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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 17, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

FUNDING ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

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

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the inclusion of additional funding for Alzheimer's research in the National Institutes of Health's budget. This disease affects over 5 million Americans, and every 67 seconds, someone develops Alzheimer's.

The impact on these patients and their families is immense, and Congress must act now to ensure needed funding is available to researchers willing to understand, treat, and cure Alzheimer's.

As the Appropriations Committee drafts spending legislation for the current fiscal year, it is critical that the NIH budget include an initial $200 million for Alzheimer's research. The requirement for this funding was validated by the National Alzheimer's Plan, a comprehensive congressionally-directed initiative which serves as a blueprint to ensure that taxpayer dollars are carefully invested in medical research.

One in three seniors who die each year have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia, and the Centers for Disease Control notes that it is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.

In addition to the terrible toll on individuals, the costs of treating Alzheimer's will cost over $214 billion this year. With so much at stake, an investment of $200 million in 2015 is clearly justified, and we must also continue to provide funding for Alzheimer's research in future years.

On behalf of south Texas families affected by Alzheimer's, I urge my colleagues in Congress to support increased funding for Alzheimer's research.

TERRORIST POACHING

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the call of the wild from mammoth African elephants and rhinos has grown meek and blissfully silent.

The culprit: outlaw terrorists who are tracking and hunting down these massive creatures to fund their filthy, lucre terrorist enterprises. Our enemy is sophisticated and well-funded, but their weapons, surveillance equipment and training, food, lodging, and travel cost a lot of money.

ISIS has a terrorist army that has raised billions of dollars through extortion, drugs, bank robbery, kidnapping, and oil smuggling, but there is one source of funding for terrorism that is being overlooked: poaching.

Madam Speaker, the illegal wildlife trade in Africa is a $7 to $10 billion a year business. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, a rhino horn sells for $65,000 a kilogram in Asia. That is more expensive than silver, gold, diamonds, or illicit drugs.

The number one buyer of ivory is none other than China. With big profits and high demand, poaching has risen dramatically.

Madam Speaker, two-thirds of central Africa's forest elephants have been wiped out in the last 10 years. 100,000 elephants were killed in Africa between 2010 and 2012. In just those 10 years, central Africa has lost 64 percent of its elephants, according to National Geographic.

One of those elephants killed was Satao, pictured right here before he was killed. Satao was called by some as the world's biggest and largest elephant. Satao had tusks that reached to the ground, as you can see, but last June, he was found in a swamp, dead, killed for his tusks. He was 45 to 46 years old. The poachers finally got this old bull.

Terrorists have identified this lucrative industry of systematically killing African animals as another source of cash to fund their murderous enterprises. The al Qaeda affiliate al Shabaab generated between $200,000 and $600,000 a month from just tusks, according to the African Elephant Action League. The blood money accounted for as much as 40 percent of al Shabaab's total operating budget.

These terrorist poachers not only kill African animals, but they kill the wildlife wardens guarding them as well.

Other terrorist organizations implicated in the illegal poaching trade include Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance

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Army in central Africa and Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Unsurprisingly, these terrorists have also taken advantage of the instability and corruption in African governments. Terrorists sell their bounties under the radar in the illicit market. The penalties for those caught poaching are minimal.

So for terrorists who are looking to avoid detection, make a lot of money, and not face consequences if caught, poaching is their grand bargain.

So what is being done? Our intelligence community has yet to establish a clear understanding of which terrorist groups are the most involved in poaching and who facilitates the worldwide transactions from Africa to other countries.

We need wildlife trackers to track the money trail and the destruction of these creatures. The administration needs to have a plan to stop this eradication of mammoth animals.

Multiple agencies from the State Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others have been involved in efforts to eradicate poaching, but it appears no agency has taken the lead. Talk must turn to action.

Last February, the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking issued a national strategy for combating wildlife trafficking, but there is no implementation plan. Nine months later, we are still waiting for a strategy to go into effect.

Meanwhile, endangered species are being slaughtered, like Satao, and terrorists are being paid from the sales of endangered species' tusks and horns.

Preserving endangered species is a noble goal, but the fact that killers worldwide are using this money to fund terrorism makes it even more urgent we stop this ruthless criminal conduct.

These terrorists kill animals, so they can get money to kill people. The combination of these two evils, the killing of endangered species and innocent civilians to further radical terrorism, is an international threat.

The world cannot allow radical Islamic terrorists to continue the wholesale slaughter of rhinos and elephants to fund their reign of terror. Make terrorists extinct, not these animals. Otherwise, the only rhinos and elephants our grandkids are going to see are the stuffed animals at Toys ''R'' Us.

And that is just the way it is.

NATIONAL CARE CORPS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise during National Family Caregivers Month to recognize the millions of family caregivers who do incredible work every day and to talk about the future of caregiving in this country.

Right now, the vast majority of care services in the United States are provided by family caregivers. They do this out of love for their loved ones, to restore and maintain respect and dignity, and because the vast majority of disabled adults and seniors rely on Medicare as their primary insurance, and Medicare does not pay for long-term care services, and they are barely ineligible for Medicaid, which might.

Forty-nine million Americans provide more than 520 billion in care to seniors and adults with disabilities every year. They manage a range of really difficult responsibilities because they have a friend or a loved one who is older or who has a disability and is in need of extra help.

I know how tough it is to be a family caregiver because I am one. My mother, who lives with me in New Mexico, relies on me to oversee her care and also provide financial support. These are difficult arrangements for a number of reasons. Having a parent rely on a child when they have spent their life being the caregiver can be a tough transition to make.

But family caregivers navigate that relationship while taking the time to call insurance companies and hospitals to ensure their loved one is getting proper care and while often having to use their own resources to cover many of the costs associated with that care.

They do it out of love, and they do it because they know that their mother or their husband or their friend wants to remain as independent as possible, and they know that they want to live out their lives with dignity. I think they have earned that right.

But these family caregivers cannot do it alone. They need someone to take their sister to her appointment and when they get busy with a day at work or to make sure that their dad takes his medication while they attend a parent-teacher conference.

Already in this country, we have got more than 4 million men and women who have chosen direct care as a career and provide these kind of services on a paid basis, but if you look at the sheer demographics, that is not nearly enough.

As the baby boom generation continues to age, demand for services will increase. The gap between the number of family caregivers and direct care workers and the number of people who need services will continue to grow.

In 2010, there were seven potential caregivers for every person over the age of 80. By 2030, that ratio is projected to drop by almost half, to 4.1.

In the direct care workforce, demand is projected to grow, so that the U.S. will need to add at least 1 million more direct care workers over the next 10 years.

So we face real challenges in growing a workforce that will help meet the needs of our population. At the same time, our economy continues to slowly recover from the Great Recession.

Young people looking to enter the workforce, along with workers who are willing to retrain, want to find jobs in a field that is growing and can provide them with some job security.

So I see two challenges that I think can be solved with one coordinated national effort called Care Corps. My bill, H.R. 5288, creates a national Care Corps that will place volunteers and communities to work with seniors and individuals with disabilities who need a little extra support to live independently.

In return for their services, volunteers will receive health insurance and other benefits, along with a postservice educational award. This award can be used to pay for up to 2 years of attendance at an institution of higher education or to pay back educational loans.

But I want to end with what I think will be the program's legacy if we are able to get this done. Care Corps provides an opportunity for intergenerational relationships, for seniors and our young people to learn from each other, and for us as a country to gain a better sense of our history to the people that lived it.

Anyone who has ever been a caregiver will tell you not just that it was challenging, but that it was incredibly rewarding.

So I want to thank our family caregivers who are already filling a serious void in this country, and I want to urge my colleagues to support them by supporting the National Care Corps Act.

RECOGNIZING LETTER CARRIER MARGARET HUTCHENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Yadkinville Letter Carrier Margaret Hutchens, who delivers mail in the Country Club Road area, the Booneville end of U.S. 601, and the Hamptonville side of Old U.S. 421 West, upon her induction into the prestigious Million Mile Club.

Margaret received this high honor from the National Safety Council in recognition of having driven in the workplace for at least 30 years or 1 million miles without incurring a preventable motor vehicle accident.

Let's think about the magnitude of travelling 1 million miles. That would be two trips to the moon and back.

At the celebration honoring her accomplishment, Margaret thanked the customers on her route and said she knew God was looking out for her during those 30 years of accident-free driving.

This honor illustrates the dedication to excellence that Margaret practices every day, and her customers are fortunate to have such a reliable and hard-working letter carrier.

□ 1215

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES RULE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Friday, November 14, was the closing of the public comment period for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proposed ''waters of the United States''—WOTUS, as it is known—rule under the Clean Water Act, which would dramatically expand the scope of Federal authority over water and land uses across the United States.

Enacted in 1972, the Clean Water Act was created as a partnership between the States and the Federal EPA in order to better manage identified pollution sources through a range of pollution control programs.

This new proposed rule is a direct threat to this longstanding federalist approach created by the law, which has been long supported by Republicans and Democrats alike for over four decades.

It is through this federalist model, which enables regulators at the Federal, State, and local levels to provide adequate flexibility to address water quality while accounting for local and regional variations and conditions, that Pennsylvania has demonstrated a track record of success in improving and protecting the ecological health of its waters. Unfortunately, the proposed rule would dramatically expand the Federal authority to the detriment of our economy and at the expense of existing State-Federal partnerships that have been effective in protecting and improving the biological integrity of our watersheds and waterways.

For this reason, I along with Senator PAT TOOMEY and eight additional members of the Pennsylvania delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives voiced our strong opposition to this flawed policy. In comments submitted Friday to the agencies, we outlined concerns specific to our home State and those of our constituents, including private landowners, counties, municipalities, farmers, foresters, among so many who will be negatively impacted if this rule is allowed to be fully implemented.

Mr. Speaker, there is a widespread agreement that the Clean Water Act has been a beneficial tool for the management and the health of our Nation's watersheds and water quality.

While Congressional intent of the Clean Water Act has been limited to ''navigable waters,'' the extent of the law's jurisdiction has been the subject of much litigation and regulatory action. Complicating the issue further are Supreme Court decisions that have not adequately described the scope of Federal authority under the law resulting, at times, in conflict.

While the existing law and the Supreme Court have left uncertainty regarding what constitutes a ''water of the United States,'' previous holdings have made clear that the Federal Government's authority is not limitless. Unfortunately, the proposed rule assumes just that—limitless Federal authority.

Mr. Speaker, the reason this is so concerning is that many of these issues are best regulated at the State level in a manner that recognizes regional differences in geography, climate, geology, soils, hydrology, and rainfall, among other variables. Rather than strengthen the law, the rule creates more confusion—confusion that will most certainly delay permitting and will undermine strong water quality programs that exist in Pennsylvania and in other States. Moreover, this type of uncertainty is susceptible to inconsistent interpretation and application, which holds the potential for substantial implementation costs across the various Clean Water Act programs, and will likely invite more enforcement actions and third-party litigation.

In addition to jeopardizing existing water quality control programs, the economic impact of the proposed rule will be far-reaching. Activities that drive economic development in Pennsylvania, such as highway and road construction, pipeline projects, energy production, infrastructure projects, farming, flood control, and public works projects will all be subject to Federal permitting if this proposal is finalized.

For example, the rule would make most ditches into tributaries. Routine maintenance activities in ditches and on-site ponds and impoundments could trigger permits that can cost $100,000 or more. These permitting requirements would likely trigger additional environmental reviews which would add years to the completion time for ordinary projects, which means more costs for landowners and more regulatory burdens upon the States, all with no guarantee or measurable benefits to our waters.

Mr. Speaker, we all agree that managing the Nation's water is critically important, but in this case, the Federal Government has failed to recognize the fundamental role that States play in meeting our shared goals of clean watersheds and water resources. Mr. Speaker, it is time for EPA and the Corps to vacate this proposal, get back to the drawing board, and fix the fundamental flaws within this rule. The American people, including my constituents in Pennsylvania, deserve as much.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

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

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions in difficult times with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

We are grateful, O God, that You have given to them the goals of justice and the designs of freedom. Remind each Member that it is their work to develop the strategies and plans of achieving those goals and designs being mindful of the prompting of Your spirit.

You have given to each of them and to us all the abilities to do good works, so we pray that we will be faithful in our tasks, responsible in our actions, and fervent in our desire to serve.

Bless us all, O God, this day and every day to come. And may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of North Carolina 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.

HONORING RICHARD FISHER

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Richard Fisher, who will be retiring as the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas this coming spring.

President Fisher's work at the institution for the past 10 years has served our area well. Richard has been a fearless advocate for the low regulation of the Texas economy. Because of his stance, north Texas has experienced tremendous economic growth and vitality during the time of his presidency.

I feel privileged to have known and worked closely with President Fisher during the time he and I worked together on economic development summits in southeast Fort Worth. Those were a huge success and were helpful to the small businesses that were in an economically challenged area. He was always available and helpful to me personally. His stances on preventing banks that are too big to fail from coming to the taxpayer for bailouts was inspiring.

On behalf of the 26th District of Texas, I commend President Richard Fisher on a job well done. I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him every success in the future.

PRESIDENT DECEIVED AMERICANS ABOUT OBAMACARE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's Charleston Post and Courier, Charles Krauthammer points out the President's deceit when misrepresenting ObamaCare before shoving it through a Democratic Congress.

According to the column, an ''October 2013 video has surfaced that shows MIT Professor Jonathan Gruber, a principal architect of ObamaCare, admitting that, in order to get it passed, the law was made deliberately obscure and deceptive. It constitutes the ultimate vindication of the charge that ObamaCare was sold on a pack of lies.''

As more is revealed about the truth behind the President's manipulation when passing ObamaCare, ''It's refreshing that 'the most transparent administration in history' . . . should finally display candor about its signature act of social change. Inadvertently, of course. But now we know what lay behind Obama's smooth . . . arrogance . . . that rules in the name of the citizenry it mocks, disdains, and deliberately, contemptuously deceives.''

It is sad Democratic elitists believe their voters are stupid.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. The President should take action to never forget September the 11th and the global war on terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind all Members that remarks in debate may not engage in personalities toward the President.

MIZZOU 175TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize my alma mater, the University of Missouri, as it celebrates 175 years of providing quality education, cutting-edge research, and practical extension services to all Missourians.

Mizzou was the first State university established west of the Mississippi and is a school rich with tradition. I am humbled to be a graduate of such a longstanding, esteemed institution.

The University of Missouri was home to the first journalism school in the world and is still recognized as one of the best schools around the world for agriculture, business, and journalism, just to name a few.

The core values of the University of Missouri—respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence—leave a mark on every individual influenced by this institution and have helped shape me as an American citizen and lawmaker.

Throughout my career in education and public service, I have striven to uphold the values of the university and sleep well knowing that all alumni, present and future, will do the same.

I am so proud to be a Tiger, and I wish a very happy birthday to Mizzou. Go Tigers!

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ACT OF 2014

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5069) to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5069

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Duck Stamp Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN PRICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP TO FUND ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS.

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act is amended—

(1) in section 2(b) (16 U.S.C. 718b(b))—

(A) by striking ''1990, and'' and inserting ''1990,''; and

(B) by striking ''for each hunting year thereafter'' and inserting ''for hunting years 1991 through 2013, and $25 for each hunting year thereafter'';

(2) by adding at the end of section 2 (16 U.S.C. 718b) the following:

''(c) REDUCTION IN PRICE OF STAMP.—The Secretary may reduce the price of each stamp sold under the provisions of this section for a hunting year if the Secretary determines that the increase in the price of the stamp after hunting year 2013 resulted in a reduction in revenues deposited into the fund.''; and

(3) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 718d)—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting before the period the following: '', in which there shall be a subaccount to which the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer all amounts in excess of $15 that are received from the sale of each stamp sold for each hunting year after hunting year 2013'';

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''So much'' and inserting ''Except as provided in paragraph (4), so much'';

(C) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''paragraph (3)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (3) and (4)''; and

(D) by adding at the end of subsection (b) the following:

''(4) CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.—Amounts in the subaccount referred to in subsection (a)(3) shall be used by the Secretary solely to acquire easements in real property in the United States for conservation of migratory birds.''.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT ON EXPENDITURES.

Section 4 of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718d) is further amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking so much as precedes ''The Secretary may'' and inserting the following:

''(c) PROMOTION OF STAMP SALES.—''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in each annual report of the Commission under section 3 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715b)—

''(1) a description of activities conducted under subsection (c) in the year covered by the report;

''(2) an annual assessment of the status of wetlands conservation projects for migratory bird conservation purposes, including a clear and accurate accounting of—

''(A) all expenditures by Federal and State agencies under this section; and

''(B) all expenditures made for fee-simple acquisition of Federal lands in the United States, including the amount paid and acreage of each parcel acquired in each acquisition;

''(3) an analysis of the refuge lands opened, and refuge lands closed, for hunting and fishing in the year covered by the report, including—

''(A) identification of the specific areas in each refuge and the reasons for the closure or opening; and

''(B) a detailed description of each closure including detailed justification for such closure;

''(4) the total number of acres of refuge land open for hunting and fishing, and the total number of acres of refuge land closed for hunting and fishing, in the year covered by the report; and

''(5) a separate report on the hunting and fishing status of those lands added to the system in the year covered by the report.''.

SEC. 4. EXEMPTION FOR TAKINGS BY RURAL ALASKA SUBSISTENCE USERS.

Section 1(a)(2) of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''or'' after the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting ''; or'', and by adding at the end the following:

''(D) by a rural Alaska resident for subsistence uses (as that term is defined in section 803 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3113)).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

As author of H.R. 5069, I am pleased that we are considering this bipartisan bill that has been cosponsored by the dean of the House of Representatives, the leadership of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, and the entire Louisiana House congressional delegation.

The Federal Duck Stamp Act will modestly increase the price of the Federal duck stamp for the first time in 23 years and, by so doing, restore the buying power of this conservation tool which has been used to acquire, conserve, lease, and restore thousands of acres of wetlands.

Wetlands are critical to the survival of not only migratory waterfowl but to the millions of Americans who live along our coastlines. The U.S. Geological Survey has calculated that for every 2.5 miles a hurricane travels across wetlands, the storm surge is reduced by 1 foot. It is therefore likely that wetlands were directly responsible for saving lives and property in the gulf coast that were devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

This legislation has been endorsed by Ducks Unlimited and more than 30 national conservation organizations, including the National Rifle Association, Boone and Crockett Club, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

In their support letter, these groups noted that, ''In order for us to pass down our hunting heritage from generation to generation, sustain a vital and viable resource for wildlife and people, we must increase the price of the duck stamp this year.''

