is much greater than most Americans realize, and the cost of war does not end when the last shots are fired or the last missiles are launched. The cost of war continues until the last veteran receives all of the care and all of the benefits that he or she has earned. With this in mind, for those who claim that taking care of veterans is too expensive, if you are not prepared to properly provide the health care and other benefits that veterans have earned, then do not send them to war in the first place. Taking care of veterans is a cost of war.

As part of Congress's important responsibility of ensuring veterans and survivors receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled, we take steps to prevent these benefits from being diminished by the effects of inflation. Over the last several years there has been a lot of discussion about so-called entitlement reform. When people talk about entitlement reform what they really mean, in English, is cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. The cuts to Social Security benefits were going to come in the form of a so-called chained CPI, which would have meant significant cuts in the cost-of-living adjustments that seniors received, that people with disabilities received, and, if you can believe it, that disabled veterans received.

The bottom line is that at a time when the wealthiest people in this country and the largest corporations are doing phenomenally well and enjoy many, many tax breaks, we should not balance the budget on the backs of some of the most vulnerable people in this country—including disabled veterans. I will continue to strongly oppose any proposal to adopt the chained CPI. Moving to a chained CPI would cut the benefits of more than 4 million disabled veterans and surviving spouses.

Congress's responsibility to ensure veterans and survivors receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled also requires that we ensure they receive their complete cost-of-living adjustment. For a number of years, VA rounded down cost-of-living adjustments. The negative impacts of the round-down were just one of the issues that were brought to my attention by the veterans service organizations. I am proud to say that passage of last year's cost-of-living adjustment ended this practice. This year's bill, sponsored by Senator BEGICH, would continue to ensure veterans receive the full adjustment to which they are entitled. To some, this is mere pennies, but I know these small amounts of money add up over time and make a significant contribution to the financial stability of millions of veterans and their survivors.

We have an obligation to ensure the benefits we provide veterans and their survivors do not erode over time. As the debate over spending and the national debt continues, we cannot forget the debt we owe to veterans and their families—after sacrificing for our well-being, the least we can do is ensure theirs. I commend the Senate's passage of S. 2258, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2014. It is another important step as we continue to work to honor our obligation to America's veterans and their surviving family members.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 2258) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2258

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 ''Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2014, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2014, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2014, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection (b), as increased under subsection (a), not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2015.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 542.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 542) supporting the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week, including raising public awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles and increasing personal financial literacy.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 542) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open until 5 p.m. today for the purpose of submitting statements and introducing legislation.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 2199, as provided under the previous order; finally, that the filing deadlines for first-degree amendments to S. 2199, the Paycheck Fairness Act, be 3 p.m. Monday and second-degree amendments be 4 p.m. Monday.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Senators should expect three rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m. on Monday on cloture on the Paycheck Fairness Act and cloture on the Baran and Burns nominations to be members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 15, 2014, at 2 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 11, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN HOOVER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

DAVID RADZANOWSKI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

DAVID J. ARROYO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MIRANDA A. A. BALLENTINE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

JUDITH M. DAVENPORT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2020.

ELIZABETH SEMBLER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JOSEPH L. NIMMICH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ANNE E. RUNG, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H.R. 3670, ANTI-SPOOFING ACT OF 2013 AND H.R. 5161, E–LABEL ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3670, the Anti-Spoofing Act and H.R. 5161, the E–LABEL Act.

H.R. 3670 updates the Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009 to combat against fraudulent phone calls and text messages received by millions of Americans, including seniors, veterans and the disabled. According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), ''caller ID spoofing'' is defined as the deliberate falsification of caller ID information, including a telephone number and/or name for the purpose of disguising the identity of the calling party.

Just last month, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department reported a series of spoofing incidents in which San Diegans received calls purported to be from the Sheriff's office, indicating a warrant for their arrest. With similar reports of fraudulent behavior around the country, this bipartisan, pro-consumer bill will better protect Americans from becoming victims of scammers. I commend Representative MENG for her leadership and I urge the House to pass this commonsense bill.

I also urge House colleagues to support H.R. 5161, a bipartisan bill which I introduced with Representatives LATTA, WELCH and BLACKBURN in July. Following on the E–Labeling guidance issued by the FCC this summer, H.R. 5161 would promote electronic labeling for FCC certified devices such as phones, computers, smart watches and other consumer electronics products.

As the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) described in a July op-ed, ''etching 17 characters into a phone might not seem like a Herculean feat, but as wireless devices have proliferated and shrunk in size, many manufacturers have been forced to buy increasingly expensive equipment and invest more design time into placing the label.'' Electronic labeling thus provides manufacturers with a more practical solution to existing FCC labeling requirements and does so while lowering device costs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 3670 and H.R. 5161.

ELBRA WEDGEWORTH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth on the dedication of the Elbra M. Wedgeworth Municipal Building.

Elbra Wedgeworth was elected to Denver City Council in 1999 representing District 8. Serving a second term in 2003 her City Council peers unanimously elected her the Council President, serving 2003 to 2005. Through her leadership and perseverance Elbra was instrumental in the revitalization of District 8 through improvements to City Park Golf Course, the redevelopment of East Village Housing project, Mercy Hospital redevelopment, Colorado Convention Center expansion and the Blair Caldwell African-American Research Library, only to name a few. Elbra also served as the President and Chair of the Denver 2008 Convention Host Committee; her participation was instrumental in Denver being chosen to host the Democratic National Convention. The Convention itself generated over $266 million dollars in economic benefit to the State of Colorado.

Elbra currently serves as the Chief Government and Community Relations Officer at Denver Health and Hospital Authority.

I extend my deepest congratulations and gratitude to the Honorable Elbra Wedgeworth for her countless hours of dedication to the citizens of Colorado. Elbra's continued commitment has made our community a better place for all of us.

GENOCIDAL ATTACKS AGAINST CHRISTIAN AND OTHER RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I convened a subcommittee hearing on the desperate plight of Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq and Syria.

As images of beheaded American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff are seared into our consciousness, we would do well to honor their memories by recalling that they saw it as their mission to alert the world to the horrors committed by the fanatical Islamist terrorist group ISIS in Syria and Iraq: Children forced to view crucifixions and beheadings; women bartered, sold, and raped; prisoners lined up on their knees to be shot—this is ISIS' legacy.

Today Christians and other religious minorities, such as Yezidis, Shabaks, and Turkmen Shiites are not just facing a long winter without homes. They are not just hungry and thirsty and wandering from village to village in Northern Iraq and Kurdistan.

They are facing annihilation—genocide—by fanatics who see anyone who does not subscribe to its draconian and violent interpretation of Islam as fair game for enslavement, forced conversion or death.

If the phrase ''Never Again'' is to be more than well moving sentiment we simply give lip service to, then we must be prepared to act when we see genocide unfold before our very eyes.

After the U.S. pulled out of Iraq in March 2011 we left in charge a prime minister hostile to political inclusion of all Iraqis beyond simply Shiites. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL—also known as the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham, or ISIS-saw an opportunity to exploit Sunni resentment at this treatment, and surged to fill the gap.

We withdrew, they surged.

This is not the ''Junior Varsity'' team of terrorists, as the President dismissively asserted earlier this year. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iraq and Iran Brett McGurk has described ISIL as having ''unprecedented'' resources in terms of funds, weapons, and personnel.

We have seen what ISIS is doing in Syria, beheading and crucifying Christians and political opponents, taking hostages and kidnapping religious leaders, blowing up churches and mosques, and forcing religious minorities to convert, flee with the clothes on their backs, pay an exorbitant tax for infidels—or die.

When ISIS overran Mosul in June, Mosul's 35,000 inhabitants not too old or sick fled for their lives. At checkpoints leaving the city, ISIS took the Christians' wedding rings, money, travel papers, and medicines—even their cars. Families walked carrying their children, pushing wheelchairs with elderly parents, mile after mile into the hot, barren, Nineveh Plain. As ISIS continued to gain territory in July and August, the Christians fled further north, joining Yezidi and many other minorities trying to find safety in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

More than 1.7 million people have been displaced in Iraq this year. Many were Christians who fled the brutal Syrian civil war, now on the run again.

Where will they be safe?