I urge adoption of H.R. 5069, and I want to thank all of the Members who join with me in this effort.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5069 would authorize an increase in the price of the Federal duck stamp from $15 to $25. Duck stamp revenue funds the purchase and conservation of wetland habitats critical to maintaining waterfowl populations and other wildlife prized by hunters. This increase will restore the purchasing power of the duck stamp dollars to nearly 1991 levels, the last time Congress increased the price of the duck stamp.

The current price of the stamp is $15, which equates to less than $9 in 1991. The increase is expected to generate $5 million in revenue for securing conservation easements on land in the United States.

While I take issue with some of the requirements and restrictions this bill would place on the Fish and Wildlife Service, the opportunity to generate these additional funds for wetland conservation with the support of hunters and other nature lovers is one that we must take advantage of.

I support the passage of the bill and congratulate the author of the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say in closing that not only do we have huge bipartisan support for this bill, but I just want to point out, as an example, in 2012, we spent, essentially, an equal amount of money on both the fee simple land purchase and the easement. Around $16- to $17 million each. But look at the bang for the buck we got. We purchased 14,747 acres fee simple, but on easements we got 48,144.

So it is obvious that not only is this a huge savings to the taxpayer, this is a much better deal, but also think about the maintenance costs that are now going to be unnecessary because landowners with the easements will continue to maintain the land rather than taxpayers.

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleagues and I will vote on the Federal Duck Stamp Act of 2014. This bill would raise the price of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps (more commonly known as ''Duck Stamps''), for the first time in 23 years, from $15 to $25. I am a proud supporter of this legislation and ask my colleagues to vote in favor.

Ever since Congress created the Duck Stamp program in 1934, hunters have bought duck stamps to help pay for the protection of wildlife habitats. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service uses the money generated from these sales to acquire new land or preserve existing wildlife refuges for water fowl. Duck Stamps also serve as an entrance pass for any national wildlife refuge that charges admission, so they are in effect a user fee for hunters and bird watchers.

Today, because of rising land prices and inflation in general, the value of the Duck Stamp has fallen by 40 percent, depriving conservation efforts of crucial funds. As an avid hunter, I understand the importance of investing in our wildlife habitats. We need to pass these traditions on to the next generation, so they can learn the importance of being good stewards of the land.

Since the federal government already owns nearly one third of our country's land, this bill prohibits new land acquisition and requires the funds generated from the fee increase to be used solely for acquiring easements for migratory birds. But since the funds collected from Duck Stamp sales are technically classified as revenues, increasing the fees to allow for higher spending on protecting migratory-bird habitats does not comply with the House's ''Cut as You Go'' rule (Rule XXI, Clause 10).

In the past, we've made exceptions for spending increases that are offset with revenue increases for selected programs when there is a close connection between the revenues and the spending. For example, budget resolutions often include reserve funds that effectively waive the ''Cut as You Go'' rule for deficit-neutral legislation designed to achieve a specific purpose.

Because the funds generated from this legislation will be user fees, not taxes, and this bill reduces the deficit, I support granting a waiver of the ''Cut as You Go'' rule for consideration of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5069, 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.

REMOVING A USE RESTRICTION TO CERTAIN LAND IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5162) to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center'' to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5162

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

SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF USE RESTRICTION.

The Act entitled ''An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center'', approved October 31, 1990 (Public Law 101–479), is amended to read as follows:

''SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF USE RESTRICTION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any restrictions in the deed, on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the parcel comprised of approximately 3.03 acres of land transferred by the United States on April 11, 1989, to the county of Rockingham, Virginia, in deed book number 953 at page 600, together with improvements thereon may be used by the county as if the land had been transferred in fee simple with no use or other restrictions.

''(b) DOCUMENTATION.—As soon as practical after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall take such actions as are necessary to issue a fee simple deed with no restrictions to the land described in subsection (a) to the county of Rockingham, Virginia.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

In 1989, the Department of the Interior deeded a small parcel of land to Rockingham County, Virginia, for public purpose. This land includes a garage that had previously been used by the National Park Service.

The County determined a nonprofit childcare center in Broadway, Virginia, would benefit from the use of the garage, and Public Law 101–479 allowed the deed to be changed for the particular use of the childcare center. However, under the terms and restrictions of the transfer, the nonprofit is unable to obtain financing to make improvements and renovations to the property. H.R. 5162 would remove the restrictions on the land so the necessary upgrades may be made to the childcare center.

Congressman GOODLATTE has offered a commonsense bill that will assist the constituents and the community. I urge support for the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

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

H.R. 5162 removes the use restriction on a 3-acre parcel of Federal land granted in 1990 to Rockingham County, Virginia. The county no longer needs the parcel for child care and seeks to develop it for other purposes.

The 3-acre parcel was given to Rockingham County through the National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks Program. The Federal Lands to Parks Program provides Federal land to counties and to other State and local entities to develop community parks and public spaces. If land granted through this program is no longer needed for its original purpose, the National Park Service has the administrative authority to sell the land at fair market value.

This involves what could be a very lengthy valuation process, but it is important to remember that these assets are owned by the American taxpayers, held in trust by the Federal Government, and they deserve a fair return. In this case, to the best of my knowledge, Rockingham County did not approach the National Park Service to discuss purchasing the land at fair market value. Instead, the county went straight to Congress for this legislative fix.

Revisionary clauses and land use restrictions exist to ensure the fair use of Federal land and a fair return to the American taxpayer. Of course, it is important to look at these on a case-by-case basis, recognizing when Congress should chime in and when it is more appropriate for administrative action. Congress should only get involved when all other options are exhausted.

While there may have been an alternative method to achieving the objective of this legislation, we support the adoption of H.R. 5162.

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding the time and the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. HASTINGS, for moving this legislation forward. I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona as well for his support and indicate to him that the intention is to continue to use this land for a child care center, but in order to improve the child care center, they need to be able to get financing that is not available with the encumbrance that exists right now.

Mr. Speaker, for over 25 years, a little over 3 acres of land and its associated buildings, previously wholly held by the Federal Government, have been maintained by Rockingham County and the Plains Area Daycare Center in my congressional district.

In 1989, the Federal Government deeded these 3 acres of land to Rockingham County, but prior to this official declaration, Rockingham County had already been maintaining the lands around the facility. The land and building had been used as a garage and maintenance facility for the National Forest Service. However, it was no longer being utilized, and the county was doing upkeep on the land.

The land transfer in 1989 allowed this land to be used for public purposes. The county decided that the nonprofit Plains Area Daycare Center in Broadway, Virginia, which provides child care on a sliding scale and helps many families who otherwise could not afford child care, would benefit from the use of the old garage. Public Law 101–479 allowed the deed to be changed from public use for the particular use of the child care center.

Donations by the community, totaling $75,000, turned the garage building into a nursery, daycare, and after-school care facility. Additionally, the creation of the daycare center provided for the creation of a playground that the center supports and is open for public use. To be clear, the center and the playground are the sole reason that this previously abandoned government land is being used by the community.

Unfortunately, because of the narrow way Public Law 101–479 was drafted, any extension or maintenance of the physical structures has required approval by the Department of the Interior. In 1998, the county had to obtain permission from the Department to add an addition that was funded through pledges and a county loan, resulting in another $125,000 worth of improvements by the community.

The building is, once again, in need of repairs, forcing the county to seek approval from the Department of the Interior for repairs. Further, because of the terms of the deed, the daycare center has been unable to get a loan to complete the needed renovations.

I have been pleased to visit the Plains Area Daycare Center on many occasions. The center is committed to providing high-quality child care on a sliding scale. The center is also committed to making sure children have the skills necessary to enter and thrive in school through early childhood education programs. The investments this center is making in the community are immeasurable. Since opening in 1991, the center has always been at capacity, and it is the only facility of its kind in the community. By passing this legislation and allowing Rockingham County and, in return, the Plains Area Daycare Center more authority over the land, it will ensure that more children and more of the community will be served by this land.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation today is a simple formality. For 25 years, the land has been deeded to Rockingham County but with restriction. It is clear the Federal Government no longer has a vested interest in the land. This property is being used by the county and the community to help those in need. My legislation removes the restrictions on the land to ensure this community investment can continue to thrive.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 5162 so that the necessary upgrades may be made to the child care center and so that the community can be better served.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, if I may inquire of the gentleman from Louisiana if he has any more speakers.

Mr. FLEMING. We have no further speakers.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5162.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CAMP PENDLETON MEDAL OF HONOR POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5468) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1103 USPS Building 1103 in Camp Pendleton, California, as the

''Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5468

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

SECTION 1. CAMP PENDLETON MEDAL OF HONOR POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1103 USPS Building 1103 in Camp Pendleton, California, shall be known and designated as the ''Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, of the several postal namings that we are voting on today, almost all of them are honoring members of the military and, disproportionately, members who have given their lives in service to their country, and it is fitting that we should do that. However, H.R. 5468 seeks something very different.

Currently called the ''Mainside'' Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Post Office, it is not named for anyone. Camp Pendleton has produced more Medal of Honor recipients—most of them posthumously—through World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the various gulf wars. Even as we speak today, marines are engaged now in Iraq again, having completed their missions in Afghanistan, and, undoubtedly, the valor they show will someday result in additional Medal of Honor recipients.

It is impossible to name the post office at Camp Pendleton after one marine, no matter how great, or after a few marines, even if they died together in battle—therefore, the unusual naming here at Camp Pendleton, a base that opened in 1942 and that, today, is the largest base of marines anywhere in the world. Over 42,000 marines and corpsmen call Camp Pendleton their home when they are not away from home.

I am humbled and honored to be able to represent Camp Pendleton for my entire nearly 14 years of service in the Congress. As a former Army officer, I have learned a great deal about marines. I have learned even more about their valor. Only in a place like Camp Pendleton would you find that the base band is named after a band leader who earned a Medal of Honor during the Korean conflict as he, in fact, laid covering fire for his fellow marines from a burning tank.

Therefore, today, we are considering—and I am confident we will name—this post office after all of those who earned America's highest honor. I envision that the post office will bear the names and, in a book, the recitation of how they each earned America's highest honor. It has been inspiring to represent them. Those Medal of Honor recipients, I must mention, will include Navy corpsmen, and they will include officers and enlisted men. They will include all of those battles from World War II to tomorrow and the days beyond.

As I ask for this post office to be named, one that I have had the honor of authoring, I might note, for all of those who wonder why we name post offices, I believe, if they come to Camp Pendleton, they will find out why this post office bears the name of a medal and not any one soldier, sailor, marine, or airman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First of all, I want to thank the gentleman from California. There is nothing I can add, really, to the eloquence of his remarks, and it is fitting that he made them as the person in this body who is representing the men and women of Camp Pendleton.

I have been there, but I don't serve it. My brother served in the Navy, and I visited him many years ago when he was at Camp Pendleton, and I remember then, as a very young person, being awed by just the incredible display of patriotism that was embodied in that.

The other thing, as I listened to you, Mr. Chairman, what I thought was so good about this is that the whole ethic of the military is that you are in it for everybody else. As for the story about the Medal of Honor winner who was in the band but, before he was in the band, was on a burning tank and provided covering fire at great peril to himself, that is the ethic of the military that, I think, all of us here so admire.

So having a postal naming which doesn't specifically identify one person but identifies all of the recipients at the highest award that we can give to a military leader is a tremendous idea. In fact, I look forward to my next visit to Camp Pendleton, where, I think, like many Americans who will go visit, I will read this roster and will just stand in awe of the bravery that has been demonstrated by these people throughout our history.

□ 1430

So I really am glad that our remarks are recorded because this statement that the chairman gave, I think, is going to be very good reading for all of us. I do join, of course, in supporting this naming. I think it is particularly suitable.

Mr. Speaker, 230 years of Camp Pendleton's existence, think about it. It is just an amazing facility, but more importantly, it has had hundreds of thousands of wonderful Americans who have learned about how to be a patriot, who have gone from there to face very difficult challenges when we needed their bravery to defend our country.

So I join the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) in urging our colleagues to support this naming—it is an especially glorious one—honoring all men and women of the military.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I have but two things to say. First of all, I want to thank the California delegation for their unique, bipartisan, unanimous support for this bill.

Lastly, whether it is that bandleader who was a bandleader first, but would have said, ''I am an infantryman first,'' who served in World War II and died there in Korea, or it is the marines and corpsmen who have given their lives, their blood, their tears, their sweat, whether they were awarded the Medal of Honor, lesser medals, or were not fully recognized for their dedication, all of them, I now know, will have their daily activities, passing the post office or dropping a letter, they will have an opportunity to in fact realize that Congress is grateful for their contributions with the naming of this post office.

I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5468.

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.

COLONEL M.J. ''MAC'' DUBE, USMC POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5331) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, as the ''Colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube, USMC Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5331

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

SECTION 1. COLONEL M.J. "MAC" DUBE, USMC POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, shall be known and designated as the ''Colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube, USMC Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube, USMC Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5331, introduced by my fellow Californian, Mr. PAUL COOK, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, as the Colonel M.J. ''Mac'' Dube, U.S. Marine Corps Post Office Building.

First, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California, Congressman COOK, the author of the bill, to speak more about this Vietnam war veteran.

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5331 would designate the facility that was already mentioned on Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms as the Colonel M.J. ''Mac'' Dube, United States Marine Corps Post Office Building.

Mac passed away this year, but will always be remembered in Twentynine Palms as a United States Marine and a dedicated public servant.

Mac and I, ironically enough, both served as colonels at the same time, an honor I will always remember and cherish. Mac was a great marine. He served for over 30 years. He earned four Purple Hearts, multiple wars, four Bronze Stars with Combat ''V,'' and a Silver Star.

After a career as the Chief of Staff at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, he retired in Twentynine Palms, where he went to work, ran for office, became the mayor, and became a council member. Then when he was done with that, he served in multiple county offices, oftentimes as a volunteer.

His children grew up there. He was deeply involved and was somebody that, ironically enough, was part of the Marine community on the military side and, obviously, the civilian community and the county side on the other side of the fence.

This is a tribute to a man who dedicated his life to serving his Nation, serving the Marine Corps, and serving the Twentynine Palms community. He left a legacy for all those who will come after him. He was always in town. He gave so many things to so many people. He was the most generous individual I ever knew, and I think that he will always be remembered in the Twentynine Palms area for his hard work, his dedication, and his patriotism.

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

I am delighted to join in support of this postal naming, and it is just such a pleasure to listen to the gentleman from California (Mr. COOK) talk about a friend he knew who was a fellow colonel and then to see what he did after his life of service in the military, his life of service with his own folks back home, and I look at some of the things he did, and I am just amazed.

He served in 46 combat missions. He earned four Purple Hearts. That means, basically, he dodged death at least four times. How he managed to do this and then put it all behind him—he probably never talked about it; instead, he preferred much more to just find a way to help folks back home when the bullets weren't flying.

But he knew service in the military and service back home were equally important. This is an extraordinary person, and we are very honored that the gentleman is bringing this bill forward and that we will be able to recognize his contributions in the memory of a postal naming.

Mr. COOK. Will the gentleman yield for a comment?

Mr. WELCH. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. COOK. I thank the gentleman.

As I mentioned, I knew Mac very, very well, and I used to joke with him, and I said, ''You know, I have two Purple Hearts, and it showed that I was dumb enough to not duck twice, and you have four of them. What does that say about your IQ?''

But he was a true American and would do anything, and I thank the gentleman from Vermont so much for his support of the bill.

Mr. WELCH. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. COOK), and Mr. ISSA also thanks you.

It is a tough business we do here, but one of the things about these namings is that it allows us to remind ourselves of what we can aspire to be. I mean, these folks, in war and in peace, who just give themselves to public service selflessly and effectively and then earn the gratitude of the people back home, regardless of party, regardless of politics, they just are trying to do a good thing to make their community a better place and their country a stronger country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. I urge strong support for this bipartisan bill and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5331.

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.

LT. DANIEL P. RIORDAN POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5386) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the ''Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5386

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

SECTION 1. LT. DANIEL P. RIORDAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the ''Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, this bill, authored by Congresswoman ANN WAGNER of Missouri, recognizes the last full measure of support for Lieutenant Daniel P. Riordan, and I can add nothing more than the author will add, so I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of a great hero.

On June 23, 2007, Missouri's Second Congressional District lost a brave young man when United States Army First Lieutenant Daniel Riordan made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the life of this young patriot. Daniel Patrick Riordan was born to Rick and Jeanine Riordan on February 17, 1983. He had a twin brother, Nick, and an older sister, Suzanne.

After graduating from St. John Vianney High School in Kirkwood, Missouri, Dan attended Southeast Missouri State where he was in the Air Force ROTC program. After graduation, Dan decided to follow his father into the military and joined the U.S. Army, quickly becoming known as ''Lieutenant Dan.''

Lieutenant Dan became a tank commander, and in 2006, he was deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a member of Demon Company in the First Cavalry Division, Dan served with courage and determination. Despite frequently being outnumbered in enemy territory, Dan was always out on point, leading his platoon into battle. Dan took his leadership responsibilities literally. As he put it, ''How can I order my men forward if I'm not willing to go first?''

To those who knew Dan, his devotion to his country through service and sacrifice came as no surprise. He was both a fierce and dedicated warrior in the service of our country and a caring and loving gentleman who felt a duty to help those in need.

From a very young age, Dan showed sensitivity beyond his years. At the age of 5 or 6, while attending a funeral, Dan's mom found him sitting with an elderly woman. When she asked him why he was sitting with her, he said, ''She looked sad and lonely.'' It was this kind of compassion that drew him to the U.S. military, his desire to serve, help, and protect those in need.

While at home on leave from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Dan consistently reassured his family that our country's military efforts were truly bringing empowerment and freedom to the people of Iraq. He believed in a cause greater than himself, that of freedom, democracy, and the dignity of all people.

While in the Army, Dan wrote his mother a letter in case he didn't return. One thing he said was, ''Don't mourn for me, mom. Celebrate my life.'' So today, we celebrate First Lieutenant Daniel P. Riordan's life by designating the Sappington Branch Post Office in St. Louis, Missouri, as the Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office.

The United States of America owes Dan a priceless debt that we will never be able to fully repay, but we can do our part to ensure that his memory lives on; therefore, it is my honor to sponsor H.R. 5386, a bill that names the Sappington Branch Post Office in Missouri's Second Congressional District after such a courageous young man, immortalizing a hero who gave up his life in service to the Nation that he loved.

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

I want to thank the gentlelady for her eloquent description of a brave and strong person and a life well-lived, and I am touched by seeing that photograph of the young, strong, healthy, vibrant man who meant so much to his family, as he did to his country, and your story about him as a 5-year-old boy, I found quite touching.

There was just something in him that probably did come from his family that made him, even without knowing why, want to serve, and you can just imagine that that carried forward not only to people in his community and family but to the people of Iraq.

I also was reading about how his original objective in the military was to serve as a pilot. We don't know what the story was as to how he ended up in a tank, but what you know about that story is that his fundamental goal was to serve. How he served was secondary.

□ 1445

He was in a tank, which, as we all know, was one of the most dangerous places any of our men and women in service could be during the war in Iraq.

So I want to thank the gentlewoman for a very inspiring and eloquent statement about a life well lived, about a man who gave his life on behalf of all of us in the United States of America.

Mrs. WAGNER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WELCH. I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mrs. WAGNER. I would like to say that I have had the great pleasure and honor of sponsoring several of these post office namings for our fallen heroes, and I have to say it is one of the most moving, touching, and important things that we can do, I think, for our entire community and certainly for the families. So it is a great privilege and honor for me to support the Riordan family today, and I thank the gentleman for his kind words and the chairman for putting all of this forward.

Mr. WELCH. Likewise, we thank you for doing this.

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

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

In closing, I have no doubt that this will pass, as rightfully it should, but if I can take a moment, looking at that picture of the young lieutenant wearing his cavalry insignia, Armor is the only branch that I know of that has two insignias: one when you are stationed when you have heavy armor, one for the cav.

The fact is, in most wars, the enemy is ahead of you and you look for the enemy. In World War II and Korea, people talked about going to the front. In Iraq, there is no front. So every day Lieutenant Riordan knew he was at the front. Every day he knew in the light-armored vehicle he was riding in that, in fact, an IED could be cranked off either remotely or on his vehicle nearing it at any time.

Our men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are not faced by an enemy who has a front. They are faced by an enemy that almost to a person hides behind improvised explosives. More of our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen have died because of these devices, not by an enemy at a front, but by a bomb on the road. Lieutenant Riordan was no different.

So when you look at his awards and you look at the way he lived and died, he wasn't fighting a war in which he went to the front to face an enemy; he faced that enemy, and at any moment his life could end, as it did end, by a sneak attack that had no face on it.

The courage of our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan is greater in many ways than those who had a reprieve from the front from time to time and who knew when they were going toward their enemy, whether it was toward, if you will, heavy fire or sniper. In Iraq and Afghanistan in the past, the present, and now in the future, our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen face an enemy that they will likely never see, and they are in peril virtually every moment of the day and night. That special relationship is one that I hope the American people understand no generation has faced the way this generation faces.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5386.

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.

SERGEANT CORY MRACEK MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1499) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, as the ''Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1499

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

SECTION 1. SERGEANT CORY MRACEK MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, shall be known and designated as the ''Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Army Sergeant Mracek was killed on January 27, 2004, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He died of wounds sustained during yet another roadside bomb attack in Iraq. He was only 26 years old, and he had been in Iraq for just 8 days.

Mr. Speaker, loved ones remember Sergeant Mracek as a man who loved Army life and was proud to serve his country. His bravery and his selflessness have inspired us all, and the naming of this post office in his memory is clearly appropriate.

It is my honor to ask the body to honor Sergeant Mracek's service and sacrifice by voting in favor of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting this postal naming bill. I see that we have the sponsor of the bill here.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) to speak directly about this brave American.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I thank the gentleman. Thank you to Senators JOHANNS and FISCHER and certainly my colleagues here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, under this legislation, the post office building in Chadron, Nebraska, would be named in honor of Sergeant Cory Mracek, a native of Chadron who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Iraq on January 27, 2004.

The son of Jim and Pat Mracek, Cory originally served with the Nebraska National Guard and transferred to Active Duty, where he served with distinction. Sergeant Mracek reenlisted after the September 11, 2001, attacks where he served as a paratrooper with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne.

Among other honors, Sergeant Mracek was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his courage and dedication. Renaming the post office in Chadron in Cory's home town will be a symbol of gratitude to a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Mr. WELCH. I want to thank the gentleman for his remarks and for bringing this forward to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to comment, too, on how this individual, this man, two times in Korea and then decides he is going to go to Iraq, despite the well-known dangers to his own personal safety, again, another example of a brave American who is willing and did sacrifice his life on behalf of the security of this country.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California, (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1499.

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.

FIRST LIEUTENANT ALVIN CHESTER COCKRELL, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1093) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the ''First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1093

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

SECTION 1. FIRST LIEUTENANT ALVIN CHESTER COCKRELL, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the ''First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1093, introduced by Senator THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, this is yet another first lieutenant. First Lieutenant Cockrell served his country in World War II. He enlisted in the Marine Corps back in 1937. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Fleet Marine Force. He landed at Guadalcanal. It was his 24th birthday. It was September 18, 1942. First Lieutenant Cockrell led his platoon in assaulting a strongly held enemy position against heavy machine gun fire. During that battle, charging into the face of machine gun fire, something we know all too well for United States Marines, he was killed in action. He died in that engagement.

Mr. Speaker, we often recognize marines because they have given a great deal in this war, along with the other forces. We often recognize Iraq and Afghanistan, and on occasion, we recognize Vietnam veterans as we did today. It is unusual for this body to reach back, as Senator COCHRAN has done, and find such a fitting individual from a war so long ago, the war that gave us America's Greatest Generation, and realize that we have not yet finished thanking those who gave us the freedom to pursue our lives, every person on the floor perhaps having been born after Lieutenant Cockrell died.

So it is altogether fitting that, as we remember the freedoms we enjoy, the opportunity we enjoy, the economy we enjoy, the lieutenant gave his all for that freedom.

With that, I would urge passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

My colleague mentioned that it is unusual we reach back. I think he would agree with me that it is wise that we do.

World War II changed the world; and we were so committed to the cause of freedom in World War II, and so many of our predecessors, citizens who served and died before we were born, won a war that would have changed the whole future of the world had we not succeeded. It was individual acts of heroism that made the difference.

Mr. Speaker, this life was a life well lived. His life was one dedicated to service, and First Lieutenant Alvin Cockrell deserves to be remembered. It is our responsibility to honor all of those who came before us, the members, as Mr. ISSA said, of the Greatest Generation, who won the most brutal but consequential war that has changed the history of the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join with my colleagues in fully supporting the naming of this post office after an American who served his country and gave his life, First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, there is no question at all, this is, again, another befitting naming.

I would like to thank the Senator for reaching back and finding such a worthy candidate, and I would like to remind all of us, coming off of Veterans Day, that, in fact, this generation of veterans is departing but will be remembered in our hearts for the rest of our lives.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California, (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1093.

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.

THADDEUS STEVENS POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 885) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the ''Thaddeus Stevens Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 885

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

SECTION 1. THADDEUS STEVENS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, shall be known and designated as the ''Thaddeus Stevens Post Office''.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I am going to defer my comments since the sole House Member from Vermont is available to make his comments.

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

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman. He is up to his usual courteous efforts, and I really do appreciate it. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are pretty proud in Vermont of Thaddeus Stevens, and we are here today in support of the naming of the post office at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, a tiny community, a proud community, in what is called the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, to name the post office there the Thaddeus Stevens Post Office.

Thaddeus Stevens was born in Danville, Vermont, in 1792. He attended Peacham Academy. It is still there. He went on to the University of Vermont and then graduated from Dartmouth College. That was is in 1814.

□ 1500

He then made a big decision and moved to Pennsylvania to study law, but he never left his Vermont values behind. He was elected to the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives. He served 4 years as a member of the Anti-Masonic Party. In 1849, he was elected to the 34th Congress of the United States, serving as a Whig until 1853—and Mr. ISSA, you'll be happy to know—as a Republican from 1859 until his death in 1868.

As a member of the House of Representatives, he was a very strong voice of opposition to slavery, advocating against the fugitive slave provision in the Compromise of 1850 and actively helping runaway slaves to escape to Canada using the Underground Railroad. We are all proud of that, but in Vermont we are particularly proud that Thaddeus Stevens did this. Our State, Mr. Speaker, was the first State in its Constitution—and we were the 14th State in the Union—to ban slavery. And Thaddeus Stevens took that Vermont point of view and advocated it in the United States House of Representatives.

By 1866, Stevens had helped the Republicans gain control of Congress and set the stage for post-Civil War reconstruction in the South. In his role on the Joint Committee on Reconstruction, Thaddeus Stevens helped draft the Reconstruction Act of 1867 as well as the 14th Amendment, prohibiting States from denying citizens of life, liberty, or property without the due process of law, a constitutional amendment that has done so much to extend the dream in this country of equal opportunity to all of our citizens.

Since Vermont, as I mentioned, was the first State to ban slavery, doing so in its Constitution, I would like to think that Thaddeus Stevens' Vermont beginnings did inform his actions later in life. Today his legacy for promoting and defending equality lives on in Vermont and across the country. I am proud that we are honoring his life's work through the passage of this postal naming bill.

As we prepare to send S. 885 to the President's desk, I would like to thank Senator SANDERS for his leadership in working with the Danville community to draft this bill. Senator SANDERS, when he first came to Vermont so many years ago, lived up to the Northeast Kingdom. I also want to thank Senator LEAHY for his very important support. And I want to thank, of course, Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for helping to shepherd this piece of legislation through before the end of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill to acknowledge Thaddeus Stevens' public service and steadfast dedication to the equality of all citizens regardless of race.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

When all speakers have said all that needs to be said and there is only one speaker left, he can't say anything original, so I will simply thank the Congressmen and the Senators for recognizing one of the first Republicans and one of the first Republican principles, one that is no longer owned by any party but in fact owned by all Americans. I move for passage.

I urge support of S. 885, introduced by Senator SANDERS of Vermont which would designate the postal facility located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the ''Thaddeus Stevens Post Office''.

Thaddeus Stevens was born in Danville, Vermont on April 4, 1792. He attended nearby Peacham Academy and went on to study at the University of Vermont and Dartmouth College. After graduating from Dartmouth, Stevens moved to Pennsylvania to study law. He practiced law in Gettysburg, and spent four years as a member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

Thaddeus Stevens served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1849 to 1853 and from 1859 until his death in 1868. He is best remembered for being a fierce opponent of slavery and discrimination against African-Americans. He was instrumental in the passage of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and fought for African-American rights during Reconstruction.

I ask my colleagues to honor the courageous actions and momentous contributions of this great American by voting in favor of S. 885.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 885.

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.

SPECIALIST THEODORE MATTHEW GLENDE POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1512) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the ''Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1512

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

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST THEODORE MATTHEW GLENDE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, shall be known and designated as the ''Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other

record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of S. 1512, which was introduced by Senator CHUCK SCHUMER of New York. The bill would designate the postal facility located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office.

Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende died while serving during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was killed on July 27, 2012, when his unit was in the field training and came under enemy attack. During the attack, Specialist Glende was killed by a mortar round that hit a trailer where he was helping wounded comrades take shelter. A member of his unit said that he saved the lives of five of his fellow soldiers in the attack. Specialist Glende was only 23 years old.

He was a native of Rochester, New York. Theodore graduated from the McQuaid Jesuit High School in 2007 and enrolled at Niagara University. He soon felt the calling to join the United States Army and enlisted. He is survived by his wife, Alexandra, whom he married just months before leaving for his first tour of duty.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to pay tribute to this great American. I ask all of my colleagues to support S. 1512 and the naming of this post office after this brave fallen soldier and hero of our time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of this bill, S. 1512, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office.

As was mentioned, Mr. Glende was born in Rochester, New York. He graduated from McQuaid Jesuit High School in 2007 and studied military science at Niagara University. Theodore always knew he wanted to be a soldier and defend his country. A participant in the Niagara University ROTC program, he joined the Army and was assigned to the Airborne Brigade Combat Team in Italy. But after just a few months, Specialist Glende was deployed to Afghanistan.

On July 27, 2012, his unit was attacked and Specialist Glende began caring for five of his fellow soldiers after the unit's medic was injured. Tragically, Specialist Glende was hit by mortar fire. But because of his efforts, the testimony confirms, the five men that he was assisting all survived.

Specialist Glende is survived by his wife, Alexandra, to whom he was only married a short time; his parents; and his younger brother.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to honor the courage exhibited by this young man in the face of overwhelming danger. Because of Specialist Glende's brave actions, five American lives were saved on the battlefield. He deserves our respect for his honorable service. I urge passage of S. 1512.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support for the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1512.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHIEF JOSEPH E. WHITE, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5142) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Jackson Street in Rich Square, North Carolina, as the ''Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5142

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

SECTION 1. CHIEF JOSEPH E. WHITE, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Jackson Street in Rich Square, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the ''Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 5142, which was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD). The bill would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Jackson Street in Rich Square, North Carolina, as the Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building.

Rich Square Police Chief White served in law enforcement for over 30 years. Tragically, Chief White was shot and killed with his own .45-caliber service revolver on July 16, 2000, while investigating a possible gas drive-off or gas station runaway at a local gas station. He was shot after he stopped the vehicle which was wanted in connection with the incident. He is survived by his wife and several of his grown children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Chief White made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. We owe a large debt of gratitude for his many years of service. The community and the entire North Carolina delegation support this naming. I support and recommend passage of H.R. 5142.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WELCH for yielding time. Let me also thank Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for bringing my bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5142, a bill that I introduced that will designate the post office in Rich Square, North Carolina, as the Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building. Every Member of the North Carolina House delegation has cosponsored my bill, and I ask my colleagues to join me in passing it today.

Joseph Edward White, Jr., was born on January 12, 1939, in Hertford County, North Carolina, in the town of Ahoskie to Joseph White, Sr., and the former Emma Jane Collins. In 1957, at the age of 18, Mr. White enlisted in the United States Navy and bravely served our country for the next 20 years. After he retired from the Navy, Mr. White and his wife, the former Joyce Risper, moved to Northampton County and settled in the town of Woodland, North Carolina, which would ultimately become home for them and for their three children: Cynthia, Cheryl, and Terrance.

Mr. White found his calling in law enforcement and began his career with the Woodland Police Department in 1980, where he served as an officer and ultimately as chief of police. He later

moved to the Northampton County Sheriff's Office and served as a deputy sheriff and also worked as a corrections officer at Odom Correctional Institution, located just outside Jackson, North Carolina.

In 1999, Mr. Speaker, Mr. White became the chief of police for a small town but a town rich in legacy, the town of Rich Square. Sadly, Chief White's stellar career in law enforcement that saw him ascend to the position of chief of police of two North Carolina police departments was tragically cut short.

After just a year of serving as police chief for the town of Rich Square, Chief White was savagely killed in the line of duty. On the afternoon of Sunday, July 16, 2000, Chief White was on duty and was alerted that a vehicle had filled up at a gas station but left the station without paying. Chief White spotted the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. It was during the stop that Chief White's .45-caliber service weapon was wrested away from him by the man that he had stopped. The man used Chief White's own weapon against him tragically, ending his life just 5 months before his retirement.

It took nearly 3 years, but the man that committed this atrocious crime was identified and he was arrested in Lafayette, Louisiana, on May 1, 2003. He was sentenced to life in prison on September 12, 2005.

Chief White, a brave veteran and dedicated public servant, a beloved husband, colleague, and friend, lost his life in the most tragic of ways, but his memory will live on forever. Naming the post office in Rich Square in Chief White's honor is but a small symbol by a grateful Nation for his life that was dedicated to serving others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Joseph E. White, Jr., by voting ''aye'' on H.R. 5142.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5142.

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.

□ 1515

LOW-DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH ACT OF 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5544) to increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5544

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 ''Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. LOW DOSE RADIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Department of Energy Office of Science shall carry out a research program on low dose radiation. The purpose of the program is to enhance the scientific understanding of and reduce uncertainties associated with the effects of exposure to low dose radiation in order to inform improved risk management methods.

(b) STUDY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies to conduct a study assessing the current status and development of a long-term strategy for low dose radiation research. Such study shall be completed not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act. The study shall be conducted in coordination with Federal agencies that perform ionizing radiation effects research and shall leverage the most current studies in this field. Such study shall—

(1) identify current scientific challenges for understanding the long-term effects of ionizing radiation;

(2) assess the status of current low dose radiation research in the United States and internationally;

(3) formulate overall scientific goals for the future of low-dose radiation research in the United States;

(4) recommend a long-term strategic and prioritized research agenda to address scientific research goals for overcoming the identified scientific challenges in coordination with other research efforts;

(5) define the essential components of a research program that would address this research agenda within the universities and the National Laboratories; and

(6) assess the cost-benefit effectiveness of such a program.

(c) RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the study performed under subsection (b) the Secretary of Energy shall deliver to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a 5-year research plan that responds to the study's findings and recommendations and identifies and prioritizes research needs.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''low dose radiation'' means a radiation dose of less than 100 millisieverts.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to subject any research carried out by the Director under the research program under this Act to any limitations described in section 977(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16317(e)).

(f) FUNDING.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated under this section. This Act shall be carried out using funds otherwise appropriated by law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5544, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise here today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5544, the Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2014.

Humans are exposed on a daily basis to much natural background radiation, and some get additional low-dose exposure from medical procedures or from industrial radiation sources; yet sufficient data is not available for experts to definitively conclude whether there are health risks associated with low-dose radiation.

This lack of understanding prevents regulatory agencies from setting more precise radiation dose limits, as well as it impairs authorities' decisionmaking capabilities to address potential radiological events and advise patients for medically-based radiation exposures, all of which pose an unnecessary burden on society.

As a medical doctor, as a family doctor, and a true fiscal conservative, I recognize that this major gap in understanding is detrimental to the health and well-being of Americans and will additionally contribute to unnecessary economic burdens if we do not deal with it immediately.

This legislation seeks to address the limited understanding of potential health risks associated with low-dose radiation by leveraging the Nation's current expertise in low-dose radiation while proposing a long-term strategy to address the current gaps of knowledge in this area.

This legislation will be carried out using funds otherwise already appropriated by law and ensure that the Department of Energy is following congressional direction to focus its work on issues of long-term importance.

Passage of this legislation will help resolve what we do not know in the field of low-dose radiation for the betterment of medicine, for emergency response planning, and for industrial safety, not to speak about helping patients and Americans know what this all entails. This will show that we do not take for granted the livelihood of our fellow Americans.

This bill is a commonsense win, and I hope that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in supporting this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss H.R. 5544, the Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2014. This bill authorizes an important research program carried out by the Department of Energy's Office of Science to examine the health impacts of exposure to low doses of radiation, such as doses resulting from certain medical tests, nuclear waste

cleanup activities, or even terrorism events like dirty bombs.