Kurdistan, a region of 8.35 million people currently hosts nearly 750,000 refugees. The Kurdish Peshmerga militias are underfunded and under-armed, now that ISIS has captured U.S. heavy weaponry across Iraq. Yet they soldier on.

I have received emails from Bishops and nuns chronicling the dire needs of their flocks who are being ''exterminated'' and ''expelled'' from regions their people have occupied for millennia.

The U.S. has in the last few weeks geared-up for the humanitarian crisis. As of September 5, the U.S. had dedicated nearly $140 million in humanitarian assistance to Iraq—and USAID airlifted more than 60 metric tons of humanitarian aid into Kurdistan's capital of Erbil.

We need, however, to make sure that aid gets to people who need it most. This means working with religious leaders who are closest to those in need.

We may also need to invest more in our relationship with the Kurdish Regional Government—a regional government which has taken on the aspects of a de facto national government, and one whose brave militia men have stood up against ISIS while members of the Iraqi Armed Forces have folded and fled.

It must also be remarked and remembered with gratitude that the Kurdish Regional Government has extended protection to Christians

and other victims of religious persecution. While their record has not been perfect, the Kurds appear to be more tolerant of diversity of thought and belief than many of their neighbors.

But aid alone is not the solution. The U.S. has already spent $2.4 billion on the Syria humanitarian crisis that rages on.

We need shrewd power—a strategy for action that is in touch with reality on the ground. A strategy born of thinking ahead and preparing in advance for contingencies so that we are not playing catch-up while the enemy rapes, pillages, kidnaps, massacres—and amasses wealth and weapons.

The reality for religious minorities is that their very lives are at risk as long as ISIS controls territory and continues to gather strength on the ground, drawing funds and fighters from around the globe.

As Pope Francis has noted with regard to this crisis, ''where there is unjust aggression . . . it is licit to stop the unjust aggressor.''

This may indeed require the use of force, but it also requires using other means at our disposal. I have called for the establishment of a Syrian War Crimes Tribunal, and introduced H. Con. Res. 51 to hold all sides accountable for the heinous atrocities they have committed.

H. Con. Res. 51, introduced last September, calls for the creation of an international tribunal that would be more flexible and more efficient than the International Criminal Court to ensure accountability for human rights violations committed by all sides.

With a Herculean diplomatic push by the United States and other interested nations, past success in creating war crimes courts can indeed be prologue. Such a tribunal would also draw upon past experience, creating a justice mechanism robust enough to right the most egregious wrongs, yet nimble enough not to derail chances for peace due to rigidity.

The Foreign Affairs Committee approved H. Con. Res. 51 on April 30, and I hope this measure will come before the House for a vote at the earliest possible time.

As ISIS does not respect borders, committing atrocities in both Iraq and Syria, the jurisdiction of such a tribunal could and should be expanded to hold ISIS accountable for its evil acts on either side of the border.

Today the Black Flag of ISIS flies over vast swaths of northern Iraq and even cities such as Fallujah, which we had won at such great cost. Indeed, ISIS says that they intend to see the Black Flag fly over the White House. Where the Black Flag flies, there is death and misery.

IN APPRECIATION OF COLONEL PATRICK T. ''SMACK'' McKENZIE

HON. HOWARD P. ''BUCK'' McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Patrick T. ''Smack'' McKenzie, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force after 26 years of service.

I have had the pleasure of working with Smack on a number of occasions during his tenure in the Air Force House Liaison Office. I greatly appreciate and admire his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication, which has benefited me, and numerous other Members and staff.

Colonel McKenzie has given a great deal to this Nation through his distinguished and selfless service. He began his Air Force career as an ROTC Cadet and a ''Jayhawk'' at the University of Kansas—an allegiance he maintains to this day, as evidenced by the Jayhawk lanyard you will always see around his neck. Upon graduating in May 1988, he was competitively selected for pilot training at Reese AFB, Texas. He was the envy of Class 90–06, not only because of his perfectly restored red 1965 Pontiac GTO affectionately known as ''The Goat'', but also because as one of the top graduates, he was awarded the only F–16 training slot for the class. He was assigned to the 70th Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, where he was certified as combat-ready and qualified for air-to-surface, air-to-air, and nuclear missions. He quickly caught the eye of his leadership, and was handpicked as one of only 15 squadron pilots qualified to operate the new LANTIRN system (Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night). He also caught the eye of his future wife, Jennifer, and they have been married now for 21 years. Col. McKenzie's skill as a fighter pilot was quickly recognized during his first deployment, patrolling the skies over Iraq for Operation Southern Watch. His leadership ability earned him a Regular commission and selection for Squadron Officer School, where he was a Distinguished Graduate.

Capt. McKenzie was then assigned to the 51st Operations Support Squadron at Osan Air Base in the Republic of Korea. He continued to impress as a Wing Plans Officer, maintaining critical operational plans for wartime taskings. He again rose above his peers as a pilot, winning the 51st Fighter Wing's Low Angle Strafe Top Gun award and selection as the Chief of Standardization and Evaluation for the 51st Operations Group—a position reserved for the Group's most skilled and trusted pilot. In this position, he was responsible for assessments and maintaining operational standards not only in his F–16 squadron, but also in the HH–60 rescue flight, and a C–12 flight, a job essential to deliver wartime capability. He so impressed his leadership, that even as a Captain he was identified as a ''future squadron commander'' and was selected for USAF Weapons School, the premier advanced weapons and tactics school for our Air Force Pilots. While there, he was praised for his research on F–16 Night Close Air Support and Targeting Aids, advancing our operational capabilities in this critical capacity. Captain McKenzie's training was put to immediate use with his assignment to the 510th Fighter Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy. He flew dozens of combat sorties during Operations Southern Watch, Decisive Edge, and Deliberate Guard, enforcing no-fly zones over Iraq and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He was also a Mission Commander for more than six large force packages in NATO's Operation Allied Force in Kosovo, for which he garnered praise for his skills, leadership, mission execution, and most importantly ensuring zero combat losses.

Additionally, Smack was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement, planning the first NATO strike of Operation Allied Force to cross the Kosovo/Serbian border, defeating surface to air missiles, and executing the first-ever F–16 night attack utilizing Night Vision Goggles and the LANTIRN system to destroy an ammunition storage facility. As a Flight Commander, Weapons Officer, and Instructor Pilot he was recognized by his superiors as an ''exceptional leader with unlimited potential'', the ''#1 Captain in the Group'', the ''Wing's top flight commander'', and the USAFE Fighter Pilot of the Year. Smack was sent to Air Command and Staff College, where his tremendous leadership and team building skills led his peers to recognize him as the ''Outstanding Team Member'' for his class. Following school, he became the Assignments Officer for nearly 1,500 Air Force F–16 pilots, single-handedly managing the Air Force's largest group of pilots and maintaining 100 percent manning level despite historic shortages just after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Lt. Col. McKenzie then moved to Luke AFB for a short period as the 56th Operations Support Squadron Operations Officer before being entrusted with his first command—the 310th Fighter Squadron ''Top Hats''—the largest fighter squadron at Luke, responsible for the only formal Forward Air Controller-Airborne course, which has been a vital capability in the War on Terror. He was heralded as the ''top warrior and leader of 618 officers'' and led his unit to the 56th Operations Group ''Top Squadron'' award. Following this highly successful command, Lt. Col. McKenzie attended National War College at Fort McNair and received a Master of Science in National Security Strategy. He then went to U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, VA where he provided readiness analysis on current operations, and was a liaison with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Government Accountability Office, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff on all readiness related issues. He provided critical data and assessments for the planning of Operation Enduring Freedom which were influential in leadership decisions. Col. McKenzie then Commanded the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. There he profoundly impacted the Global War on Terror, directing air operations and leading over 830 troops to execute over 24,000 missions, dropping 1.1 million pounds of ordnance, and delivering 37,000 tons of cargo—the busiest operation in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. Following this tremendous performance, Col. McKenzie was challenged with a new role as the SECAF's legislative liaison to Congress for all USAF air and space weapon systems, ensuring the Air Force message and priorities were consistently and convincingly articulated to directly ensure the full authorization of their $120 billion budget. Smack was then sent back to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea to command the 51st Fighter Wing ''Mustangs'' where he previously spent time as a Captain. He was the Joint installation commander for over 10,200 personnel, executing the Combat Air Force's largest and most highly-utilized A–10 and F–16 operation in a tense location, just 6 minutes flight time to North Korea. ''A+'', ''inspiring'', and ''superb'' were just a few words used to describe his tenure there. After his highly successful tour as a Wing Commander, the Air Force returned Smack to legislative liaison work by assigning him to one of the most demanding positions within the Air Force, his current job as the Chief of Air Force House Liaison. Since July 2013, Smack has advised the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief

of Staff of the Air Force, the Director of Legislative Liaison, and numerous other senior military and civilian leaders on issues of the greatest concern to the Air Force and Congress. He has been more than a liaison between the Pentagon and the Hill, he developed and improved key relationships to enable the Congress to make better decisions about the future of the Air Force and our national defense. He is extremely intelligent and articulate, and has helped shape my thinking and influenced many Members of Congress. Simply put, we trust him and will miss him!