This bill builds on DOE's unique biological research expertise and capabilities, which actually led to the establishment of the successful Human Genome Project that paved the way toward breakthroughs in modern medicine today.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also authorizes a National Academies study to identify current scientific challenges in this area and to help guide the program's long-term research agenda well into the next decade.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2014, cosponsored by every Democratic member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, includes very similar language to what we now see in H.R. 5544, so we have no objection to this bill and support its passage.

We also look forward to working with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle—and, of course, on the other side of the Capitol—on far more comprehensive, bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the America COMPETES Act, as is strongly recommended by many of the most respected industry and academic leaders and organizations across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Georgia for his leadership and for his service in the Congress, and of course, we wish him well as that term comes to an end.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my good friend from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS). I heard her comments, and they are very nice comments. She and I have been friends and sometimes on the opposite sides of issues, but she is a very dear friend and a great lady, and I appreciate her well wishes. I thank you very much. I appreciate that.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5544, the Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2014, will increase our understanding of low-dose radiation. This research is critical for physicians and decision makers to more accurately assess potential health risks in this area.

I thank my friend, Chairman of the Oversight Subcommittee, Dr. PAUL BROUN, for introducing this legislation.

Many Americans are exposed to a broad range of low doses of ionizing radiation. These range from cosmic background radiation to medically based procedures, which include X-rays and CT scans.

However, our current approach to radiation safety relies on an outdated assumption that because high doses of radiation are harmful that much lower radiation doses are also harmful.

This assumption is not based on a reliable scientific foundation and prevents patients from making informed decisions about diagnostic exams and can lead to overly restrictive regulations.

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Low Dose Radiation Research Program within the Office of Science focuses on the health effects of ionizing radiation and resolving the uncertainties in this area that currently exist.

Unfortunately, this program has not been a priority at DOE over recent years and has seen systematic budget cuts.

H.R. 5544 ensures the continuance of this important research program.

This legislation also directs the National Academies to formulate a long-term strategy to resolve uncertainties of whether and to what extent low dose radiation may pose health risks to humans. The bill also stipulates that the Academies must consider the most up-to-date studies in this field of research.

And finally, the bill requires the Department of Energy to develop a five-year research plan that responds to the Academies' recommendations.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5544, 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.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS FEDERAL CHARTER AMENDMENT

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5441) to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5441

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

SECTION 1. REFLECTION OF SERVICE OF WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES IN THE FEDERAL CHARTER OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ORGANIZATION.—Section 230101(a) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking ''men'' and inserting ''veterans''.

(b) PURPOSES.—Section 230102(3) of such title is amended by striking ''widows'' and inserting ''surviving spouses''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 5441, the bill currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is one of our largest and most lauded veterans organizations. It has successfully fought for veterans' rights for over a century and its members provide millions of hours a year in community service.

Among its goals are to ''assist worthy comrades'' and to ''perpetuate the memory and history of our dead and to assist their widows and orphans.'' Our veterans from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are in a better place because of activities of the VFW.

Membership in the VFW is open to Korean war veterans and veterans who have ''served honorably as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States—in a foreign war, insurrection, or expedition in service that has been recognized as campaign-medal service; and is governed by the authorization of the award of a campaign badge by the United States Government or in an area which entitled the individual to receive special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger.''

Membership does not require that a servicemember have engaged in actual combat, only that they served in a combat zone.

Congress provided the VFW with a Federal charter in 1936. Robert Wallace, executive director of the VFW's Washington office, has sent a letter to the Judiciary Committee requesting that its charter be amended to be gender neutral. This is in recognition, Mr. Speaker, of the many female members of the VFW and their invaluable contributions to our military.

Mr. Wallace stated that:

> Today, our military consists of both men and women who honorably put duty and service before themselves. Consistent with the growing number of military women who serve at all levels, women are taking leadership roles throughout our organization. The VFW strongly believes that combat service, not gender, determines VFW membership eligibility. That is why we opened our membership to women over 35 years ago. However, our congressional charter does not reflect this reality.
>
> As the Congressional Research Service reported last year, almost 300,000 ''female servicemembers have been deployed for contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.'' In approximately 12 years of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, over 800 women have been wounded and over 130 have died. Women have been recognized for their heroism, two earning Silver Star medals.

H.R. 5441, introduced by Congressman JEFF MILLER, makes the changes sought by the VFW and is strongly supported by the organization. I commend Representative MILLER for introducing the bill.

The VFW's current charter provides that the VFW is a ''national association of men who as soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen served this Nation in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.''

H.R. 5441 would replace ''men'' with ''veterans.'' The current charter provides that one of the purposes of the

organization is ''to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead and to assist their widows and orphans.'' The bill would replace ''widows'' with ''surviving spouses.''

I urge my colleagues to support this meritorious bill that reflects the valor of women in our Armed Forces.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as has been said, this bill makes a small but important change to the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. As has been mentioned, it would amend the charter to become gender neutral by replacing ''men'' with ''veterans'' and ''widows'' with ''surviving spouses.'' I think doing this aligns the charter with the actual makeup of the organization today, and I totally support the change.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has been serving veterans of our Armed Forces for over 100 years and traces its roots to the Spanish-American War. Only men were permitted to serve in the military when the organization was chartered in 1936, and of course, we know, since that time, things have changed a great deal.

The role of women in the military has greatly expanded. In fact, two of our colleagues—Congresswoman TULSI GABBARD of Hawaii and Congresswoman TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois—both served with both distinction and honor in our military services and now serve with us as colleagues in the House.

Women serve in varied roles throughout the Armed Forces, and they have made many important sacrifices for the country. Women in fact now make up almost 10 percent of the total veterans population, and the Department of Veterans Affairs predicts they will represent nearly 18 percent of veterans by the year 2040.

In recognition of these facts, the VFW opened its membership to women over 35 years ago, and they certainly deserve our commendation for doing so.

Generally, as has been said many times, it should be up to the organization, not Congress, to decide who may and may not be a member of that organization. That is one of the many reasons why Members on both sides of the aisle have long supported the committee's policy against creating new Federal charters.

Even so, there is no policy against amending existing charters, and if such amendments are needed to align the charter to actual reality, then there is no reason to prevent such an amendment.

In fact, I also support the reason for this change. The Veterans of Foreign Wars seeks this change because it ''strongly believes that combat service, not gender, determines membership eligibility.'' I could not agree more, and I can only applaud the VFW for initiating this change and coming to the Judiciary Committee, seeking out the author of the bill and working with us in a bipartisan basis to get here today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the author of the bill, and this was unanimously approved by the Judiciary Committee.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), a champion for veterans' rights and chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding the time. I also want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE and the ranking member for speeding this through the Judiciary Committee.

I rise in support of this piece of legislation, which is a simple bill, Mr. Speaker, designated to update the congressional charter of the VFW to reflect today's active duty and veteran population by changing, as we have already heard, the word ''men'' to ''veterans'' and the word ''widows'' to ''surviving spouses.''

Women veterans have in fact been eligible as members of the VFW since 1978, but like many things, it sometimes takes a little time for paperwork to catch up. I think VFW Commander in Chief John Stroud said it best in describing why they have requested this change:

> We are not changing our congressional charter because it's politically correct. We're changing it because being an eligible veteran is what's important to our great organization, not one's gender, and changing ''widows'' to ''surviving spouses'' is more representative of today's military.

Women do in fact comprise over 16 percent of today's military force, and obviously, that means that they are making up an ever-increasing share of America's 22 million veterans as they return to civilian life.

I ask my colleagues to join Chairman GOODLATTE, Ms. LOFGREN, and myself in supporting H.R. 5441.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MILLER for his leadership in this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 5441, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5441, which will amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces.

This legislation is a common-sense update of an 80-year-old charter to better reflect the makeup of the modern military—namely, the inclusion of women in prominent roles throughout several branches of the military. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a premier Veterans Service Organization, with more than 2 million members of all ages across our great country.

All Veterans are heroes regardless of their gender, and this legislation reflects that equality in the formal charter of a remarkably successful organization that exists to support all Veterans, and their spouses.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5441, which amends the federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

As approved by Congress in 1936, the VFW charter provides that the VFW is a ''national association of men who as soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen served this Nation in wars, campaigns and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters[.]''

The charter further provides that one of the purposes of the organization is ''to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans[.]''

By replacing the terms ''men'' with ''veterans'' and ''widows'' with ''surviving spouses,'' H.R. 5441 modifies the VFW charter to make it gender-neutral and reflect the reality that women have and continue to serve in combat theaters in defense of the United States.

At the time the charter was created, only men were permitted to serve in the military. Today, both women and men are permitted to serve in the military and over the last few years, women have become more involved in combat operations.

For example, between September 2001 and February 28, 2013), 299,548 female service members have been deployed for contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during which time more than 800 women have been wounded and over 130 have died.

As of February 29, 2013, 16,407 female members were currently deployed in contingency operation according to the Department of Defense.

Women have been tested in battle and proved their heroism, earning numerous awards and commendations, including two Silver Star medals.

The expansion of roles for women in the armed forces has evolved over decades.

Under a Defense Department policy promulgated in 1994 policy, women could not be assigned to units, below the brigade level, whose primary mission is to engage in direct combat on the ground.

The practical effect of this policy meant that women were barred from infantry, artillery, armor, combat engineers, and special operations units of battalion size or smaller.

On January 24, 2013, however, then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta rescinded that policy, thus enabling women to serve in combat units.

The leadership and rank and file of the VFW strongly supports changing the national charter to make it gender-neutral:

> Today, our military consists of both men and women who honorably put duty and service before themselves. Consistent with the growing number of military women who serve at all levels, women are taking leadership roles throughout our organization. That is why we opened our membership to women over 35 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, according to the VFW practice, it is combat service, not gender, that determines VFW membership eligibility.

Over 2 million women veterans have courageously served our country and defended our

freedoms for over 100 years, and their countless contributions and sacrifices must not be overlooked.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas, there are 29,757 veterans, 3,219 of which are women.

Women veterans fortified the crucial role of women in the military, and females currently serving in the military continue to break down barriers, such as:

Admiral Michelle Howard, the Navy's first female four-star admiral; Army General Ann E. Dunwoody, the U.S. military's first female four-star officer; Dr. Mary E. Walker, the only woman who has been awarded the Medal of Honor.

As Anne S. (Sosh) Brehm, 1st Lt., USA NC, a World War II veteran said, "Let the generations know that the women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom."

Each year, I participate in the Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery to honor all women who have defended America throughout history.

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial serves as a reminder of the patriotism and bravery of women who have served in the United States Armed Services, and also tells their stories of service, sacrifice, and achievement.

Women veterans have a passion for service and an unfathomable amount of bravery that is truly worthy and deserving of our recognition, admiration, and commendation.

H.R. 5441 modifies VFW's federal charter to reflect current practice and reality and, accordingly, I support the bill and urge all members to do so as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5441.

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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1422, EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD REFORM ACT OF 2013; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4012, SECRET SCIENCE REFORM ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4795, PROMOTING NEW MANUFACTURING ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2014, THROUGH NOVEMBER 28, 2014

Mr. BURGESS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–626) on the resolution (H. Res. 756) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1422) to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4012) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4795) to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from November 21, 2014, through November 28, 2014, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVING A USE RESTRICTION TO CERTAIN LAND IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5162) to amend the Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center" to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes, 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 Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 1, not voting 55, as follows:

[Roll No. 520]

YEAS—378

Adams
Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanabusa
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
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 (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman

Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—1

Sanford

NOT VOTING—55

Bachmann
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Buchanan
Bucshon
Campbell
Cicilline
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Conyers
Cooper
Davis, Danny
Dingell
Duckworth
Gardner
Garrett
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Herrera Beutler
Huizenga (MI)
Kind
Lucas
Marchant
McAllister
McIntyre
Meng
Miller, Gary
Moore
Negrete McLeod
Pastor (AZ)
Price (NC)
Rice (SC)
Roby
Rohrabacher
Runyan
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Schwartz
Scott, David
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Stutzman
Thompson (MS)
Tsongas
Waxman
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)

□ 1854

Messrs. TAKANO and CARNEY changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 520, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 520, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 520, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

ASHLAND BREAKWATER LIGHT TRANSFER ACT

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4049) to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4049

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 ''Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act''.

SEC. 2. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT TO INCLUDE LIGHTHOUSE.

Public Law 91–424 (16 U.S.C. 460w et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) In the first section as follows:

(A) In the matter preceding subsection (a)—

(i) by striking ''islands and shoreline'' and inserting ''islands, shoreline, and light stations''; and

(ii) by inserting ''historic,'' after ''scenic,''.

(B) In subsection (a)—

(i) by striking ''the area'' and inserting ''The area''; and

(ii) by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period.

(C) In subsection (b), by striking the final period.

(D) By inserting after ''1985.'' the following:

''(c) ASHLAND HARBOR BREAKWATER LIGHT.—

''(1) The Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light generally depicted on the map titled 'Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light Addition to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore' and dated February 11, 2014, located at the end of the breakwater on Chequamegon Bay, Wisconsin.

''(2) Congress does not intend for the designation of the property under paragraph (1) to create a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the boundary of that property.''.

(2) In section 6 as follows:

(A) By striking ''The lakeshore'' and inserting:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The lakeshore''.

(B) By inserting ''this section and'' before ''the provisions of''.

(C) By adding after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) FEDERAL USE.—Notwithstanding subsection (c) of the first section—

''(1) the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may operate, maintain, keep, locate, inspect, repair, and replace any Federal aid to navigation located at the Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light for as long as such aid is needed for navigational purposes; and

''(2) in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1), such Secretary may enter, at any time, the Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light or any Federal aid to navigation at the Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, for as long as such aid is needed for navigational purposes, without notice to the extent that it is not possible to provide advance notice.

''(c) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.—Pursuant to existing authorities, the Secretary may enter into agreements with the City of Ashland, County of Ashland, and County of Bayfield, Wisconsin, for the purpose of cooperative law enforcement and emergency services within the boundaries of the lakeshore.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

□ 1900

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

The Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light is an operational lighthouse located near Ashland, Wisconsin, and is currently owned and managed by the U.S. Coast Guard. In 2007, the Coast Guard announced its intent to give up ownership of the Ashland light, and only the National Park Service expressed interest in maintaining the public access to it.

H.R. 4049 adjusts the boundaries of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to include the light station, but protects the ability of the Coast Guard to maintain the light as an aid to navigation.

Congressman SEAN DUFFY should be commended for his work on this issue, which also has the support of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On June 19, 2014, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported without amendment H.R. 4049, the Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act by unanimous consent. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I ask that you allow the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. The Committee on Natural Resources concurs with the mutual understanding that when the House considers H.R. 4049, it will consider amended text negotiated between the staffs of our two committees. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and your response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources, as well as in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4049, the Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act, as ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources. I appreciate your inclusion of changes requested by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as this bill moves forward.

I agree to allow the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be discharged from consideration of H.R. 4049 with the understanding that this discharge does not affect the Committee's jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and does not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, I expect the negotiated text to be the text considered on the floor. Finally, as stated in your letter, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I fully expect the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be represented on the conference committee.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and for agreeing to include a copy of this letter in the Committee on Natural Resources filed bill report, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

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

First of all, I would like to commend Representative DUFFY, with whom I share lakeshore on the world's largest freshwater lake and also borders on our district. I tell you, Mr. DUFFY, I found the television commercial with you and your family to be my favorite commercial of the last election, of which there were not many favorable commercials for anyone.

So it is with a fun and joyful spirit that I rise in support of your legislation to prove to those beautiful children of yours that a lot of us really like each other and know how to get along and support the efforts of one another.

Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, H.R. 4049 transfers ownership and management of the Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light to the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Thanks to the leadership of the late Democratic Senator Gaylord Nelson, Congress established the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in 1970.

The area consists of 21 islands and 70 acres of shoreline in Lake Superior. It is a popular tourist destination in the summer and home to the 35,000-acre Gaylord Nelson Wilderness area.

Apostle Islands already manages eight historic lighthouses which were transferred to the National Park Service in 1986. This bill would add one more to the collection and contribute to the mission of protecting these historic cultural resources. Additionally, the text of this bill ensures that the Coast Guard will continue to maintain historic access to the lighthouse.

We support passage of this bill and look forward to working with the majority to advance more legislation that helps to enhance our national parks.

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

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) for yielding, and I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his kind remarks about my ads, which I know there weren't many positive ads in the Duluth market, but I did have one. So I appreciate that, Mr. NOLAN, and thank you for your support of what is a very important bill for folks in northern Wisconsin.

I have a picture of what this actual lighthouse looks like right off the community of Ashland. This bill, H.R. 4049, is the bill that will transfer the Ashland Breakwater Light from the Coast Guard to the National Park Service.

This lighthouse has stood here for over 100 years, standing strong on the shores of Lake Superior in dark nights and in storms, guarding our ships in their safe passage to our harbor, but also welcoming back travelers who have left the greater Ashland community and on the way home.

I had a chance to live in Ashland for 10 years, raising my children. My second-born son was born there. I think my third, fourth, and fifth were born there as well. I lose count after a while, but it is a great community. This lighthouse is a big part of our identity in Ashland.

Right now, the lighthouse has an uncertain future because the Coast Guard has indicated several times, most recently in 2012, that they are going to give up management of the lighthouse. No public entity, aside from the National Park Service's Apostle Islands National Lakeshore have stepped forward and indicated that they would obtain and maintain this very important lighthouse in our community.

Absent this legislation, there is no guarantee that this historic lighthouse would be maintained and continue to operate and be accessible for educational purposes. H.R. 4049 will allow the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to maintain the lighthouse alongside, as Mr. NOLAN and I think Mr. LABRADOR mentioned, eight other lighthouses they maintain.

Just a little trip down history lane: in 1986, the Coast Guard transferred eight of these lighthouses to the National Park Service, but they didn't transfer this one. All we are doing right now is saying let's redraw that line and include this one with the other eight, so the National Park Service can now manage this lighthouse as well.

If I were looking at this bill, I might say, ''Well, I have a concern if I am a fisherman or a boater who might use the waters outside the lighthouse.'' I can guarantee you that the way this is written and the way the line is drawn there will be no additional rules or regulations coming from the Feds that are going to affect your ability to fish or boat right around the lighthouse.

We have adequately addressed that concern in this House by having so many different folks come together, people across the aisle who share a border and a lake, but also share a love for the environment and all it has to offer.

We also have support of the National Park Service who supports this bill; the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Wisconsin DNR; the Wisconsin Historical Society; the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, which is very important; the city of Ashland; and a lot of local outdoor recreational communities.

With that, I would urge passage of H.R. 4049, and I want to thank everyone for their support for what is a very important bill to my community in northern Wisconsin.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4049, 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.

IDAHO COUNTY SHOOTING RANGE LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5040) to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Idaho County in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5040

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 ''Idaho County Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COUNTY.—The term ''County'' means Idaho County in the State of Idaho.