Col. McKenzie is a command pilot with over 3,200 flying hours and 630 combat hours in the F–16. He is the recipient of numerous major medals and decorations for his service and accomplishments. The most significant of these include the Defense Superior Service medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and Meritorious Service medal.

Throughout his distinguished career he has represented our country and the Air Force with dignity and honor, and this is why I'm so privileged to pay tribute to this fine Airman. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congress and the United States of America, I thank Colonel Patrick T. "Smack" McKenzie, his wife Jennifer, and their daughter Ashley, for their service and sacrifices of the past 26 years. I wish them Godspeed, and continued happiness as they start this new chapter in their lives.

TOM NEUMANN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my close friend Tom Neumann, a thoughtful, dedicated and respected leader who served as an example for all those who wish to make a meaningful, positive change in our world. Sadly, Tom passed away this week, on September 9, at the age of 69. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Agnes, and his entire family.

For more than 30 years, Tom served to help end anti-Semitism, to safeguard democratic principles and to build understanding and support for Israel. He previously served as the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Southwest Regional Director, ADL's National Director of Community Services and its National Director of the Intergroup Relations Division. At ADL, Tom worked to build friendships and working relationships between Christian and Jewish clergy under the Christian-Jewish Committee for Israel. It was during this time that I traveled to Israel with Tom and when I observed firsthand about the challenges that Israel faces each day and why America must always stand with this ally.

Tom later joined B'nai B'rith International as Executive Vice President where he created a presence for the organization in the USSR and Eastern Europe, an important feat and the first to happen since World War II. In 1991, he served as the Executive Director of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), where he worked until his retirement in 2012. As Executive Director, Tom helped establish JINSA as a prominent voice for U.S. national security ties as well as U.S.-Israel security ties. Through his leadership, he helped JINSA grow its membership to over 20,000 individuals. His writings on the U.S.-Israel bilateral relationship were published in outlets across the world. For his work, he was recognized as the "6th Most Influential Jewish Leader" by The Forward in 1999. Locally, Tom founded The Houston Center for International Affairs, a business form that focused on international and economic issues, created the Christian/Jewish Committee for Israel, a coalition of inter-denominational clergy who support Israel), and Texas 1990, a dinner discussion group of religious, business and community leaders.

Tom was someone who believed that "people, even more than causes and things, have to be restored, renewed and reclaimed." To those he worked with, he was a friend and mentor. Always kind, always sincere, always focused. To our entire community in Houston, he will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathies to the entire Neumann family.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit an explanation for my absence during legislative business on the evening of Monday, September 8 and Tuesday, September 9. On these two days, I was in my district hosting the United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julian Castro during their visit to the 7th Congressional District of Alabama. I hosted Secretary Duncan for a stop in Birmingham on his 5th Annual Back-to-School Bus Tour. We met with community leaders, educators, parents, and other education advocates in Alabama to showcase reforms and investments the Department has made in Birmingham and across the State of Alabama. Secretary Castro joined me on his first visit to the 7th District since being sworn in as the HUD Secretary. During their visit, the cabinet secretaries and I participated in a "My Brother's Keeper" panel discussion at Phillips Academy which was attended by community leaders, educators, and many bright young students from throughout Birmingham.

Considered and passed by the House during my absence was H. Res. 644, a resolution condemning President Obama for the exchange of five Guantanamo Bay prisoners for the release of Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl. I would like to state for the record that I supported President Obama's decision to act swiftly and exercise his constitutional responsibility as Commander-in-Chief to protect the lives of U.S. service members. Furthermore, I agree with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who unanimously supported the exchange, along with Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. The United States has a sacred obligation when sending our service men and women onto the field of battle with the assurance that we will honor their sacrifice by leaving no one behind. Army General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said the swap was "likely our last, best opportunity" to free Sergeant Bergdahl.

The timing of this condemnation was also particularly poor. The debate and vote coincided with a meeting in which the President discussed his strategy to confront ISIS with House and Senate leaders at the White House and a day before his address to the nation. At a time when the President needs Congressional support in rallying international support to combat the rising threat of Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, I believe the timing of this vote was counter to our national interests. I am disappointed that House Republicans chose such inappropriate timing to conduct their political gamesmanship.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF OFFICER ROBERT BUENDIA

HON. SUZAN K. DelBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Robert Buendia of the Bothell Police Department. Officer Buendia was recently awarded the prestigious 2014 Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year Award, which recognizes outstanding work by police officers in the safe and effective use of crisis intervention techniques in response to mental health crises.

Officer Buendia received this award in part because of his quick and skilled response to a situation involving a suicidal woman. This woman was a recent victim of sexual assault who became upset after learning that the court case against her attacker did not have sufficient evidence for prosecution. When this woman threatened to end her own life, Officer Buendia used his training, intelligence and quick thinking to defuse this potentially tragic situation. He was able to open a dialogue with the woman, and was eventually able to convince her to come out of her apartment.

The outstanding actions of Officer Buendia are emblematic of the heroism that the members of the Bothell Police Department, and all our first responders in the 1st Congressional District, exhibit every day while serving our communities. I am incredibly thankful for the dedication of these public servants.

I want to thank Officer Robert Buendia for his commitment to serving the people of Bothell, and offer my congratulations on this recognition of his work.

DR. ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from an extraordinary experience in July, 2014 in Israel, the land I first came to in 1949 at the tender age of three and a half, already a refugee, from post-World War II Europe. Yet nothing could have prepared me for the surrealistic reality of approaching rockets and wailing sirens, a frightful scenario that Israeli citizens of all ages in its south have had to contend with for fourteen long years, with only fifteen seconds to find protective shelter. I will long remember being awakened

by the sirens' piercing sounds of war alert at 3:15 a.m. in Haifa, Israel's northern city, far away from Gaza or as proven rather close, and moving quickly with my mom, a ninety-two year old remarkably resilient Polish Holocaust survivor, to the best possible room in her apartment to await whatever might happen with our hearts pounding. Luckily the rocket was intercepted by an Iron Dome installation that the United States has gratefully financed.

No nation would have done less than Israel to fulfill a basic mandate of protecting one's population and all nations would have done more early on. Restrained by its legacy of Jewish and humanitarian values, ever conscious of the double standard applied to its conduct, Israel has exercised an admirable measure of caution to save lives even from the midst of a firing hostile territory controlled by Hamas, a recognized terrorist organization whose covenant unabashedly calls for Israel's destruction and criminally has used children, women and men as human shields; it shot 3500 rockets and also mortars from schools, hospitals, mosques, homes and U.N. facilities with the clear goal of indiscriminately killing and maiming Israelis.

When Hamas and the host of other Arab terrorist organizations will care more for their children than the death of its ''enemy's'' children, will there emerge new hope for the long-awaiting to be transformed Middle East. When Israel's insistence on the sacredness of human life—all human life—will become the inheritance of the entire troubled region, replacing pagan human sacrifice, will the yearning of modern Israel and its biblical prophets for that essential though elusive Shalom, Salaam, Peace, reemerge as a potent force for the sake of all. How could Hamas, tragically and ironically elected into power by Gaza's misguided and long-suffering people, following Israel's 2005 withdrawal from Gaza at an enormous cost, squander its donated material resources away from the declared purpose of creating a supportive and necessary infrastructure toward establishing a terrorizing war machine with attack tunnels reaching into Israel with a goal of surprising Israel someday with mortal death blows? We are duty-bound to remember that Iran supplied Hamas with the smuggled weaponry and that Hamas is but Iran's proxy, alerted by Iran's stubborn search for a nuclear capability that will make all the difference. Sadly Qatar is not an innocent bystander, offering Hamas vast financial support.

I was deeply touched by Israel's courageous people coming together in a heart-warming display of national unity in the face of a mighty and unique challenge, while maintaining its enviable democratic impulse of cherished freedom to express a variety of views that could not take place in Gaza. Israel is weeping for its heroic defenders as well as the innocent victims on the other side held hostage by an ideology alien to what we in the West will never willingly give up.

Make no mistake. Israel represents the American democratic heritage with common purpose and interest, in a part of the world disdaining it and in which Radical Islam increasingly makes disastrous inroads as the shameful slaughter in Syria and Iraq continues while self-righteous and callous Europe with its growing anti-Semitism fueled by Islamist forces looks aside, expecting the Israelis to be like past Jews who could not defend themselves and paid such a high price for it. Let all Americans say with one voice for the sake of all that is sacred and sane in a triumphant message that dare not be misunderstood, ''Never Again!''

Rabbi Israel Zoberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach.

RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GREATER FLINT FOR 70 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILES

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint as they celebrate 70 years of dedication and service to children and families in Genesee County. Since 1944, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint has provided a no-cost mentoring program to thousands of youth and families facing adversity.

To celebrate 70 years of service, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint will hold a Platinum Jubilee—Royal Gala. The anniversary celebration will honor the volunteers that have helped shape this institution throughout the past 70 years and highlight the future direction of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint as they provide life-changing relationships through mentorship. Chris Broussard, American sports analyst for ESPN will also join in the celebration as a celebrity guest.

For 70 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, one-to-one, monitored matches between adult volunteers (''Bigs'') and children (''Littles''), ages 6 through 18, in communities across our great country. Their presence in our community is invaluable. Genesee County, as well as the entire State of Michigan, is better because of this agency.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint for 70 years of quality mentoring services, fulfilling their mission of creating relationships that change lives for the better, forever.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY HEALY AND HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Ms. Mary Healy, a valued community leader who recently passed away. Ms. Healy was the director and chief executive officer of the Sacramento Zoo as well as a leading advocate for engaging the community in the preservation and understanding of animals in their natural habitat. As her family, colleagues and friends gather to honor and remember her wonderful life, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most respected figures.

Ms. Healy began her career in 1975 as a bird keeper at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia, South Carolina. Following a stint at the San Antonio Zoo and Walt Disney World's Discovery Island in Orlando, Ms. Healy came to Sacramento in 1999. Under Ms. Healy's leadership, the Sacramento Zoo saw growth in attendance and improvements to its physical setting. During her tenure, a full-scale veterinary hospital was built and new habitats were constructed and old structures renovated for a number of animals including giraffes and North American river otters. She focused on improving quality of life for the animals and advancing the experience for zoo guests.

Ms. Healy's passion and commitment resonated in her work and will not be forgotten by the Sacramento community. Her dedication to advocating for animals is unmatched and she took pride in educating our youth. She knew each animal's name and background and was often found teaching zoo guests about the animal's unique features or the exhibit's purpose at the zoo.

In addition to her work in Sacramento, Ms. Healy was a well-respected board member and former chair of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and served on its accreditation commission. She was president of the California Association of Zoos and Aquariums and was one of nine international council members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Her vision to make Sacramento the best small zoo in America was highlighted in 2013, when she was recognized with a Women Who Mean Business Award by the Sacramento Business Journal.

Mr. Speaker, as Ms. Healy's husband, Steve, and her colleagues, family and friends gather to celebrate her wonderful contributions to our community, I am honored to pay tribute to her. I ask all my colleagues to pause and join me in paying respect to an extraordinary woman, Ms. Mary Healy.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3522, the Employee Health Care Protection Act of 2014, a bill that sponsors say will permit a health insurance issuer that sold insurance coverage to employers who are mandated under the Affordable Care Act to provide insurance to their employees in 2013 to continue offering the same insurance in 2014.

I oppose H.R. 3522 for three reasons:

It does not obligate employers to provide insurance coverage for the essential health care services enumerated in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Provisions of the ACA that prevent discrimination based on age, pre-existing conditions and gender are not part of the plans allowed under this bill.

Finally, the bill is opposed by the Administration and will not become law.

The ACA limits the ability of insurers in the small group market to charge higher premiums based on age, preexisting health conditions and gender.

The H.R. 3522 creates exceptions to these important protections in the ACA for the next five years.

In addition, this bill allows insurers to charge small businesses higher insurance rates for coverage based on the age, gender and health status of their employees, which is prohibited by the ACA.

This will make working for small employers less attractive to workers, which can make the cost of labor higher as employers are forced to offer higher pay to attract workers while simultaneously paying higher rates for insurance.

H.R. 3522, will continue unnecessary uncertainty regarding the year-to-year cost of providing ACA mandated healthcare coverage to employees should a major health event occur or accident impact the health care cost of an employee.

The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 3522 because it threatens the health care security of hard working, middle class families.

Today, the nation is experiencing the lowest rate of health care price inflation in nearly 50 years.

We are also seeing a very slow growth in other measures of health costs, which have combined to dramatically slow the growth of small business premiums.

While health care costs are rising at low rates and choices for small businesses are improving through the Health Insurance Marketplace, this bill would be a major setback.

The Administration's transition program for non-ACA compliant plans to ACA compliant health insurance plans allows States to work to make sure that health plans remain affordable and compliant with the ACA.

We should make sure insurance plans offered to millions of small business workers do not reverse the progress made to extend quality, affordable coverage to millions of uninsured, hardworking, middle class families.

Before the ACA, ill people could only obtain high premium insurance that did not provide coverage for a pre-existing illness or medical condition.

Insurance companies could use annual caps on coverage that resulted in very high out-of-pocket costs to people who were paying for health insurance, but had no coverage for a medical condition.

The ACA brought relief to those with health insurance, those with pre-existing health conditions and the working poor where the Medicaid expansion was implemented.

Because of the health care law, for the first time, insurance companies in the individual and small group market are required to cover ten essentials, which include:

Outpatient care;

Emergency room visits;

Treatment in the hospital for inpatient care;

Care before and after child births;

Mental health and substance use disorder services: behavioral health treatment, counseling, and psychotherapy;

Prescription drugs;

Services and devices to promote recovery from injuries, disabilities or chronic condition: physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, psychiatric rehabilitation, and much more;

Lab tests;

Preventive services such as counseling, screenings, and vaccines; and

Pediatric services that cover dental care and vision care for kids.

The Affordable Care Act is one of the largest expansions of general healthcare, mental health and substance abuse disorder coverage in a generation.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

13 million Americans received $1.1 billion in rebates from their health insurance companies last year.

105 million Americans have free preventive services.

Millions of women now have free coverage for comprehensive women's preventive medical services.

100 million Americans no longer have a lifetime limit on healthcare coverage.

17 million children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage by insurers.

6.6 million young-adults up to age 26 can stay on their parents' health insurance plans.

6.3 million Seniors in the "donut hole" have saved $6.1 billion on their prescription drugs.

3.2 million Seniors have access to free annual wellness visits under Medicare, and

360,000 Small Businesses are using the Health Care Tax Credit to help them provide health insurance to their workers.

STATISTICS ON TEXAS AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

3.8 million Texas residents receive preventative care services.

7 million Texans no longer have lifetime limits on their healthcare insurance.

300,731 young adults can remain on their parents' health insurance until age 26.

5 million Texas residents can receive a rebate check from their insurance company if it does not spend 80 percent of premium dollars on healthcare.

4,029 people with pre-existing conditions now have health insurance.

In 2014, insurance companies will be banned from: discriminating against anyone with a preexisting condition, charging higher rates based on gender or health status, enforcing lifetime dollar limits, enforcing annual dollar limits on health benefits.

Attempts to weaken or end the ACA are wrong. The unwillingness of the majority to make sure that those in our society with the greatest need health care coverage, but do not have the financial means to be denied access to healthcare are doing the nation a disservice.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 3522.