(2) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map entitled ''Idaho County Land Conveyance'' and dated April 11, 2014.

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

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO IDAHO COUNTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after notification by the County and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall convey to the County, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) consists of approximately 31 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and generally depicted on the map as ''Conveyance_Area''.

(c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under this section.

(2) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

(A) the map; or

(B) the legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(d) USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—The land conveyed under this section shall be used only as a shooting range.

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall require the County to pay all survey costs and other administrative costs necessary for the preparation and completion of any patents for, and transfers of title to, the land described in subsection (b).

(f) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall agree—

(1) to pay any administrative costs associated with the conveyance including the costs of any environmental, wildlife, cultural, or historical resources studies;

(2) to release and indemnify the United States from any claims or liabilities that may arise from uses carried out on the land described in subsection (b) on or before the date of the enactment of this Act by the United States or any person; and

(3) to accept such reasonable terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am the author of H.R. 5040, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey a 31-acre parcel of land to Idaho County, Idaho, to use for public recreation.

Idahoans deeply value their Second Amendment rights, and many use firearms for hunting and shooting sports. The safe and proper use of firearms is often a tradition passed down from generation to generation. People need a safe designated area where they may sight in their rifles and teach safe firearms practices.

Nearly 6 years ago, a county in my district, Idaho County, began the process of searching for a suitable location to install a shooting range to serve the needs of the county residents interested in exercising their Second Amendment rights.

Idaho County, which is 83 percent controlled by the Federal Government, began working with the local BLM office in Cottonwood, Idaho, to identify land that the BLM could transfer to the county for use as a shooting range.

The BLM identified a buried landfill in the county as a suitable location because the site is already used casually by recreational hunters and the general public as a shooting range. The land also provides the proper safety barriers because it is situated on an elevated bench, approximately 240 feet above a nearby road and surrounded by hills. The county and the local BLM officials agreed the site was perfect for a shooting range.

The county began the process of seeking an administrative transfer from the BLM, but soon ran into procedural roadblocks. The site of the proposed shooting range is within a portion of the Lower Salmon River, which was identified by the BLM for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Because of existing BLM regulations, the parcel cannot be transferred to the county administratively.

As my staff and I met with the Idaho County commissioners to come up with a solution, we determined the only path forward was to introduce legislation in Congress to convey the land from the BLM to the county. My bill, the Idaho County Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act, would convey the 31-acre parcel to Idaho County for use as a shooting range.

The BLM has spent a great deal of time and resources studying the proposed site and has determined the land would be perfect for a shooting range. The local BLM office in Cottonwood has been instrumental in gathering necessary environmental data to support the land conveyance, and I am grateful for their ongoing efforts to work with my staff and finally resolve this issue.

My office has also worked closely with the Idaho County commissioners and Idaho County sheriff to develop a plan to manage the land for public use as a shooting range. Part of the plan includes allowing Idaho County law enforcement to use the range to conduct firearms training and qualifications.

Idaho County has waited nearly 6 years for this process to be completed. Idaho County residents want a safe, remote location to exercise their Second Amendment rights, and my bill will provide a solution that is long overdue.

I urge support for the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Representative LABRADOR for the work he has done on behalf of his constituents and their recreational activities in their future.

H.R. 5040 transfers 31 acres of public land to Idaho County for the purpose of establishing a public shooting range. The county will pay the administrative costs associated with the transfer and release the United States from any future liability.

Historically, a bill of this nature would contain stronger language to guarantee that the transferred land would continue to be used for a public purpose or the ownership would automatically revert back to the United States Government.

These so-called reversionary clauses ensure that, once transferred, the land is not sold or developed in a way not intended by Congress.

It is important for Congress to establish clear and fair expectations when transferring management of an asset owned by the American taxpayer. We encourage Idaho County to use the land as intended by this bill.

With that said, this bill merits our support, and we urge its adoption by the House.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5040.

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.

□ 1915

GRAND PORTAGE BAND PER CAPITA ADJUSTMENT ACT

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3608) to amend the Act of October 19, 1973, concerning taxable income to members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3608

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 ''Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act''.

SEC. 2. EQUAL TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PER CAPITA INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.

Paragraph (4) of section 7 of the Act of October 19, 1973 (25 U.S.C. 1407(4)) is amended by striking ''pursuant to the agreements of such Band'' and inserting ''or the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, or both, pursuant to the agreements of each Band''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3608 would protect certain funds paid by the State of Minnesota and held by the United States in trust for the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians from Federal and State taxation. Under the bill, the tribe may distribute these funds to its members, and these payments won't be counted against the members' eligibility for Federal financial assistance as long as each payment does not exceed $2,000.

The payments made by the State stem from a 1988 settlement in which two Minnesota Chippewa tribes agreed to forgo the exercise of certain treaty hunting and fishing rights. In 1999, legislation was introduced to protect these State settlement payments from taxation. However, by the time the bill was enacted into Public Law 106–568, only one of the two tribes was granted the tax relief.

The Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 3608. Neither the hearing nor a staff review of the legislative history for Public Law 106–568 reveals any explanation for the exclusion of the Grand Portage Band from the tax relief granted to its sister tribe. Principles of fairness and equity suggest that both bands of Minnesota Chippewa be accorded equal treatment. H.R. 3608 accordingly amends the applicable statute to provide the Grand Portage Band the same tax benefits.

The Committee on Natural Resources ordered H.R. 3608 reported by unanimous consent, and Chairman CAMP of the Ways and Means Committee and Chairman GOODLATTE of the Judiciary Committee have graciously agreed by letter to expedite consideration of this bill by not exercising their jurisdiction. As always, we appreciate their cooperation.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, November 5, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: I am writing with respect to H.R. 3608, the ''Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act,'' which the Committee on Natural Resources reported favorably on September 18, 2014. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 3608 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action without mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 3608 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3608, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 3608.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary, Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3608, the Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act. As you know, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported the bill on September 18, 2014. I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on the Judiciary will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Natural Resources concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 3608 at this time, the Committee on the Judiciary does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Judiciary represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include your letter and this response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: I am writing concerning H.R. 3608, the ''Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act,'' which was reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on September 18, 2014 and is scheduled for floor consideration today.

The Committee on Ways and Means received an additional referral on this bill given its impact on federal income taxation and subsequent calculation of benefits under Social Security, which are within the Committee on Ways and Means' Rule X jurisdiction. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3608, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in bill report and the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2014.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3608, the Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act. As you know, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported the bill on September 18, 2014. I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Ways and Means will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Natural Resources concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 3608 at this time, the Committee on Ways and Means does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include your letter and this response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Natural Resources Committee Chairman HASTINGS, who has served so well and so honorably in this Chamber—his absence will be missed as he retires—and, of course, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and to Chairman YOUNG, whom I had the good fortune to initially serve in this Chamber about 40 years ago, and Ranking Member HANABUSA of the Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs for their support of this bill. I also want to thank the staff for their work and their diligent efforts on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in simple terms, this bill corrects a technical mistake in existing law, thereby allowing members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to exclude up to $2,000 in payments from the State of Minnesota from their taxable income.

By way of background, in 1988, the Grand Portage Band and the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa entered into an agreement by which they would relinquish certain harvest rights and privileges accorded under the treaty of 1854 in return for annual per capita payments from the State of Minnesota.

In the year 2000, Congress passed the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act, which stipulated that a portion of these per capita payments should not count as income for the band members.

The problem was the legislative language included only the Bois Forte Band. The Grand Portage Band was inadvertently, accidentally left out, and, as a result, many members of the Grand Portage Band have been denied financial assistance and other benefits they are entitled to because their income appears higher than the law permits.

So this bill simply corrects the mistake by amending the act of October 9, 1973, to allow members of the Grand Portage Band to exclude up to $2,000 in per capita income payments from the State of Minnesota from their taxable income. It is the correct and the fair thing to do.

Let me also point out, Mr. Speaker, that this bill marks another step toward restoring the letter and the spirit of the 1854 treaty between the Federal Government and the Chippewa of Lake Superior, a treaty marked by serious violations from the very beginning as the waves of settlers were permitted onto the lands the agreement reserved for the Indians in perpetuity.

I often point to my colleagues that the bust of Chief Buffalo of La Pointe greets them, or greets us as we enter into the House Chamber from the west front. Chief Buffalo was recognized as the Head Chief of the Greater Chippewa Nation, and at the age of 92 years of age, he led a tribal delegation to Washington to meet with President Fillmore and paved the way for the treaty of 1854 to stop the removal of Lake Superior Chippewas from their native homes.

It was quite a trip. They left Wisconsin's Madeline Island by birch bark canoe—mind you, a 92-year-old man—traveling all the way to Sault Ste. Marie. From there, they took a steamer bound for Detroit, and then on by steamer to Buffalo, New York. Then the railroad took them to Albany, New York, where they boarded another steamboat to New York, and finally back onto the train to Washington, D.C., where they made their case to the President of the United States.

So, in asking my colleagues to support this bill, I ask them to also remember Chief Buffalo and the diligence and the long, hard work and the long and difficult trail that is often so often required to do the right thing when we are representing people that we have been, in our case, elected to represent.

It is a good lesson in point in a time and life where we have a kind of a fast-food mentality and everybody is expecting things to happen now. The voyage, the extraordinary effort that Chief Buffalo made, is a lesson to us all.

So here we are, 160 years later, still trying to fulfill the results of that important mission that he made. This legislation to restore a small piece of a larger trust relationship is part of that journey.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3608.

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.

THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, at 1 p.m., Congressman TED DEUTCH and I will convene a subcommittee hearing on the dangers of a nuclear deal with Iran, the dangers that this could pose for the United States and global security interests.

Retired General Michael Hayden, former Director of both the NSA and the CIA, will be testifying to share his concerns about Iran's past weaponization efforts and the guarantees needed to monitor and verify this agreement. In fact, he has warned that, were he still in his role as CIA Director, he ''would feel compelled to advise the President that the agreement could not be adequately verified.''

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to remain engaged. We need to continue our oversight. We need to use all the tools that we have available to us, including strengthening and increasing sanctions against this regime, in order to ensure that the President does not sign an agreement that is not in our national security interests.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES RESCINDS PROHIBITION ON SPEECH-GENERATING DEVICES UNLOCKING

(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, currently, more than 113 million Americans are facing long-term disease or disability. Significant policy advancements have recently been signed into law to encourage the development of drugs for those with limited medical options and continued efforts to get advanced diagnostic tests to patients more quickly. Yet a segment of the population remains who are in the midst of an ongoing struggle.

As someone who spent most of my professional career serving those with life-changing disease and disability, a shared goal of health care providers is to improve the quality of life for their patients. This is particularly true when it comes to those with limited speech, whether they have suffered from stroke, trauma, or progressive neurological diseases such as ALS, MS, or Huntington's.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that after years of recommendations, earlier this month the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has lifted prohibitions on unlocking of speech-generating devices from accessing our technologies such as email or Internet access.

Moving forward, our goals should be the continued empowerment of those facing disease and disability, to ensure their dignity, mobility, and communication abilities can be enhanced in our modern world.

THE PLIGHT OF SAEED ABEDINI

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the plight of Iranian American Saeed Abedini, a 34-year-old Christian pastor who was unlawfully arrested by the Islamic Republic of Iran for refusing to renounce his Christian faith.

Saeed, along with his wife, Naghmeh, are prominent in the house church movement throughout Iran, credited with establishing around 100 churches in 30 different Iranian cities.

After the election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2005, the church movement became the subject of authoritarian crackdown, prompting the Abedinis to return to the United States.

On September 26, 2014, Saeed Abedini returned to Iran to visit family and continue his humanitarian work to establish an orphanage. During this trip, Saeed was arrested and charged with undermining national security. In early 2013, Saeed was transferred from Tehran to the Rajai Shahr prison in the town of Karaj, an institution known for harsher and often life-threatening conditions.

I call on the administration to act swiftly for the immediate return of this American to his family.

AN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM THAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the American people sent a strong message to Washington, one that was apparently not received by the President. His latest threat to unilaterally grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants would not only serve as a massive abuse of power, but also make clear the unprecedented disconnect between this administration and our citizens.

The American people deserve a government that can demonstrate both

the ability and the commitment to enforcing our Nation's laws, not a President who continually sidesteps Congress and the American people to advance an agenda which appeals exclusively to one side of the aisle.

I urge the President to end the political ploys to go around the laws we have on the books and start working together toward an immigration system that is in the best interest of the U.S.—not one that endangers our citizens, even takes some of their lives and some of the lives of our law enforcement officers, but truly one that secures our borders, respects the rule of law, stops violent criminals at the border, and prevents future illegal immigration.

I call on the President to work with Congress.

MARCH TOWARD A MORE PERFECT UNION

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to once again have this opportunity to stand on the House floor and to anchor the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour, where today we want to discuss some of the issues and challenges confronting this country that we hope this newly constituted Congress will be prepared to take up.

As we move into the 114th Congress, there is still a lot of business that is undone over the remaining few weeks that we have left during this session, but a whole lot of challenges that we have got to confront as we move forward.

□ 1930

One hundred fifty years ago or so, President Abraham Lincoln publicly pondered the question: How do we create a more perfect Union?

President Lincoln asked that question at a time when the country was tearing itself apart in the context of the Civil War. Since the conclusion of that war—since President Lincoln publicly pondered that question—year after year, month after month, century after century, we certainly have made some progress, significant progress, here in America, but we still have a long way to go, and it is still relevant for us to ask the question: How do we create a more perfect Union?

Where do we go from here?

So I am pleased that so many of my distinguished colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus have come to the floor today to share their thoughts and their insights and their policy prescriptions in our continuing march toward a more perfect Union.

Let me first just yield to the dynamic chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, who has provided such great leadership to this caucus, to this Congress, and to this country during her career, the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio, Chairwoman MARCIA FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank my colleagues JEFFRIES and HORSFORD for leading the Congressional Black Caucus Hour. It is an issue that, I think, is important to this entire country, and it should be a priority for all Members, not just members of the Congressional Black Caucus—a discussion on where Congress goes from here in pursuit of a more perfect Union.

Mr. Speaker, even before the final ballots were counted from the midterm elections, conservatives began sharing their priorities for the upcoming Congress.

Instead of promising to improve our health care system, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle began promising to renew their campaign to repeal the Affordable Care Act—a campaign that has wasted millions in taxpayer dollars, with 53 unsuccessful votes.

Instead of searching for common ground, they are still committed to finding a way to impeach President Barack Obama.

Instead of using the next Congress to create more opportunities for the American people, the decision has already been made to continue efforts to obstruct and undermine the President.

None of these actions will move our Nation forward or do what is best for the country. We must do something more than advance a partisan, political agenda. It is irresponsible, Mr. Speaker, and is an insult to the very public that gave us this awesome responsibility in the first place. We were elected to represent the American people—all of the American people. Let's write and pass legislation that will make their lives easier and their futures more promising. It is time for this Congress to unite and move forward together. This is not the time for doubling down on the tactics of distraction, obstruction, and confusion.

We have the opportunity now to lay a foundation for the 114th Congress that is built upon bipartisan cooperation and a shared commitment to doing what is best for all of our citizens. I urge my colleagues to join the CBC in doing the people's work.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished chair for her observations and, certainly, for pointing out that, while we should be coming together to march toward perfecting our Union, there are some, inexplicably, who want to march toward impeachment before even seeing Presidential action, the same type of folks who, from the moment that Barack Obama was sworn in as President, believe he exceeded his authority just by raising his right hand and taking the oath of office. So let's just hope that we can hit the refresh button on the partisanship, on the obstruction, on the obfuscation and can come together to do the business of the American people.

Certainly, the gentleman who I would yield to next has been a great patriot. He has helped to bring our Constitution to life. For tens of millions of Americans, he is one of this country's greatest freedom fighters, a civil rights icon, and a distinguished Member of Congress. It is my honor and my privilege to now yield to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and my colleague, Congressman JEFFRIES, for organizing this Special Order.

Thank you for all that you do. Thank you for speaking up and speaking out. Thank you for finding a way to get in the way.

Mr. Speaker, our march toward a more perfect Union has been long, hard, and tedious, but we must continue to move forward. I know there are forces that want to stop us, slow us down, and take us back, but as a Nation and as a people, we have made too much progress to turn back now. Through hard work, discipline, and with the blessing of the Almighty, we can—and we will—move to redeem the soul of America and create a more perfect Union.

The American people are ready.

They have grown by leaps and bounds to build bridges of understanding between diverse communities. As their Representatives, will we follow their lead? Can we work together in this body as one people, one family, who live in the same house, one house—the American house? We don't have to be mean to each other. We don't have to put each other down.

My work in the movement taught me—my faith has taught me and many others—to respect the dignity and the worth of every human being. There is some good in the worst of us because everything that is was made by our Creator. That is why we must respect the worth and dignity and that spark of the divine in each one of us.

As A. Philip Randolph—a dean of Black leadership, the visionary who planned the historic March on Washington in 1963 and the founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters—once said: ''We may have all come here on different ships, but we're all in the same boat now.''

My colleagues, my brothers and sisters, we must keep the faith. We must press toward the mark of the public good and put our personal ambitions aside.

As Mr. JEFFRIES did a few moments ago, let me paraphrase the words of a great Republican President who lived

in a more divisive time even than in our own.

He said:

Brave men, both living and dead, have consecrated the American soil with their tears, their sweat, and their blood. The world will little note nor long remember what we said here, but it will never forget what we did here. We must be dedicated . . . to the great tasks remaining before us . . . and make sure they did not sacrifice in vain, that this Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the Earth.

Thank you, Mr. JEFFRIES.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Congressman LEWIS, for those very eloquent thoughts and for continuing to really function as the conscience of the CBC as our caucus functions as the conscience of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my distinct honor and privilege to yield to someone who I served with on the Budget Committee. She is a distinguished Member of the House of Representatives. She is a fighter for the people, for the disenfranchised, and is a voice for the voiceless. It is my honor to yield to the very distinguished gentlewoman from California, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much.

First, let me thank the gentleman from New York, Congressman JEFFRIES, for this very important moment and theme tonight of ''Where do we go from here?'' But also for your leadership in conducting these Special Orders to make sure that the American people really know the truth about what is taking place here in Washington, D.C., and also to hear the voice of conscience from the Congressional Black Caucus, such as we just heard from our great warrior, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Also, I want to thank Congressman HORSFORD for being part of this for the last couple of years in terms of his tremendous leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the other night, I had an event with young people in my district. It is a lecture series that is sponsored by the Martin Luther King Freedom Center. Congressman LEWIS knows these young people. They travel with me every year to Selma-Montgomery-Birmingham. We started the center in the nineties, and these young people's mission in life is to make sure that the new generation of leaders understands, one, that violence is not an option and, secondly, that we all are in this together and that we should be united as a country and fight for the American Dream for all.