CELEBRATING BRENNON MOBLEY, JAMES RICHFIELD, AND J.D. HARTWIG

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, changing the world is no small feat. Many feel the call, but not many set out, put feet to their prayers and dreams, and actually change the world for the better. Three collegiate men from Belmont University have spent the summer putting more than their good wishes into motion. I rise today to honor Brennon Mobley, James Richfield, and J.D. Hartwig as they work to complete their heroic cross-country cycling tour.

Cycling across the county is certainly a noble endeavor. Nobler still are the 147 million reasons these three men are offering up their summer with blood, sweat, tears, and bike tires. By teaming up with 147 Million Orphans, a nonprofit founding in 2009 by two Middle Tennessee mothers seeking to meet the critical needs of orphans, the three will raise money to build a school in Honduras as they cycle the 3,300 miles from Oceanside, Oregon to Washington, DC.

Whether participant, parent, friend, supporter, or community member, those who have offered their time, talents, and treasures to this incredible summer ride bear witness to the power of coming together, in the name of the Almighty, for a common good. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the loving-kindness of Brennon Mobley, James Richfield, and J.D. Hartwig as we all continue the sacred work of protecting and serving the least among us.

TRIBUTE TO LOU MUMFORD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a much beloved member of our community and a well-respected journalist, Lou Mumford, on the occasion of his retirement from the South Bend Tribune newspaper.

For the past 43 years, Lou has reported the news as it unfolded in Greater Michiana. He is an excellent writer with a trusted, familiar voice, gentle humor, and a strong sense of integrity. He was a true journalist's journalist, exemplifying the newspaper industry's gold standard.

During his many decades at work, Lou has seen it all, both good and bad. From covering everything from the high school football team to the courthouse; providing eyewitness accounts to presidential visits; to reporting on the grand national scene and sharing the stories of individuals living right within our community.

When Lou was covering local politics or breaking news out of Washington, you always knew what to expect. His questions were fair, unbiased, and intuitive. You were never going to get a free pass, but you would always be treated with the utmost courtesy and respect. It is impossible to not develop a deep professional respect and admiration for a man of Lou's character. And despite our unbridgeable differences—he roots for the White Sox and I am a dyed-in-the-wool Cubs fan—I am grateful for the warm personal rapport we developed over the years.

Lou has a knack for reading the political field—the history, personalities, issues, and all their nuances—because he understands people and what makes them tick. He also empathizes and brings the reader along with him on an emotional journey. This is where Lou showed his true strengths.

His columns shared the lives of ordinary folks in our own community, touching upon the full range of human emotions. His stories about everyday lives could warm the heart, bring a smile to our face, or a tear to our eye.

Sometimes both in the same story. They reminded us all of what is really important in life—our own experiences, family, friends, and community.

The great journalist Bob Schieffer once remarked that ''journalism is a great way to do public service, to have an impact on your community.'' While the dawn of each day unveiled new stories on the pages of the South Bend Tribune, one thing remained constant through the years, and that was the steady voice of Lou Mumford. Our community is grateful for Lou's dedicated years of service to our community. We wish him all the best in his retirement, and do hope his story telling will continue.

HONORING JOSHUA KATZ AND THE POW–MIA–OREE PROJECT

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Joshua Katz, Boy Scouts of America Troop 215, for his work honoring our deceased and missing veterans. As a public servant and the son of a World War II veteran whose bravery motivated me to serve in Congress, I am so proud of Joshua's dedication to our soldiers.

In honor of POW–MIA National Remembrance Day, which is celebrated on the 3rd Friday of every September, Joshua created the POW–MIA–OREE Project to encourage Boy Scouts nationally to become more involved in veteran recognition. The project calls for the reading of the names of every soldier laid to rest in the South Florida National Cemetery and the placement of a commemorative marker on each headstone. Ensuring that this event took place was so important to Joshua that he funded the project out of his own savings. This heartfelt act of advocacy will ensure that no soldier becomes a forgotten hero.

Representing a district home to veterans of every major conflict since World War II, I know very well the sacrifices that our military men and women and their families have made for our country. Joshua Katz's commitment to honor our men and women in uniform should serve as an inspiration for us all, and I have no doubt that he has a bright future in store.

HONORING FATHER DEXTER SUTTON BREWER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are souls so magnificent and so dedicated to the service of others, that when the opportunity comes to offer them our gratitude, our words feel small in comparison. I rise today to celebrate one of Middle Tennessee's true servants, Father Dexter Sutton Brewer, on his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

Father encountered the Almighty first in the Baptist church as a child and later in the Catholic faith as a student at Yale. He earned his law degree in 1982 and was ordained into the priesthood in 1989. From clerking for the Tennessee Supreme Court to teaching at Father Ryan High School, from shepherding the souls at Christ the King Parish to tending the flock as both judicial vicar and vicar general for the Diocese of Nashville, Father Dexter offers his life in the pursuit of wisdom, beauty, and justice.

A prayer written at America's birth calls on the most gracious God ''to replenish His servant with the truth of doctrine, and endue him with innocence of life, that he may faithfully serve before God, to the glory of His great Name and the benefit of the holy Church.'' Throughout the past 25 years, these words have been fulfilled through the humble and grand service of Father Dexter Sutton Brewer. I join with Father Dexter's family, parish, and all those gathered to celebrate his Silver Anniversary in offering thanks to the Almighty for His servant.

REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 AND BENGHAZI ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today, we bow our heads in solemn remembrance of the victims lost in the terror attacks on this country on September 11, 2001 and in Benghazi on September 11, 2012.

On September 11, 2001, America changed. Terrorists who despise all that is good and true about America killed thousands of innocent citizens.

On September 11, 2012, more Americans were killed at the consulate in Benghazi. We were reminded the fight is not over, and that America still has enemies.

We reflect with gratitude on all of the men and women who have bravely fought to defend us from anyone seeking to harm the United States and her citizens.

We pray for all those still fighting, and for those who answer the call of duty in years to come.

On this somber day in our nation's history, we stand united as Americans and steadfast in our resolve to ensure that our sacred ideals of freedom, justice, and prosperity continue to shine as a beacon of hope for future generations around the world.

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,764,720,406,589.08. We've added $7,137,843,357,676.00 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $7.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING MR. ROBERT JORDAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. Robert Jordan. Mr. Jordan was a beloved brother, uncle, and friend. With his passing on August 7, 2014, we look to Mr. Jordan's personal legacy of community service, the joy he inspired in others through his passion and commitment to political advocacy, and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born on September 7, 1965 in Chicopee, Massachusetts, Mr. Jordan grew up in Fairfield, California. After graduating from Armijo High School in 1983, he attended college at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Mr. Jordan went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from California State University, Sacramento.

It was during Mr. Jordan's undergraduate studies at Sacramento State University that he began to get involved in politics. He joined the Sacramento State Young Democrats and the River City Democratic Club. From there, Mr. Jordan became engaged in field work on numerous political campaigns, most notably Barbara Boxer's 1992 ''Year of the Woman'' campaign.

After working on many campaigns, Mr. Jordan went on to join the staff of the California Democratic Party. He continued to serve selflessly as a staffer there for 22 years and under four different administrations. During his time at the California Democratic Party, Mr. Jordan became an expert on technology development and planning for state conventions and executive board meetings. He was also well known for his meticulous institutional memory and his ability to recall party rules, procedures, and history on issues both large and small. He acted as the Party's unofficial historian and was a key member of the staff, sharing his knowledge and experience, and mentoring his colleagues.

In addition to his work for the California Democratic Party, Mr. Jordan was actively involved in his community. He was passionate about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights and was a supporter of The Trevor Project, a national organization that provides crisis and suicide intervention services to LGBTQ youth. He was also a supporter of the Lymphoma Research Foundation and a part of the fight against lymphoma.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding Californian individual, Mr. Robert Jordan. His dedication and efforts have impacted so many lives throughout the state of California. I join all of Robert's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AT THE SOUTHWEST BORDER

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, every so often, we have the chance to take action that affects how the world as a whole sees the United States.

We have the chance to decide what our country stands for, and what we want to mean to the world.

Today is one of those chances.

The United States has long stood with those who are fleeing persecution and violence.

We've stood alongside them, so they know they're not alone.

We've stood behind them, to give them the ability to make a new life here.

And we've stood up for them, to make it clear that there is no place in this world for the atrocities that drive people to leave their homes.

That's who we are and what we do.

We don't put all our efforts into making it easier to send people back.

We don't say, ''Sorry, we'd rather score political points than try to help you.''

So why would we start now?

Why would we turn our backs on people—children—who have endured unimaginable struggle and danger to come here for the chance at not just a better life, but a chance at life at all?

That's what this is about—it's a life or death situation for these children.

We need to look beyond politics and partisanship to something bigger—principles.

And let one of those guiding principles be that we will be there when we are needed.

We will respond not with hatred and vitriol, or with inaction and delay, but with empathy and support.

To do anything less is beneath us—not only as Americans, but as human beings.

RECOGNIZING THE PENNRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Pennridge Community Center on its 50th anniversary. The Upper Bucks Branch of the Bucks County Association for Retired and Senior Citizens was established in 1964 for the purpose of creating a senior center. Located in Perkasie, PA, the Center has served as a place for personal growth for the constituents of Bucks County, offering opportunities to its thousands of members that have passed through its doors. With the help of its strong leaders and associates, the center has become a model of high-quality service, reliability, and integrity and has contributed greatly to the community of the 8th District of Pennsylvania. I commend the Pennridge Community Center for its hard work and its achievements in Bucks County, PA and offer my sincere congratulations on its anniversary.

HONORING THE EXOTICS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, music finds a home in Middle Tennessee. It settles in and we build it a foundation that withstands the weathered seasons of our lives. Various styles, compositions, and genius are found here in various artists, songwriters, and musicians. Some find their favorites on the Billboard Top 40 and others hear them at local gatherings. We are a community that celebrates all the notes of life and particularly enjoys celebrating together the drumbeats and rhythms of life. I rise today to congratulate one such gathering of musical excellence, The Exotics, as they continue 50 years of making great music in Franklin, Tennessee.

Billy Adair, Jeff Cook, Glenn Crowell, and Loy Hardcastle met in high school, formed a band, and began playing the great sound of the 60s: rock 'n roll. Shortly after, they were joined by Robert Early and Steve Smartt. The Exotics never played for a record deal or to book large stadiums. These men of music chased and found the love of their craft at high school dances, pool parties, and fraternity events. As they chased, a loving community came alongside them. Fifty years later, members of The Exotics will play once more to their fans of Franklin.

I join with all of those celebrating The Exotics' 50 years of magnificent rock 'n roll. I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating these mighty men of music on half a century of making a home for great music in Middle Tennessee.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCAN CONTAINERS ABSOLUTELY NOW (SCAN) ACT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, after the tragic attacks on 9/11, Congress strengthened aviation security, which was the nature of the attacks against our country. While our aviation system is more secure—13 years later—we have not secured our nation's ports. Our ports are vulnerable to attacks.

I represent the Port of Los Angeles and the communities that surround the port; I have the personal responsibility of keeping the people of my district safe.

Top security experts recommend that shipping containers entering our nation's ports be scanned for radiological and nuclear materials and other potentially dangerous cargo. In addition, Congress passed laws requiring that 100 percent of all cargo be scanned by 2012. Today, two years after the deadline, we are scanning only 3 percent of incoming cargo.

I firmly believe that responding to ongoing terrorist threats and the risk of nuclear proliferation should remain top national security priorities.

The detonation of a nuclear device or ''dirty bomb'' at a port such as the Port of Los Angeles could cause a staggering loss of life. In addition, it could result in a West Coast or nationwide shutdown of all ports, which would cost the United States economy billions of dollars each day. The economic impact of port closure on supply chains was clearly demonstrated in 2002 when port workers were locked out for 8 days at the West Coast Ports. That cost $1 billion per day.

For these reasons, I am introducing the Scan Containers Absolutely Now (SCAN) Act. This bill would create a one-year pilot program at two United States ports to evaluate the process of 100 percent scanning of cargo containers and its potential use at all domestic ports.

We must take our responsibility to protect the nation seriously. We cannot allow inconvenience or shortsighted economic expediency to get in the way of keeping our nation's ports and citizens safe.

HONORING HE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of Zion Lutheran School. I would like to recognize them for their service to the Lutheran community of South Florida and our local community as a whole.

Founded in 1964 with nine kindergarten students, Zion Lutheran Christian School has served as a center of Lutheran identity and education for the North Broward County community. I want to particularly acknowledge Headmaster Dr. Phillipe Dupont and Principal Joann Halem for their dedication to the school and its emphasis on service and study.

I would like to congratulate Zion Lutheran School on its 50th anniversary. Through their example, Zion Lutheran's commitment to education can extend far beyond South Florida.

CONGRATULATING CLEATS MANUFACTURING ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cleats Manufacturing, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Cleats Manufacturing is a union premier fabricator of HVAC sheet metal products. Since its incorporation in 1964 by Ernie DeLord, Cleats has been located in Chicago providing jobs for our hard-working constituents.

Over the last 50 years, their product line has expanded rapidly. Beginning with slip and drive cleats, Cleats' product line soon included rectangular duct and fitting, spiral pipe, CleatSeal gasketed round fittings, welded duct, and other sheet metal products.

Cleats Manufacturing not only provides an excellent American made product but also prides itself in its employees. Their union trained team are tradesmen in the industry

and will work with customers on any job from start to finish no matter how big or small.

The company would not be where it is today without the vision of Ernie DeLord's nephew Steve Passannante who began working for the company in 1974. When Steve began, the product line consisted only of sheet metal connectors. He had the vision of the company growing from a connector manufacturer to a full service HVAC fabrication shop. Steve expanded the company and built relationships with some of the largest contractors in Chicago.

Cleats is now one of the largest HVAC fabricators in the Chicagoland area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cleats Manufacturing on their 50th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE ALAN BLANKENSHIP

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Alan Blankenship for being awarded the Agency for Science, Technology, and Research (ASTAR) fellowship distinction by the Missouri Supreme Court.

Judge Alan Blankenship has served as Associate Circuit Judge in Stone County since 2002. Aside from presiding over civil and criminal general jurisdiction cases, Judge Blankenship presides over the successful Stone County Drug and DWI court programs and serves on the Missouri Trial Judge Education Committee and Missouri Association of Drug Court Professionals Board of Directors.

ASTAR is the lead agency responsible for conducting a program whereby judges from around the country undergo advanced training in science and technology to better equip the courts to handle issues dealing with science and technology. ASTAR judges may be assigned to handle cases or consult with judges with complex scientific matters and help develop training programs for trial judges.

On August 27, 2014, Missouri Supreme Court Judge Zel Fischer presented Judge Blankenship with his ASTAR fellowship award. The ASTAR fellowship award was given to him after completing over 120 hours of court-related science and technology training given by experts in fields such as computer forensics and cybercrime.

I am honored to recognize Judge Alan Blankenship for his service and leadership to the Stone County community.

RECOGNIZING MRS. HENRIETTA HATTON CLARK ON OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Henrietta Hatton Clark, a beloved and respected constituent from Vance County, North Carolina who will celebrate her 100th birthday on Sunday, September 14, 2014. Mrs. Clark is a pillar of her community and is highly respected by all those who know her because of her unwavering commitments to God, her family, her church and the community and state she has called home her entire life.

Mrs. Clark was born on a farm in Vance County, North Carolina on September 14, 1914. She was the youngest of six children and was adventurous at an early age. She attended elementary school in Vance County and went on to graduate from Henderson Institute which was operated by the Northern Presbyterian Church. Following Henderson Institute, Mrs. Clark attended what was then Winston-Salem State Teachers College, now Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Equipped with her teaching degree, Mrs. Clark set out to make the world a better place one child and one classroom at a time by inspiring children to dream big and work hard. She taught in Vance County, North Carolina Schools for several decades and shaped generations of young minds. She often told her students, "You can achieve any position if you study, work hard, and believe in yourself."