The topic of the lecture series of two nights ago was ''Where do we go from here?'' We had White students in the audience. We had African American, Latino, and Asian Pacific American young people, middle-aged people, and old people. It was held at my alma mater, at Mills College. It was really amazing. We had the cofounder of the United Farm Workers, Dolores Huerta, and former State Senator Art Torres. We talked about ''where do we go from here?'' as a community in Oakland and also throughout the country. What we need to do here is, really, to get back to work for the American people, and that is what we heard over and over and over at our lecture series.

Unfortunately, ever since the Republicans took control of the House of Representatives, we see governing through extortion and brinksmanship, including a government shutdown that cost the taxpayers $24 billion. I hope that is not where we go from here. Now we are looking at—or at least some are saying that they are eyeing—another shutdown and are refusing to act on immigration while planning another series of votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They have even gone so far as to threaten impeachment because our President has continued to lead where they have failed.

Where do we go from here, Congressman JEFFRIES? Let's hope not there. I hope we go where the young people in my community talked about the other night.

The threats about a government shutdown over immigration reform are outrageous. My district is a very diverse and dynamic district. That is what makes it, really, a great place for my constituents to live, work, do business, and raise a family. Yet we have many, many pockets of poverty. It is home to a vibrant immigrant community. Families from all over the world, many of them—and they told me again the other night—are feeling the pain each and every day of our broken immigration system. It has been more than 500 days since the Senate passed bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform.

We need to have an up or down vote. Families deserve that. Time is really running out. We have 3 weeks of session left, so we need to get something done. That is where we need to go from here. If Congress fails to act on immigration reform, our President can—and he should—take action to keep families from being torn apart. Just like every President since Dwight D. Eisenhower, our President should act, but as the President has said, immigration reform should come from Congress. It should come from us. That is what my community said in terms of moving forward. Let's get it done in the next couple of weeks. We have a bipartisan bill. Let's come together and have a vote. Our colleagues across the aisle need to put our economy ahead of partisanship. That means stopping their repeated attempts at eliminating access to affordable, quality health care for millions of Americans.

□ 1945

This past weekend marked the beginning of the second year of open enrollment under the Affordable Care Act. Repealing the Affordable Care Act and its protections for families would hurt all of our constituents. It would make health care less affordable and less accessible; yet every time Republicans vote to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, they make it perfectly clear that they believe charging women more for being a woman is okay, denying victims of domestic violence coverage is okay, and allowing insurance companies to increase premiums to increase profits is also okay. That is not what the American people need.

Where do we go from here? Let's not go there. Millions have been covered, and let's move forward to make sure our country has universal accessible affordable health care for all. It is a basic human right, so we need to get back to doing the work of the American people, the work of forming a more perfect Union.

Finally, I just want to point out an article. There was a recent editorial in The New York Times from Nicholas Kristof in which he discusses the historical and structural issues that continue to perpetuate racial disparities between Blacks and Whites today, and I would like to submit that article for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker.

[From Op-Ed Columnist, Nov. 15, 2014]

WHEN WHITES JUST DON'T GET IT, PART 4

(By Nicholas Kristof)

When I write about racial inequality in America, one common response from whites is eye-rolling and an emphatic: It's time to move on.

''As whites, are we doomed to an eternity of apology?'' Neil tweeted at me. ''When does individual responsibility kick in?''

Terry asked on my Facebook page: ''Why are we still being held to actions that took place long ago?''

''How long am I supposed to feel guilty about being white? I bust my hump at work and refrain from living a thug life,'' Bradley chimed in. ''America is about personal responsibility. . . . And really, get past the slavery issue.''

This is the fourth installment in a series of columns I've written this year, ''When Whites Just Don't Get It,'' and plenty of white readers have responded with anger and frustration at what they see as the ''blame game'' on race. They acknowledge a horrific history of racial discrimination but also say that we should look forward, not backward. The Supreme Court seems to share this view as it dismantles civil-rights-era rulings on voting rights.

As Dina puts it: ''I am tired of the race conversation. It has exasperated me. Just stop. In so many industries, the racial ceiling has been shattered. Our president is black. From that moment on, there were no more excuses.''

If only it were so simple!

Of course, personal responsibility is an issue. Orlando Patterson, the eminent black sociologist, notes in a forthcoming book that 92 percent of black youths agree that it is a ''big problem'' that black males are ''not taking education seriously enough.'' And 88 percent agree that it's a big problem that they are ''not being responsible fathers.'' That's why President Obama started ''My Brother's Keeper,'' to cultivate more prudent behavior among men and boys of color.

But we in white society should be equally ready to shoulder responsibility. In past articles in this series, I've looked at black/white economic inequality that is greater in America today than it was in apartheid South Africa, at ongoing discrimination against African-Americans in the labor market and at

systematic bias in law enforcement. But these conversations run into a wall: the presumption on the part of so many well-meaning white Americans that racism is a historical artifact. They don't appreciate the overwhelming evidence that centuries of racial subjugation still shape inequity in the 21st century.

Indeed, a wave of research over the last 20 years has documented the lingering effects of slavery in the United States and South America alike. For example, counties in America that had a higher proportion of slaves in 1860 are still more unequal today, according to a scholarly paper published in 2010. The authors called this a ''persistent effect of slavery.''

One reason seems to be that areas with slave labor were ruled for the benefit of elite plantation owners. Public schools, libraries and legal institutions lagged, holding back working-class whites as well as blacks.

Whites often don't realize that slavery didn't truly end until long after the Civil War. Douglas Blackmon won a Pulitzer Prize for his devastating history, ''Slavery by Another Name,'' that recounted how U.S. Steel and other American corporations used black slave labor well into the 20th century, through ''convict leasing.'' Blacks would be arrested for made-up offenses such as ''vagrancy'' and then would be leased to companies as slave laborers.

Job and housing discrimination also systematically prevented blacks from accumulating wealth. The Federal Housing Administration and other initiatives greatly expanded home ownership and the middle class but deliberately excluded blacks.

That's one reason why black families have, on average, only about 6 percent as much wealth as white households, why only 44 percent of black families own a home compared with 73 percent for white households.

The inequality continues, particularly in education. De jure segregated schools have been replaced in some areas by de facto segregation.

Those of us who are white have a remarkable capacity for delusions. A majority of whites have said in opinion polls that blacks earn as much as whites and are as healthy as whites. In fact, black median household income is $34,598, compared with $58,270 for non-Hispanic whites, according to census data. Black life expectancy is four years shorter than that of whites.

Granted, race is just one thread in a tapestry. The daughters of President and Michelle Obama shouldn't enjoy affirmative action preference (as their dad has acknowledged), while disadvantaged white kids should.

Yet one element of white privilege today is obliviousness to privilege, including a blithe disregard of the way past subjugation shapes present disadvantage.

I've been on a book tour lately. By coincidence, so has one of my Times Op-Ed columnist colleagues, Charles Blow, who is African-American and the author of a powerful memoir, ''Fire Shut Up in My Bones.'' I grew up in a solid middle-class household; Charles was primarily raised by a single mom who initially worked plucking poultry in a factory, and also, for a while, by a grandma in a house with no plumbing.

That Charles has become a New York Times columnist does not mean that blacks and whites today have equal access to opportunity, just that some talented and driven blacks manage to overcome the long odds against them. Make no mistake: Charles had to climb a higher mountain than I did.

We all stand on the shoulders of our ancestors. We're in a relay race, relying on the financial and human capital of our parents and grandparents. Blacks were shackled for the early part of that relay race, and although many of the fetters have come off, whites have developed a huge lead. Do we ignore this long head start—a facet of white privilege—and pretend that the competition is now fair?

Of course not. If we whites are ahead in the relay race of life, shouldn't we acknowledge that we got this lead in part by generations of oppression? Aren't we big enough to make amends by trying to spread opportunity, by providing disadvantaged black kids an education as good as the one afforded privileged white kids?

Can't we at least acknowledge that in the case of race, William Faulkner was right: ''The past is never dead. It's not even past.''

Ms. LEE of California. Kristof states that he has ''looked at Black-White economic inequality that is greater in America today than it was in apartheid South Africa, at ongoing discrimination against African Americans in the labor market, and at systematic bias in law enforcement.''

So young people of color, especially young men, have been left behind in the economic recovery. It is leaving them behind, and far too often, they are marginalized and forgotten. The poverty rate for African Americans is 27.2 percent, more than two-and-a-half times the rate of poverty of White Americans. Nobody in our country should have to live below the poverty line. We are the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world.

The African American unemployment rate is 10.9 percent, nearly twice the national average. Young men of color are stopped and frisked at will. They are more incarcerated than any other group. The jobs that are available don't pay enough to get by while our safety net and nutrition programs continue to be hacked and slashed by House Republicans.

Beyond the lack of opportunity, police misconduct and the criminal justice system are constant reminders of the tragic inequality which is still persistent in the daily life of Black America.

Where do we go from here? Let's move forward, but we have got to remember that the deaths of Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin and Eric Garner and Oscar Grant—one of my constituents—their deaths are tragic examples of the senseless murder of young Black men.

As the mother of two Black men and two Black grandsons, I have to have many uncomfortable conversations with them, how to walk, how to talk, how to interact with the police.

This is not just my reality, but the reality of millions of other Black mothers and grandmothers and fathers and grandfathers. This is something no parent should have to do. No one should be afraid of the police who are sworn to protect and serve them. These are issues that Members of Congress must take leadership in addressing. This is where we must go from here.

Finally, let me just say the work of building a more perfect Union is not just rhetorical. As Members of Congress, we really do have a unique opportunity to do just that.

To quote our drum major for justice—who Congressman LEWIS had the privilege and honor to work with—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he said, ''A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.'' We have the privilege tonight to remind this body that we are the molder of consensus.

Thank you again, Congressman JEFFRIES, for the opportunity to speak with you this evening.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Congresswoman LEE, for your very eloquent observations and for laying out a clear pathway as it relates to many of the challenges that we have got to confront here in America and certainly amongst those challenges that you spoke to, the notion that we have got a broken criminal justice system that in far too many communities has placed a target on the back of young African American and Latino men in a way inconsistent with the democratic values of this country and the notion that we were all created equally, and so I look forward to partnering with you on many of these issues, as we all collectively move forward in this wonderful body.

We have also been joined here today by another civil rights champion, someone who has fought for the disenfranchised and to make sure that everyone has equal opportunity under the law, the distinguished gentleman from the Lone Star State of Texas, and I am pleased now to yield to Congressman AL GREEN.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you very much, Congressman JEFFRIES. I also thank in his absence the gentleman from Nevada, Congressman HORSFORD. The two of you have been almost inseparable when it comes to these Special Order hours. I want to compliment you on the outstanding job that you have done.

I would also like to compliment Congressman HORSFORD for the outstanding job that he has done on the Financial Services Committee. He brought his talents. He brought his brilliance, and he has represented his constituents exceedingly well, and I know that in the annals of history, when they look back through the vista of time, it will be said that he served us well in the Congress of the United States of America.

With reference to the relevant question of the hour, as it relates to a more perfect Union, as we ponder and query where we go from here, it was appropriate, I think, that you introduced this topic by referencing President Lincoln.

It was appropriate because you are eminently correct. It was a time of great turmoil when he announced that he would issue the Emancipation Proclamation, and in January of 1863, when he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, the country was in the midst of a Civil War, being torn apart.

There was much to be said about his announcement that he would issue the

Emancipation Proclamation. There was great debate, and there were many people who said that it should not be done, that it was not worth the paper it would be written on, to be quite candid with you, it was said, because it would only free the slaves in the States that had left the Union, States that, quite candidly, at the time, he had no control over.

But he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and I thank God that he did, because by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, he laid the foundation for the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America that was in fact executed in December 1865.

But for the Emancipation Proclamation, I don't know that I would be standing here in the Congress of the United States of America tonight. By issuing that Emancipation Proclamation, he changed the course of history.

Dr. King was right, ''The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.'' However, it doesn't do it on its own accord. It takes the hand of man and women to bend it, so I am pleased that he did so.

I am also pleased that there was another opportunity for a President to forge a more perfect Union. President Harry Truman had the opportunity in 1948 to issue an executive order, as was the case with Lincoln and the executive order for the Emancipation Proclamation. He issued an executive order to desegregate the military.

There was much to be said about it. In fact, that executive order led to the birth of the Dixiecrats. There was a split in the Democratic Party because the Honorable Harry Truman decided that he would issue Executive Order 9981, to desegregate the military.

He issued it, the military was desegregated, and I contend that this was also one of the many reasons why the country itself moved along to desegregation and integration.

These were two outstanding and well-noted executive orders issued by Presidents of the United States. If President Lincoln could issue an executive order—an Emancipation Proclamation—if Harry Truman could issue an executive order—to desegregate the military—surely, President Barack Obama can issue an executive order to liberate many people who are living in the shadows of life, an immigration declaration, if you will. I believe the President should issue this order, notwithstanding all that is being said.

There was much being said and much being done when Lincoln issued his executive order, much said and much being done when Truman issued his, much said and much being done now, but I think the President should do this, and I think he should be bold when he does it because he will be lifting people out of the shadows of life.

I am confident that while many will be angry with him, God will not. I think God will smile on the President for issuing this executive order.

More than 15,000 executive orders have been issued. Not one President has ever been impeached for issuing an executive order, not one. There is talk of impeaching President Obama.

If we didn't impeach Lincoln and we didn't impeach Truman and we didn't impeach Reagan and we didn't impeach many of the other Presidents who have signed the more than 15,000 executive orders, I don't think that we ought to impeach President Obama.

Finally this, as an aside: there is much talk about the President's legacy and what he has done to form a more perfect Union while being President, if you will, but all of this talk about his legacy misses the mark, in my opinion, because there are many who think that the Affordable Care Act will be the centerpiece of his legacy.

I think it is a great piece of legislation. I supported it. I still support it. There are many who think that saving the auto industry would be his legacy. I think this is significant, exceedingly so. I supported what he did.

There are others who believe that his work in human rights and human dignity, especially as it relates for equal pay for equal work for women, will be his legacy. I think it is a great piece of work, and I commend him for what he has done.

But the President's legacy in the eons to come will be that he became President of the United States of America. The mere fact that the Honorable Barack Obama was elected not once, but twice, speaks to our efforts to form a more perfect Union.

I think that his greatest legacy will be his having served as President of the United States of America. That fact alone will be something that we will never, ever erase from history.

I thank you for the opportunity to visit with you, and I pray that the President will be bold and sign the executive order, will lead with the executive order that may lead to comprehensive immigration reform and a pathway to citizenship for those who are living in the shadows of life. God bless you.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas for his very thoughtful and eloquent observations.

I think it is so important that you pointed out the President's place in the context of his legacy relating to his election because I believe that also ties into his legitimacy in moving forward with executive action on immigration.

This is the first Democratic President since FDR to be elected to consecutive terms having secured a majority of the vote from the American people, and so he has all of the legitimacy, all of the electoral mandate to act in a bold fashion.

We know that President George W. Bush came into the Presidency under questionable circumstances. He didn't receive a majority of the vote of the American people, and I am not sure what took place down in Florida, but certainly, there were significant questions as to the authenticity of the final result.

He came into office under questionable circumstances; yet there was no talk of impeachment, even as he proceeded to get us into not one but two wars and jam a reckless tax cut to benefit the wealthy and the well-off down the throats of the American people.

If you just take Iraq, for example, his administration lied their way into a conflict that has cost the American people thousands of lives, billions of dollars; international legitimacy has been jeopardized. No one from this side of the aisle talked about bringing forth Articles of Impeachment in any meaningful way against George W. Bush.

□ 2000

You have a democratically elected President, Barack Obama, overwhelming electoral college landslide. He has got a mandate to act, and there are some Members on the other side of the aisle who just can't help themselves, who are itching to try and delegitimize this President. Shame on you. Let's just hope that we can move forward in a more productive fashion as it relates to how we interact with the executive branch. The whole world is watching, and they expect us to behave responsibly as we move forward.

Now, in terms of how do we move forward, how do we create a more perfect Union, and how do we act potentially in a bipartisan fashion, I think there are at least four areas where there should be opportunity to find common ground. I think we should be able to find common ground as it relates to immigration reform and dealing with our broken immigration system. We should be able to find common ground as it relates to giving America a raise. We should be able to find common ground as it relates to criminal justice reform.

I have been encouraged as a member of the House Judiciary Committee bipartisan task force on over-criminalization by the willingness of Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and progressives, to try to work together to solve this issue of a broken criminal justice system that we have got in America.

There are areas where we should be able to find some common ground. Let me start by dealing with this question of the executive order on immigration, because there is a lot of hysteria in this town now about how some people in the Congress are going to react to the President if he decides to issue some form of executive order on immigration, as if this President would be doing something extraordinary.

The history, in fact, tells us that since President Eisenhower, every single occupant at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue has issued executive orders related to immigration. In fact, there have been 39 such orders from Eisenhower all the way through to President George W. Bush related to the topic

and subject matter of immigration. In fact, if you look at some of the executive orders that were issued by President Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush related to undocumented immigrants from Central America and the need in their view to try to keep families together, they were some of the broadest executive orders issued by any President in the area of immigration.

Where was the impeachment talk back then? Why are we subjecting this President to such reckless conversations? I thought that we were trying to come together in the aftermath of these elections to see if we can have a productive 114th Congress, because certainly we know that the 113th Congress was or is on track, I should say, to go down as the least productive Congress in the history of the Republic. That is quite a designation. I mean, the least productive Congress?

If we go down memory lane and think about some of the highlights, this is a Congress that brought us a reckless, irresponsible government shutdown that cost the economy $24 billion in lost economic productivity all because of this clinical obsession with the Affordable Care Act. We flirted with a default on our debt for the first time in our Nation's history, threatening the full faith and credit of the United States of America. It is a Congress that brought us sequestration, $85 billion in randomly spread out cuts across the government in a way that put hundreds of thousands of jobs in jeopardy. We failed to renew unemployment insurance, leaving millions of Americans on the battlefield of the Great Recession. These are the highlights of the 113th Congress. I don't think that is a record to be proud of as we move forward.

So I think we could all benefit from a reduction in the rhetoric in an effort to try and find common ground. If you don't like what the President may do on the issue of immigration, you are going to control the House of Representatives and you are going to control the Senate. Just act. Do something. Stop talking. Fix our broken immigration system. You have the power to do so.