Mrs. Clark's passion and drive did not stop when the school day ended. She was incredibly active in her community. She led voter registration initiatives and was an inspirational leader during the Civil Rights Movement. She served on important committees that made recommendations for state judicial appointments which empowered her to help diversify the Bench. She also served as a Board Member for several community organizations and was a longtime member of the Vance-Granville Community College Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Clark remains a very active member of Cotton Memorial Presbyterian Church in Henderson, North Carolina. The church and its members have been a persistent source of joy, peace, and happiness throughout Mrs. Clark's truly remarkable life. Likewise, members of her Church and residents of the Henderson and Vance County community hold Mrs. Clark in high esteem and are honored to know her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my House colleagues to join me in sending warm regards and in wishing Mrs. Henrietta Hatton Clark a very happy birthday.

HONORING BUFORD PUSSER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Tennessee 7th Congressional District has its share of men, myths, and legends. We are thankful to have giants of music, industry, public service, and community become our neighbors and friends. I rise today to honor the legacy of one such mighty man of the Tennessee 7th on the 40th anniversary of the day he left us.

Buford Pusser's legacy isn't just one of taking on moonshining and ridding McNairy County of prostitution. His short time on Earth is marked by his continued service to others. From joining the United States Marine Corps to becoming Adamsville's police chief and constable after he was given a medical discharge from the military, Pusser's dedication served well the citizens of McNairy County. Elected to three consecutive terms as Sheriff, Pusser continued to protect and defend his beloved community.

It is fitting to remember Buford Pusser on the day his life ended, to remember the dedication and determination for justice that shaped his life. His impact on McNairy County cannot be measured in simple numbers, or in long bats, but only in the legacy he left behind. I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering one of McNairy County's greatest men.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICORPS ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2014

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of twenty years of service to our communities from AmeriCorps members. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating with AmeriCorps members past and present the many lives changed and neighborhoods improved through the immensely important work of these volunteers.

On September 12, 1994, the first class of 20,000 AmeriCorps members was sworn-in and began serving in 1,000 communities across the country. President Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 to create AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service, and participated by swearing-in the first AmeriCorps members in the Oval Office twenty years ago tomorrow.

Since 1994, more than 900,000 AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1 billion hours in service across the country. In my hometown of Sacramento, I have met AmeriCorps members serving in places like Pacific Elementary, the Sacramento Food Bank, and at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites. In total, we have 796 AmeriCorps positions in Sacramento for the 2013–2014 program year. I am grateful for the outstanding service this group of volunteers has performed in the Sacramento community, making Sacramento a better place to live, work and learn.

Today, September 11th, we honor the fallen in the terrorist attacks by designating September 11th as the National Day of Service and Remembrance. I thank the AmeriCorps volunteers, and all volunteers across the country, who join together to make our country better, stronger and more united through service.

Mr. Speaker, again I thank the past, present and future members of AmeriCorps for their tremendous service to our country. This twenty year anniversary marks a successful milestone for the program, and I look forward to seeing the accomplishments of AmeriCorps over the next twenty years and beyond.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JAZZ MASTER GERALD WILSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, losing a great jazz artist is always hard for those of us who love the art form. The joy these musicians bring into our lives—the technical skill and virtuosity they allow each of us to witness—is never easily replaced. But it is especially hard when we lose someone who we not only admired as an artist, but who we were fortunate enough to call our friend. This past week we lost Mr. Gerald Wilson, who I had known for many years, and who had just turned 96 on September 4, 2014.

Mr. Gerald Wilson was to me not only an icon in the Jazz community—having served as a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master—he was a fellow Detroiter. His penultimate masterpiece, Detroit, captured in all its glory the vibrant spirit of the town that made the 20th Century possible, as well as the promise the future holds for our great city.

For seven decades, Gerald Wilson was a force on the jazz circuit where he played, conducted, and arranged with his own band and with names we all know: Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Benny Carter, and Ella Fitzgerald. In addition to his talent as a performer and composer, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, taught for many years at universities in California, and most importantly—was a loving husband and father.

Just a few years ago, he was the headliner at a concert I promoted as part of an annual leadership conference held in Washington, D.C., where we celebrated his 92nd birthday. Though I am heartbroken to see him go, I know that I am—and we all are—fortunate to have had the chance to know him, see him, and hear him.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES REGULATORY OVERREACH PROTECTION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5078) to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chair, I rise today in favor of H.R. 5078, the Waters of the U.S. Regulatory Overreach Protection Act.

Over the last five years, we have seen attempt after attempt to add layers of environmental red tape to any economic development that our states, counties, and cities may undertake. The new ''Waters of the United States'' proposal is no different. With this, the EPA seeks to gain jurisdiction over most of the country by claiming authority to regulate dry beds, ditches, pipes, farmland ponds and anywhere water could conceivably run. They would require local communities, businesses and individuals to navigate the costly and time-consuming process of obtaining additional permits for activities around these waters, making it harder to mine coal, to construct roads and shopping centers, and even to build homes. This is one of the largest federal power grabs we have ever witnessed in this country, and there is no question that the economic impact would be profound.

In my home state of Kentucky, mining permits have ground to a halt and onerous regulations are shuttering power plants, threatening the fossil energy industries that have been the backbone of our energy security for decades. I am dismayed at efforts that this Administration has undertaken with the express purpose of eliminating coal from our nation's energy supply, despite the fact that this fuel provides a cheap, abundant source of energy that keeps energy costs down and productivity up. With this bill, we stand firm against the latest attempt by the EPA to put up road blocks for those working to create jobs. These efforts are fruitless attempts to legislate through regulation, and the Congress must exercise its prerogative to prevent this kind of bureaucratic overreach that would be crippling for the U.S. economy. H.R. 5078 will uphold the federal-state partnership to regulate the Nation's waters, allowing states to continue regulating certain waters within their individual boundaries, and providing farmers, construction companies, energy suppliers, and manufacturers with much needed certainty as they work to create jobs and grow the economy.

I urge a ''yes'' vote on H.R. 5078.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOS CHANGUITOS FEOS DE TUCSON

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize an Arizona youth mariachi group, Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Established in Tucson in 1964 by a Catholic priest to learn mariachi music as a means to keep parish youth occupied over the summer, Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson has grown to be a cultural icon—not only in the Southwest, but all over the world. The group was the first of its kind and has become a youth mariachi model for dozens of similar groups created since.

In 1971, Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson incorporated as a secular nonprofit organization with a community board of directors.

Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson has had the distinguished honor of performing at three presidential inaugurations and has also accompanied many internationally known celebrities and entertainers. The Changuitos have recorded five albums and have had the privilege to play on network television.

Young Latino musicians in middle and high school dedicate themselves to perfecting their talent under the guidance of skilled music teachers to learn the intricacies of the mariachi musical form, a type of music referred to as a world cultural treasure by UNESCO.

While they hone their musical skills and provide entertainment to the larger community, mariachi performers with Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson are eligible for college scholarships to the school of their choice. More than $480,000 in scholarships has been disbursed to former Changuitos who are pursuing a post-secondary degree to this day. Often former members of Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson are the first in their family to receive a college degree.

Former Changuitos who have sought careers in the music industry have won Grammy Awards, while others have used the scholarships to become physicians, lawyers, engineers, business owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders.

Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson is the quintessential example of the impact discipline and dedication could have on deepening cultural appreciation by perfecting local talent, while encouraging leadership growth and youth empowerment through community service.

And finally, we must acknowledge the dedicated parents of the Changuitos who support their childrens' efforts. Without them, Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson could never have become the respected and revered cultural and musical icon that it is today.

Congratulations and best wishes to Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson as we join them to celebrate on August 23, 2014 for its 50th Anniversary with a reunion and concert. I thank this youth organization for their long-standing tradition of perseverance and setting an example to all Tucson youth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 485, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

On rollcall Nos. 486, 487, and 488, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on all three.

On rollcall No. 489, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

RECOGNIZING THE DESIGNATION OF NEPHROLOGY NURSES WEEK

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Nephrology Nurses Association, an organization that works to advance quality care to Americans with kidney disease. These nurses function as educators, direct caregivers, and coordinators to help patients manage their lives while effectively dealing with their health issues. The number of new patients diagnosed with kidney disease has doubled in each of the last two decades; as a result, the demand for nephrology nurses continues to expand. The Keystone Chapter 110 of The American Nephrology Nurses' Association has declared the week of September 14th through the 20th as Nephrology Nurses Week with the theme ''Cherishing the Treasures of Our Specialty'' to celebrate and honor

the unselfish work that each nurse performs each day to maintain the health of thousands. Today I honor these nephrology nurses from Bensalem and congratulate them for their dedicated service to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 481–489.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on No. 481, ''yes'' on No. 482, ''yes'' on No. 483, ''no'' on No. 484, ''no'' on No. 485, ''yes'' on No. 486, ''yes'' on No. 487, ''yes'' on No. 488, and ''no'' on No. 489.

HONORING EAGLES LANDING MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eagles Landing Middle School, which has been named a National PTA School of Excellence for its achievement in building effective family-school partnerships. As a parent and a congressman, I understand the need for a strong family commitment to ensure the educational success of our children and am so proud of Eagles Landing for receiving this prestigious award.

The National PTA School of Excellence program recognizes schools whose families feel welcomed and empowered to support student success. Eagles Landing Middle School is a community-based school that engages families through programming that brings them together for a common purpose. Through constant communication between parents and teachers, structured family nights like STEM Night and Literacy Night, and a centrally-located community garden that is incorporated into the curriculum as an outdoor learning center, families are encouraged to work and have fun together with other members of their school and community. Eagles Landing is the only middle school in the state of Florida and only one of ten schools in the state to receive this designation.

I would like to recognize Eagles Landing Principal Cindy Chiapetta and PTSA President Kendra Palumbo for their hard work in putting in place strong practices that involve families in the education of their children. The partnership between Eagles Landing School and Eagles Landing Middle School PTSA is an inspiring example of what can be accomplished when schools and families work together.

TRIBUTE TO THE TRIPLE NICKELS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are those who offer their vocations to their community, their family, and their country. Then there are those who blaze such a trail of dedication and service that all who follow behind cannot help but to offer gratitude and great thanks. I rise today to celebrate and honor the men of the 555th Parachute Infantry Company as they are remembered in a ceremony fitting their legacy.

The men who comprised the Triple Nickels broke through barriers, jumped out of planes, and showed up for battle. What began with 20 young African-American enlisted men in 1943 ended, in name only, in 1947. The 555th would become the 3rd Battalion, 505th Infantry regiment, 82nd Airborne Division and would be the first African-American unit in history to become a part of an American combat division. The legacy of mighty soldiers that began with these men continued into the 188th Airborne Infantry Regiment, the 11th Airborne Division, and the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team.

I join with all those gathered to dedicate a monument to the Triple Nickels Association in offering my profound thanks. In overcoming great obstacles, the men of the 555th became more than paratroopers. Their legacy lives on today in a military free of racial barriers and in the hearts and minds of all who seek freedom. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating and remembering the men of the 555th Parachute Infantry Company.

CORRECTION

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5523–S5572

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2792–2801, and S. Res. 542–543. **Page S5564**

Measures Passed:

All Circuit Review Extension Act: Senate passed H.R. 4197, to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the period of certain authority with respect to judicial review of Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers. **Page S5570**

Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2258, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S5570–71**

National Save for Retirement Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 542, supporting the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week, including raising public awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles and increasing personal financial literacy. **Page S5571**

Measures Considered:

Paycheck Fairness Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S5524–30**

Pending:

Reid Amendment No. 3800, of a perfecting nature. **Page S5530**

Reid Amendment No. 3801 (to Amendment No. 3800), of a perfecting nature. **Page S5530**

Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 3802, of a perfecting nature. **Page S5530**

Reid Amendment No. 3803 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 3802), of a perfecting nature. **Page S5530**

Reid Amendment No. 3804 (to Amendment No. 3803), of a perfecting nature. **Page S5530**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, September 11, 2014, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, September 15, 2014. **Page S5530**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the filing deadlines for first-degree amendments to the bill be 3:00 p.m., on Monday, September 15, 2014, and second-degree amendments be 4:30 p.m., on Monday, September 15, 2014. **Page S5571**

Federal Student Loans: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2432, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans. **Pages S5531–43, S5545–49**

Election Contributions and Expenditures: By 54 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 261), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on S.J. Res. 19, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections. **Pages S5543–44**

Baran Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. **Page S5549**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, September 11, 2014, a vote on cloture will occur following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex. **Page S5549**

Burns Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Stephen G. Burns, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. **Page S5549**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, September 11, 2014, a vote on cloture will occur following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. **Page S5549**

Baran and Burns Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that on Monday, September 15, 2014, notwithstanding rule XXII, following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Stephen G. Burns, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; that if cloture is invoked on either of these nominations, that at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, all post-cloture time be expired, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; and that there be two minutes for debate prior to each vote and all roll call votes after the first vote in each sequence be ten minutes in length. **Pages S5549–50**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

John Hoover, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone. **Pages S5544, S5572**

Anne E. Rung, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy. **Pages S5544, S5572**

David Radzanowski, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. **Pages S5544, S5572**

Miranda A. A. Ballentine, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. **Pages S5544, S5572**

Joseph L. Nimmich, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security. **Pages S5544, S5572**

Elizabeth Sembler, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2020. **Pages S5544–45, S5572**

Judith M. Davenport, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2020. **Pages S5545, S5572**

David J. Arroyo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2016. **Pages S5545, S5572**

Messages from the House: **Page S5560**

Measures Referred: **Page S5560**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S5523, S5560**

Executive Communications: **Pages S5560–62**

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Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S5564**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5564–65**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5565–66**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5556–60**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5566–70**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Pages S5570**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5570**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—261) **Page S5544**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 4 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5571.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, and Stephen G. Burns, of Maryland, both to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of James Peter Zumwalt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Robert T. Yamate, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Union of the Comoros, Virginia E. Palmer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi, and David Nathan Saperstein, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1535, to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nomination of Arthur Lee Bentley III, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, Department of Justice.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 5448–5460; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 113–115; and H. Res. 720–721 were introduced. **Page H7454**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7455–56**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Gwen Moore (H. Rept. 113–585). **Page H7454**

Recess: The House recessed at 9:05 a.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m. **Page H7436**

Employee Health Care Protection Act: The House passed H.R. 3522, to authorize health insurance issuers to continue to offer for sale current group health insurance coverage in satisfaction of the minimum essential health insurance coverage requirement, by a recorded vote of 247 ayes to 167 noes, Roll No. 495. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, September 10th. **Page H7436–38**

Rejected the Brownley (CA) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 187 yeas to 223 nays, Roll No. 494. **Pages H7436–37**

H. Res. 717, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to yesterday, September 10th.

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on September 9th:

Enhance Labeling, Accessing, and Branding of Electronic Licenses Act of 2014: H.R. 5161, to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications

Commission, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 402 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 496.

Pages H7438–39

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on September 10th:

EPS Service Parts Act of 2014: H.R. 5057, amended, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to permit exemptions for external power supplies from certain efficiency standards and

Page H7439

Reinstating and extending the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the American Falls Reservoir: S. 276, to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the American Falls Reservoir. **Page H7439**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet on Monday, September 15th at 12 noon for Morning Hour Debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business. **Page H7440**

Providing for a recess of the House for a Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine: Agreed by unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Thursday, September 18, 2014 for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in Joint Meeting His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine. **Page H7440**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H7436.

Senate Referrals: S. 2154 was held at the desk and S. 2323 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. **Page H7452**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7437, H7437–38, H7438–39. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING H.R. 5411, THE TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2014

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Examining H.R. 5411, the Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of 2014". Testimony was heard from Katherine Chon, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL AND ITS ONGOING FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A SUBPOENA FOR DOCUMENTS ABOUT A RECENT INVESTIGATION

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Office of Inspector General and Its Ongoing Failure to Comply with a Subpoena for Documents about a Recent Investigation". Testimony was heard from Mary Kendall, Deputy Inspector General, Department of the Interior.

THE DECLINE IN BUSINESS FORMATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE ECONOMY

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce held a hearing entitled "The Decline in Business Formation: Implications for Entrepreneurship and the Economy". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, September 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 5:30 p.m.), Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 2199, Paycheck Fairness Act.

Following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 2199, Paycheck Fairness Act, Senate will resume consideration of the nominations of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Stephen G. Burns, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Monday, September 15

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

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