The Senate acted in a bipartisan fashion last year passing a comprehensive immigration reform bill that was not perfect but certainly was a good faith attempt to try and address the problem. There were 52 Democrats, 2 Independents, and 14 Republicans, if my recollection serves me correctly. They partnered together to pass a bipartisan piece of legislation.

So I am just hopeful that the House will come together and legitimately try to tackle an issue and just stop throwing out the word ''amnesty'' to apply to everything that you don't like. I mean, in this country's greatest tradition, we have never had dual citizenship, and we shouldn't have dual citizenship moving forward. We should just try to find a way to bring these 11 million undocumented people out of the shadows in a fashion that independent economists have said will be beneficial to the American taxpayer and result in dramatic reductions in our Nation's deficit. That is immigration reform. I am hopeful we can find some common ground in that area.

The second area where I think we should come together in our march toward a more perfect Union has to do with giving America a raise. Right now, the Federal minimum wage is $7.25 an hour. In other words, in the wealthiest country in the world, in our great Republic, under that Federal minimum wage, you can have somebody who works full-time, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, and at the end of the day, with a family of three, find themselves below the Federal poverty line. That is the classic definition of ''working poor.'' Why would we cement that into law?

So I think that the responsible thing to do is for us to try to figure out how we can come together and raise the minimum wage. We couldn't get a vote in the House of Representatives on H.R. 1010—this Congress—that would have raised the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour over the next year or so. Let's hit the refresh button and try to get something done next Congress. And this is not just something that Democrats embrace. This is not simply something that blue States embrace. This is not something that progressives simply embrace. If we are going to take a message from the outcome of the election earlier in November, we can't pick and choose what message we want to take.

How about we draw some lessons from the fact that the voters of Alaska came to the polls and overwhelmingly supported an increase in the minimum wage in that State; the voters in Arkansas came to the polls and overwhelmingly supported an increase in the minimum wage in that State; the voters of Nebraska came to the polls and overwhelmingly supported an increase in the minimum wage in that State; and the voters of South Dakota came to the polls and overwhelmingly supported an increase in the minimum wage in that State. Those are four deeply conservative, deeply red States.

America wants a raise. If we are looking for issues where we can find common ground beyond immigration reform, perhaps we can start there. One of the reasons why I think we should start there is because, if you look at what the minimum wage really means in real terms right now, we are falling behind in terms of where we once were and also in terms of making sure that we are giving the people who are working for the minimum wage a fair shot to pursue the American Dream.

If you were to look at this chart that is before us, you will see that in 1968 only 17 percent of the people who fall or fell into the category of a low-wage worker had some college experience, but in 2012 that number has shot way up: 46 percent of the people falling into the category of a low-wage worker with some college experience. No wonder there is a lot of anxiety and uncertainty about the future of America amongst the people we represent all across the country when you have got folks with some college experience falling into the category of a low-wage worker.

In 1968, about 48 percent of the people, low-wage workers, had a high school diploma or GED. That number has shot up. In 2012, 79 percent of low-wage workers had completed high school or obtained their GED. Americans are more educated now than we were 45 or so plus years ago in terms of the workforce but earning less. That is a fundamental problem that we have got to confront in this country, and raising the minimum wage is one way in which to do it.

The other thing that we should take a look at related to the minimum wage is the fact that the people who are on it in large measure are actually trying to support themselves on a full-time basis or support their families. One of the most popular myths put forward by those who are determined to do everything possible to stop America from getting a raise like to say, well, people who work for the minimum wage are teenagers, or they work part-time after school and live with their parents. All they are really doing is trying to earn some extra spending money. It is a cute argument, but when you actually evaluate it using some objective factual analysis, you see that these are simply myths designed to undermine the effort to raise the minimum wage for people who are actually struggling to support their families.

□ 2015

Unlike the popular mythology that is put forward that these are teenagers or afterschool workers or people who are trying to get some spending change to go to the movies, the reality is the average age of people who are working for minimum wage numbers in America is 35 years old. Eighty-eight percent of the people working for minimum wage right now are not teenagers, they are 20 years or older. More than a quarter actually have children, and 55 percent of these individuals, as this chart illustrates, work full time. So let's have an evidence-based discussion about the need to increase the minimum wage that is rooted in objective, factual analysis and not hysteria or mythology designed simply to evade the discussion.

And the fact that the minimum wage increase has been embraced by deeply conservative voters in Arkansas and Alaska and Nebraska and South Dakota I think provides us with a starting point to move forward and attempt to find common ground in doing something that makes sense simply for America.

So I have mentioned immigration reform as a possible avenue of trying to identify common ground. I have mentioned the minimum wage. I think we

also have to try to deal with the issue of our broken criminal justice system. If you think about the fact that in America there are more than 2 million people incarcerated in our country, that is a tremendous waste of human capital. It is a tremendous waste of our economic resources and results in a dramatic loss of human productivity.

So I have actually been pleased over the last several years that people on the left and on the right, progressives and conservatives, are finding their way toward common ground to deal with a criminal justice system that clearly is broken, and starting perhaps with the notion that we have had a failed war on drugs that has resulted in putting people behind bars far too often, and disproportionately African Americans and Latino men, but putting nonviolent drug abusers behind bars—a dramatic waste of taxpayer dollars in a manner that has proven to be ineffective from a criminal justice standpoint.

As a member of the bipartisanship task force on overcriminalization chaired by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER)—the Democratic leader of the effort was the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), one of the things that was striking as we moved forward with our exploration was the fact that in the Federal system more than 50 percent of the people who are currently incarcerated—more than 50 percent—are there for drug or substance abuse crimes. Only about 8 percent of the current occupants of Federal prisons across America were convicted of violent crimes. Something is wrong with that picture.

I am thankful, actually, that States, particularly in the deep South, conservative States with Republican Governors and Republican-held State legislative bodies, have recognized the failure of the excessive law and order policies brought to us in the late 1980s and the early 1990s, the fact that it was costing their taxpayers dollars, wasting resources, and they have come together to reform the criminal justice system. It has happened in Texas. It has happened in South Carolina. It has happened in Alabama. It has happened in Kentucky. It has happened in Louisiana. It has happened in Georgia. Again, these aren't blue States. These are not traditionally Democratic States, these are traditionally conservative States recognizing the need for criminal justice reform.

So I am hopeful that as we move into the 114th Congress, we can find our way toward dealing with this issue. We have got Senators from the other side of the aisle who have expressed an interest in tackling this issue. And we have Democratic and Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee and beyond who have indicated a willingness to try to fix our broken criminal justice system: to eradicate mandatory minimums; to restore discretion to judges; to focus less on punishment as it relates to nonviolent drug abusers; and to provide treatment and rehabilitation so we can help people successfully reenter our society.

We have to finish the job as it relates to the disparity between crack and cocaine. It was 100 to 1. This Congress acted; it is now 18 to 1, but there is still no pharmaceutical reason for there to be any disparity between crack and cocaine. And we should make our reforms retroactive so we can free thousands of people unnecessarily behind bars right now for a law that this Congress has deemed to be unjust. So criminal justice reform, a third area where perhaps we can work together.

And lastly, as we prepare to wind down this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order, I also want to express my thanks to my good friend and colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) who throughout the last 2 years courageously stood on the floor of the House of Representatives coanchoring the CBC Special Order, and we know that the best is yet to come for Congressman HORSFORD, but the last issue that we have to perhaps tackle in a bipartisan fashion is fixing the damage that was done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court.

We all should want to encourage Americans to vote and participate in our great democracy. It is that participation that preserves the integrity of the democratic Republic that has been created in this great country. Why anyone would want to suppress the vote is beyond me, with the exception of noting that some view it as a partisan means of maintaining power, a Pyrrhic victory perhaps, because at the end of the day, these efforts to disenfranchise people are bad for America.

This is a chart that illustrates the fact that in the aftermath of the 2010 election, some people interpreted that midterm election as a mandate to suppress the vote. And so in 41 States, 180 voter suppression-type bills were introduced all across America. In every State that is represented with a red color, laws were introduced to suppress the vote. That is how the 2010 elections seem to have been interpreted by some.

I am hopeful that coming out of the 2014 midterm elections that we will actually come together. There is a bill in the House of Representatives—it has Republican support and it has Democratic support—to help Americans who want to vote vote and undo the damage that was done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court.

Now, the Voting Rights Act has a great bipartisan history. It was enacted into law in 1965. We are going to celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. It was signed and championed by Lyndon Baines Johnson, with the support of civil rights leaders, Dr. King, and of course our own Congressman JOHN LEWIS. But every time the Voting Rights Act was reauthorized, it was reauthorized by a Republican President. It was reauthorized in 1970, signed into law by President Richard Nixon. And then it was reauthorized again in 1975, signed into law by President Gerald Ford. And then the Voting Rights Act was reauthorized again in 1982, signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. And then it was reauthorized again in 2006 and signed into law by President George W. Bush. It has a great bipartisan history.

If we are looking for areas where we can find common ground, where there is an opportunity for Democrats and Republicans, for conservatives and progressives to work together, we have got a lot of options. We can fix our broken immigration system. We can deal with criminal justice reform. We can give America a raise, and we can fix the Voting Rights Act on the occasion of our celebrating the 50th anniversary of its passage.

And so I am hopeful that we can put the dysfunction and the obfuscation and the government shutdown and the impeachment talk and the sequestration and the serial flirtation with the debt ceiling and defaulting behind us and come together, find common ground, and march toward a more perfect union in the 114th Congress.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight our Nation's struggle to achieve a more perfect Union. As we look upon the political landscape this fall, it is impossible to ignore the backward steps we have taken.

In years past, elections signaled a time of hope and renewal: Hope that partisan politics would be put aside and renewal of our working relationships across the aisle and across the Capitol.

However, even as election results were being tallied earlier this month the new Republican majority was already highlighting the divisive actions they planned to undertake in the next Congress. Among these plans are efforts to undermine the Affordable Care Act, and to shutdown the federal government or impeach President Obama over his immigration reforms.

Mr. Speaker, I see nothing but divisiveness and partisanship in these plans. In fact, investigations into the creation of the Affordable Care Act or the President's immigration policy do nothing to advance the needs of everyday Americans who continue to struggle making ends meet.

I urge my Republican Colleagues to abandon these frivolous efforts and instead focus on expanding opportunities for every American and creating a more perfect Union.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to speak to the issues that members of the 113th Congress must address.

I thank my colleagues Representatives STEVEN HORSFORD and HAKEEM JEFFRIES for leading this evening's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order on "The March toward a More Perfect Union: Where Do We Go from Here?"

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general

Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our a Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

These words are powerful and unforgettable—they are the preamble of the Constitution of the United States of America.

What is most striking about these words are the first 3, ''We the People.'' They remind us that we are here in the ''People's House'' to do the people's business.

The Supreme Courts over the centuries looked to these words for guidance or evidence of what the founding fathers intended for the Constitution's meaning and its ultimate purpose.

This places the preamble in a unique role as time has separated us from the words and thoughts of those who drafted the document, which governs our form of government today.

The Supreme Court, in its decision in Ellis v. City of Grand Rapids, looked to the preamble in reaching its decision in this eminent domain case. The Court decided that the use of land to provide additional land for the expansion of a hospital would be in the interest of the people and should be allowed under the constitution.

We the People, two years ago re-elected President Obama to the Presidency of the United States with 57.5 of all eligible voters voting for him to serve a second term in 2012.

He ran on the issues of retaining the Affordable Health Care Act, infrastructure investments, and rebuilding the middle class.

His re-election was no fluke; it was an affirmation by the people of the United States of a decision they made nearly 4 years earlier when he defeated his Republican opponent and become President.

In 2008, President Obama won 53% of the votes in the election that saw voter turnout at 62.3 percent of eligible citizens voting.

During the hard fought campaign then Democratic Presidential Candidate Obama said that he would focus on health care reform, repairing the economy, which was in shambles, and ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and bring our troops home.

Once President Obama entered office in January 2009, he was given the full picture of how bad the economy really was and how much work would be needed to repair the damage and restore economic vitality.

Since 2008, the economy has made tremendous progress, but more work needs to be done and I invite my colleague to commit in earnest to doing the work held to help the people of this nation.

On March 23, 2010, with the stroke of President Obama's pen, the American people received this part of the ''Fair Deal.'' This bill did not become law in the dead of night, but in the full process this body affords serious consideration of legislation. There were committee hearings, staff and member meetings, amendments and a final vote in both the House and the Senate before it was sent to the President's desk.

The Affordable Care Act has been affirmed to be law by every means provided by our nation's constitution:

On June 28, 2012, the United States Supreme Court upheld the ACA, affirming the constitutionality of the law—leaving intact the majority of the incentives to expand healthcare coverage to millions of Americans.

The Affordable Care Act was a central issue in the Presidential election of 2012. President Obama who signed the Affordable Care Act into law won the election by 51.1 percent of the popular vote and 62 percent of the electoral vote.

REPUBLICAN VICTORY ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014 WAS NO MANDATE

The voter turnout on November 4 was lowest voter turnout in 72 years according to the New York Times. National voter participation was 33.9% for the 2014 mid-term elections.

Although some are trying to call the election a mandate, that argument cannot be made if these same people refused to treat as a mandate the victories of Present Obama in two elections with a vote well over 50% and voter participation of 60% or more.

The Affordable Health Care Act is the law of the land; we have 10 million people with health care, who otherwise would not have the financial security that brings to them and their families.

November 15, 2014–December 15, 2014 is open season for the Affordable Care Act, which allows those without health insurance the opportunity to purchase insurance for themselves and their children.

The Affordable Care Act is not going anywhere and if the Republicans want to use taxpayers dollars on continuing to argue over it that is a waste of precious legislative days that the people of this nation cannot afford.

REPUBLICAN THREATS OF SHUTDOWN OVER IMMIGRATION REFORM

The Republicans shut down the government a year ago in October and the consequences were devastating to the American workers and seriously damaged the financial recovery the nation was experiencing.

The Shutdown of 2011 cost the nation $24 billion.

A CNN poll found that 69 percent of Americans—including 52 percent of Tea Party supporters—thought the Congressional Republicans were ''acting like spoiled children,'' and 46 percent said they would blame Congressional Republicans for a shutdown.

Sixty-eight percent of the American public said the shutdown of a few days would be a bad thing for the country; that number rose to nearly 80 percent for a shutdown lasting a few weeks.

Sixty percent say it is more important for Congress to avoid a shutdown than to make major changes to the new health care law. [9/30]

According to the Office of Management and Budget, the last Republican Government Shutdown hurt the American people.

Hundreds of thousands of federal employees immediately and indefinitely furloughed, and many Federal employees and contractors that continued to work were not paid during the shutdown.

Housing loans to low and middle income families in rural communities were put on hold, as would start-up business loans for farmers and ranchers.

SBA stopped approving applications for small businesses to obtain loans and loan guarantees. In a typical month, SBA approves over $1 billion in loan assistance to small businesses.

All facilities and services in our national parks were closed, along with the Smithsonian, impacting the hundreds of thousands of people that were on or heading to vacations. This had a severe negative impact on the surrounding local communities that rely on the revenue generated by travel and tourism to these destinations.

Important government research into life-threatening diseases, environmental protection, and other areas were halted.

The government stopped issuing permits to conduct drilling operations on Federal lands, and would stop or delay environmental reviews of planned transportation and energy-related projects, keeping companies from working on these projects.

Hundreds of thousands of federal employees suddenly did not have a pay-check coming and had no idea when the shutdown would end.

Veterans were left without access to vital services.

It was irresponsible then and it would be far worse knowing what the reality was then for this Congress to do this to the American people again in less than 2 years.

IMMIGRATION REFORM LONG OVERDUE

The immigration reform bill that came out of the Senate does much to improve family immigration, but I am concerned that the bill contains some fundamental changes to our immigration system that move us away from the principle of family reunification.

In my role as a Senior Member of both the House Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee and Homeland Security Committee, I will continue working to strengthen the provisions in the bill that impact families and work to restore other important provisions which help families, particularly those immigrants of limited means—every immigrant cannot be a millionaire tech entrepreneur or bear the lineage of some landed gentry—America is the ultimate egalitarian society where opportunity waits for those rich and poor who seek it.

Nearly everyone agrees that our immigration system is badly broken and in dire need of fixing, and the bill that came out of the Senate is a step in the right direction.

What we need is immigration legislation that establishes a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in this country. We must address the lengthy backlogs in our current immigration system—backlogs that have kept families apart sometimes for decades.

We must grant a faster track to the 'Dreamers' brought to this country as children through no fault of their own, and to agricultural workers who are an essential part of our communities and work so hard to provide our nation's food supply.

We need immigration legislation that will make important changes to the visas used by dairy farmers and the tourism industry and by immigrant investors who are making investments in our communities.

Dreamers grew up in the United States, but were brought here illegally through no fault of their own. Nearly 300,000 Dreamers have been granted legal status in the past year, giving them the ability to live their lives in our communities by working and going to college without fear of deportation.

Most Americans agree that we need a comprehensive immigration reform plan that includes a pathway to citizenship. Nearly 9 out of 10 Americans (87%) believe that it would be better to offer undocumented workers an opportunity to earn citizenship after they have met the necessary requirements than to deport them.

If the House had seriously considered comprehensive immigration reform it would not be

necessary for the President to use his legitimate and lawful Executive authority by the end of this year to minimize the damage caused by Congress' failure to act.

Providing legal status to the undocumented immigrants currently in our country would grow our GDP by a cumulative increase of $832 billion over 10 years. According to the Center for American Progress, immigration reform would create 121,000 new jobs each year in the next decade. Legalization would increase immigrants' income, an additional boost to our economy.

We must also do something to protect our borders. I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 1417—the Border Security Results Act of 2013. This bill has received accolades from the Wall Street Journal and The Los Angeles Times as a commonsense approach to protect our borders.

I believe the border security legislation that we put forward can be the solution that allows real immigration reform to move forward because it will provide the security at the border that the American people are demanding and deserve.

The Border Security Results Act would require a comprehensive outcome-based strategy that includes deployment of more surveillance technology for gaining full situational awareness of the border, use of that data to allocate manpower and other resources along the border and the creation of metrics to set progress in achieving border security. Those metrics may be based on the number of apprehensions of illegal aliens relative to the number of illegal crossings.

Over the years I have introduced the Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act and much of the Senate passed bill was included in my immigration bill; the Senate bill would address some of the toughest issues on immigration reform and would offer many innovative and considerate solutions that will help to repair some of the most broken parts of our immigration system.

So the passage of the Senate bill is a major leap forward in human rights in America. Now is the time for the House of Representatives to continue this crucial fight for immigration reform and a secure America.

If we let the immigration reform debate focus primarily on minute elements we lose sight of the broader picture—many other important things we need to do to fix our broken immigration system. It has been estimated that approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants live in the United States.

The vast majority of them are hard-working and law-abiding persons who have become productive members of our society. It serves no purpose to keep them in the shadows of our society praying for lawful status. It is not good for them, and is not in the best interests of the United States. Comprehensive immigration reform will require leadership from the Administration, the Senate, both parties in Congress with a willingness on everyone's part to work together.

The American people will hold accountable those that stand in the way of making comprehensive immigration reform.

When the House and the Senate passes comprehensive immigration reform the President will sign it into law. This is something that would be permanent and provide the stability America needs as we move toward a more prosperous future.

This special order is an opportunity to make the case for continuing on the course set by the Obama Administration and the need to not take the recent election as a mandate for major changes.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1086) ''An Act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.''.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110–315, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, announces the appointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity:

Dr. Paul LeBlanc of New Hampshire, vice Larry Vanderhoef of California.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GARRETT (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY of California) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a flight delay due to weather conditions.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2015, AND THE 10-YEAR PERIOD FY 2015 THROUGH FY 2024

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2014.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Mr. Speaker, to facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting an updated status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and for the 10–year period of fiscal year 2015 through fiscal year 2024. The report is current through November 12, 2014. The term ''current level'' refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

Table 1 in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and the 10-year period of fiscal year 2015 through 2024 to the overall limits filed in the Congressional Record on January 27, 2014 for fiscal year 2014 and on April 29, 2014 for fiscal years 2015 and 2015–2024 as required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2015 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

Table 2 compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for action completed by each authorizing committee with the ''section 302(a)'' allocations filed on January 27, 2014 for fiscal year 2014 and the allocations filed on April 29, 2014 for fiscal years 2015 and the 10-year period 2015 through 2024 as required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. For fiscal year 2014, ''action'' refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the levels set forth on January 27, 2014. For fiscal years 2015 and the 10-year period 2015–2024, ''action'' refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the levels set forth on April 29, 2014.

This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

Tables 3 and 4 compare the current status of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2014 and 2015 with the ''section 302(b)'' sub-allocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) sub-allocation. The table also provides supplementary information on spending in excess of the base discretionary spending caps allowed under section 251(b) of the Budget Control Act.

Tables 5 and 6 give the current level for fiscal year 2015 and 2016, respectively, of accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 601 of H. Con. Res. 25. This list is needed to enforce section 601 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

In addition, letters from the Congressional Budget Office are attached that summarize and compare the budget impact of enacted legislation that occurred after adoption of the budget resolution against the budget resolution aggregates in force.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Restuccia at (202) 226–7270.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.

TABLE 1—REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND 2015 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET AS PROVIDED FOR BY THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013

[Reflecting action completed as of November 12, 2014—On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal Year 2014 [1]	Fiscal Year 2015 [2]	Fiscal Years 2015–2024
Appropriate Level:			
Budget Authority	2,924,837	3,031,744	n.a.
Outlays	2,937,044	3,026,369	n.a.
Revenues	2,311,026	2,535,978	31,206,399
Current Level:			
Budget Authority	2,943,968	3,037,383	n.a.
Outlays	2,955,423	3,041,694	n.a.
Revenues	2,311,761	2,535,984	31,206,465
Current Level over (+) / under (−) Appropriate Level:			
Budget Authority	+19,131	+5,639	n.a.
Outlays	+18,379	+15,325	n.a.
Revenues	+735	+6	+66

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2016 through 2024 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

[1] Section 111(b) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 required the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget in the House of Representatives to file aggregate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2014 for purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. The spending and revenue aggregates for fiscal year 2014 were subsequently filed on January 27, 2014. The current level for this report begins with the budgetary levels filed on January 27, 2014 and makes changes to those levels for enacted legislation.

[2] Section 115(b) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (BBA) required the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget in the House of Representatives to file aggregate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2015 and for fiscal years 2015–2024 for purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. The spending and revenue aggregates for fiscal year 2015 were filed on April 29, 2014. Those levels were subsequently adjusted on November 12, 2014 pursuant to BBA section 115(e) to reflect the budgetary effects of deficit reduction enacted in the Highways and Transportation Funding Act of 2014. The current level for this report begins with the budgetary levels filed on April 29, 2014 as adjusted, and makes changes to those levels for enacted legislation.

TABLE 2—DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES

[Reflecting action completed as of November 12, 2014—Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2014		2015		2015–2024	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	+3,243	+2,124	0	0	−19	−19
Difference	+3,243	+2,124	0	0	−19	−19
Armed Services:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	+4	+4	0	0	0	0
Difference	+4	+4	0	0	0	0
Education and the Workforce:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy and Commerce:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	+6,159	+6,157	+2	+2	+24	+24
Difference	+6,159	+6,157	+2	+2	+24	+24
Financial Services:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Administration:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	−34	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	−34	0	0	0	0	0
Judiciary:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Resources:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	−1	−1	0	−2	0	0
Difference	−1	−1	0	−2	0	0
Oversight and Government Reform:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science, Space and Technology:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Business:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans' Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	−1	−1
Difference	0	0	0	0	−1	−1
Ways and Means:						
Allocation	0	0	0	−15	−3,542	−4,777
Current Level	+9,760	+9,745	+25	+20	−3,519	−4,739
Difference	+9,760	+9,745	+25	+35	+23	+38

TABLE 3—DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUB ALLOCATIONS AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[Figures in millions] [1]

	302(b) Allocations[1]		302(b) for GWOT[1]		Current Status General Purpose		Current Status GWOT		General Purpose less 302(b)		GWOT less 302(b)	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20,880	22,092	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Commerce, Justice, Science	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	51,600	60,756	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Defense	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	486,851	528,707	85,191	43,140	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Energy and Water Development	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	34,060	39,652	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Financial Services and General Government	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	21,851	23,054	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Homeland Security	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	39,270	46,045	227	182	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Interior, Environment	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	30,058	32,154	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	156,773	159,953	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Legislative Branch	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4,258	4,192	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	73,299	76,278	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
State, Foreign Operations	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	42,481	45,818	6,520	1,885	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Transportation, HUD	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	50,856	116,465	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Full Committee Allowance	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,012,237	1,155,166	91,938	45,207	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Comparison of Total Appropriations and 302(a) Allocation[2]	General Purpose		GWOT	
	BA	OT	BA	OT
302(a) Allocation	1,012,237	1,154,816	91,938	45,207
Total Appropriations	1,012,237	1,155,166	91,938	45,207
Total Appropriations vs. 302(a) Allocation	0	+350	0	0

Memorandum	Amounts Assumed in 302(b)[1]		Emergency Requirements		Disaster Funding		Program Integrity	
Spending in Excess of Base Budget Control Act Caps for Sec. 251(b) Designated Categories	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defense	n.a.	n.a.	225	150	0	0	0	0
Energy and Water Development	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	5,626	281	0	0
Interior, Environment	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	924	832
Legislative Branch	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
State, Foreign Operations	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation, HUD	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	n.a.	n.a.	225	150	5,626	281	924	832

[1] The original 302(a) allocation to the Committee on Appropriations contained in H.Rpt. 113–17 for the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget-Fiscal Year 2014 (H.Con.Res. 25) was revised on January 14, 2014, consistent with section 101 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. The House Committee on Appropriations did not file revised 302(b) allocations after the final 302(a) allocation was provided—hence there are no valid 302(b)'s in force for fiscal year 2014.
[2] Spending designated as emergency is not included in the current status of appropriations shown above.

TABLE 4—DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUB ALLOCATIONS AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[Figures in Millions][1]

	302(b) Allocations		302(b) for GWOT		Current Status General Purpose[1]		Current Status GWOT		General Purpose less 302(b)		GWOT less 302(b)	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	20,880	21,716	0	0	20,880	21,716	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science	51,200	61,518	0	0	51,200	61,518	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defense	490,944	522,774	79,445	36,839	490,908	522,751	79,445	36,839	−36	−23	0	0
Energy and Water Development	34,010	37,831	0	0	33,991	37,811	0	0	−19	−20	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	21,285	22,750	0	0	20,133	21,593	0	0	−1,152	−1,157	0	0
Homeland Security	45,658	44,712	0	0	45,658	44,712	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interior, Environment	30,220	30,191	0	0	30,220	32,740	0	0	0	+2,549	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	155,702	159,922	0	0	20,230	115,274	0	0	−135,472	−44,648	0	0
Legislative Branch	4,258	4,219	0	0	3,323	3,491	0	0	−935	−728	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	71,499	76,100	0	0	71,499	76,100	0	0	0	0	0	0
State, Foreign Operations	42,381	42,319	5,912	3,142	42,137	43,653	5,912	1,275	−244	+1,334	0	−1,867
Transportation, HUD	52,029	118,732	0	0	52,029	118,678	0	0	0	−54	0	0
Full Committee Allowance	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total	1,020,066	1,142,784	85,357	39,981	882,208	1,100,037	85,357	38,114	−137,858	−42,747	0	−1,867

Comparison of Total Appropriations and 302(a) allocation	General Purpose		GWOT	
	BA	OT	BA	OT
302(a) Allocation	1,020,066	1,142,784	85,357	39,981
Total Appropriations	882,208	1,100,037	85,357	38,114
Total Appropriations vs. 302(a) Allocation	−137,858	−42,747	0	−1,867

Memorandum	Amounts Assumed in 302(b)		Emergency Requirements		Disaster Funding		Program Integrity	
Spending in Excess of Base Budget Control Act Caps for Sec. 251(b) Designated Categories	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defense	0	0	0	75	0	0	0	0
Energy and Water Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security	6,438	322	0	0	6,438	322	0	0
Interior, Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legislative Branch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State, Foreign Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation, HUD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	6,438	322	0	75	6,438	322	0	0

[1] Spending designated as emergency is not included in the current status of appropriations shown in this table.

TABLE 5—CURRENT LEVEL OF 2015 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO H. CON. RES. 25 AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[Budget Authority in Millions]

Section 601(d)(1) Limits	2,015
Appropriate Level	55,634
Enacted Advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Department of Veterans Affairs:	
Medical Services	45,016
Medical Support and Compliance	5,880
Medical Facilities	4,739
Subtotal, enacted advances[1]	55,635
Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(1) Limit	+1
Section 601(d)(2) Limits	**2015**
Appropriate Level	28,852
Enacted Advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Payment to Postal Service	71

TABLE 5—CURRENT LEVEL OF 2015 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO H. CON. RES. 25 AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014—Continued

[Budget Authority in Millions]

Section 601(d)(1) Limits	2,015
Employment and Training Administration	1,772
Education for the Disadvantaged	10,841
School Improvement Programs	1,681
Special Education	9,283
Career, Technical and Adult Education	791
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	4,000
Project-based Rental Assistance	400
Subtotal, enacted advances[1]	28,839
Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(2) Limit	−13
Previously Enacted Advance Appropriations[2]	2,015
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	445
Total, enacted advances[1]	84,919

[1] Line items may not add to total due to rounding.
[2] Funds were appropriated in Public Law 113–6.

TABLE 6—CURRENT LEVEL OF 2016 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 115(c) OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[Budget Authority]

Section 601(d)(1) Limits	2,016
Appropriate Level	58,662,202,000
Enacted Advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Department of Veterans Affairs:	
Medical Services	0
Medical Support and Compliance	0
Medical Facilities	0
Subtotal, enacted advances[1]	0
Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(1) Limit	−58,662,202,000
Section 601(d)(2) Limits	**2016**
Appropriate Level	28,781,000,000

TABLE 6—CURRENT LEVEL OF 2016 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 115(c) OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014—Continued

[Budget Authority]

Section 601(d)(1) Limits	2,016
Enacted Advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Employment and Training Administration	0
Education for the Disadvantaged	0
School Improvement Programs	0
Special Education	0
Career, Technical and Adult Education	0
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	0
Project-based Rental Assistance	0
Subtotal, enacted advances [1]	0
Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(2) Limit	−28,781,000,000
Previously Enacted Advance Appropriations	2,016
Corporation for Public Broadcasting [2]	445,000,000
Total, enacted advances [1]	445,000,000

[1] Line items may not add to total due to rounding.
[2] Funds were appropriated in Public Law 113–76.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2014.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2014 budget and is current through November 12, 2014. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 25, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014, as approved by the House of Representatives and subsequently revised.

Since my last letter dated September 9, 2014, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following act that affects budget authority for fiscal year 2014: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113–183).

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted [a]			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,310,972
Permanents and other spending legislation [b]	1,849,079	1,778,854	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	504,662	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−707,692	−707,792	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	1,141,387	1,575,724	2,310,972
Enacted Legislation: [c]			
Authorizing Legislation:			
Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–28)	14,400	12,670	0
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–37)	−1	−1	0
Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–40)	−16	−58	0
An act to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas (P.L. 113–42)	2	2	5
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (P.L. 113–66)	66	68	0
Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013/Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–67)	−3,207	985	49
Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–79)	3,243	2,124	5
Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (P.L 113–93)	6,143	6,141	0
Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act (P.L. 113–94)	−34	0	0
Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act (P.L. 113–97)	0	0	5
An act to amend. . .the Provo River Project Transfer Act. . .and for other purposes (P.L. 113–129)	−1	−1	0
Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–159)	9,765	9,765	725
Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113–183)	15	0	0
Total, Authorizing Legislation	30,375	31,695	789
Appropriations Legislation:			
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113–46) [d]	635	635	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113–76)	1,869,637	1,421,565	0
Support for Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–95)	0	350	0
Total, Appropriations Legislation	1,870,272	1,422,550	0
Total, Enacted Legislation	1,900,647	1,454,245	789
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	−98,066	−74,546	0
Total Current Level [e]	2,943,968	2,955,423	2,311,761
Total House Resolution [f]	2,924,837	2,937,044	2,311,026
Current Level Over House Resolution	19,131	18,379	735
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a	n.a.	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2014–2023:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	31,104,656
House Resolution [g]	n.a.	n.a.	31,095,742
Current Level Over House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	8,914
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

[a] Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during last session, but before adoption of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014 (H. Con. Res. 25): an act to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the FEMA for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program (P.L. 113–1), the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113–2), the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–5), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113–6), and the Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–9).

[b] Relative to the House Current Level Report dated October 24, 2013, House Current Level has increased by $361 million in 2014 because of assumptions related to the interest on the public debt that were revised pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–67).

[c] Pursuant to section 314(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, amounts designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not count for purposes of Title III and Title IV of the Congressional Budget Act. The amounts so designated for 2014, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 (Sec. 155)	0	50	0
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Resolution, 2014 (P.L. 113–145)	225	150	0
Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–146)	15,000	450	0
Total, amounts designated as emergency requirements	15,225	650	0

[d] Sections 135 and 136 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113–46) provide $636 million for fire suppression activities, available until expended. Section 146 of the act freezes the pay of Members of Congress, which is estimated to result in a reduction in spending of $l million in 2014.

[e] For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the resolution, as approved by the House of Representatives, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

[f] Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in H. Con. Res. 25, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original House Resolution	2,769,406	2,815,079	2,270,932
Revisions:			
Pursuant to section 603 of H. Con. Res. 25	−14,089	−4,100	40,040
Adjustment for Disaster Designated Spending	6,079	230	0
Adjustment for Technical Correction to the Budget Control Act Spending Caps	549	308	0
Pursuant to section 111 of the Bipartisan Budget Act	162,892	125,527	54
Revised House Resolution	2,924,837	2,937,044	2,311,026

[g] Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the 2014–2023 revenue totals in H. Con. Res. 25, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution. The total shown in the table reflects those revisions.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2014.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2015 budget and is current through November 12, 2014. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on April 29, 2014, pursuant to section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act (Public Law 113–67).

Since my last letter dated September 9, 2014, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority or outlays for fiscal year 2015:

Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (Public Law 113–164);

Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113–183); and

IMPACT Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–185).

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2015 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH NOVEMBER 12, 2014

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted: [a]			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,533,388
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,882,631	1,805,294	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	508,261	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−735,195	−734,481	n.a.
Total, Previously Enacted	1,147,436	1,579,074	2,533,388
Enacted Legislation: [b]			
Lake Hill Administrative Site Affordable Housing Act (P.L. 113–141)	0	−2	0
Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–159)	0	−15	2,590
Emergency Afghan Allies Extension Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–160)	5	5	6
Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (P.L. 113–164) [c]	−4,705	−180	0
Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113–183)	0	10	0
IMPACT Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–185)	22	22	0
Total, Enacted Legislation	−4,678	−160	2.596
Continuing Resolution: [c]			
Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (P.L. 113–164)	1,027,857	611,709	0
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	866,768	851,071	0
Total Current Level [d]	3,037,383	3,041,694	2,535,984
Total House Resolution [e]	3,031,744	3,026,369	2,535,978
Current Level Over House Resolution	5,639	15,325	6
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2015–2024:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	31,206,465
House Resolution [f]	n.a.	n.a.	31,206,399
Current Level Over House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	66
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

[a] Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before publication in the Congressional Record of the statement of the allocations and aggregates pursuant to section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–67): the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–79), the Homeowner Food Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–89), the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act (P.L. 113–94), and the Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act (P.L. 113–97).

[b] Pursuant to section 314(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, amounts designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not count for purposes of Title III and Title IV of the Congressional Budget Act. The amounts so designated for 2015, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Resolution, 2014	0	75	0
Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–146)	−1,331	6,619	−42
Total, amounts designated as emergency requirements	−1,331	6,694	−42

[c] The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 113–146) provides funding through December 11, 2014. Sections 136 and 137 provide $88 million to respond to the Ebola virus, which is available until September 30, 2015. Section 139 rescinds funds from the Children's Health Insurance Program. Section 147 extends the authorization for the Export-Import Bank of the United States through June 30, 2015. The amounts for sections 136, 137, 139 and 147 are shown in the "Enacted Legislation" portion of this table.

[d] For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the resolution, as approved by the House of Representatives, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

[e] Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on April, 29, 2014, pursuant to section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act (Public Law 113–67):

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original House Resolution	3,025,306	3,025,032	2,533,388
Revisions:			
Adjustment for Disaster Designated Spending	6,438	322	0
Pursuant to section 115(e) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013	0	1,030	0
Adjustment for the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014	0	−15	2,590
Revised House Resolution	3,031,744	3,026,369	2,535,978

[f] Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the 2015–2024 revenue totals printed in the Congressional Record on April, 29, 2014 pursuant to section 115 of the Bipartisan Budget Act (Public Law 113–67).

JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 16, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 120 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.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

7719. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Defense Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Deletion of Text Implementing 10 U.S.C. 2323 (DFARS Case 2011-D038) (RIN: 0750-AH45) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7720. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-77; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2014-0051, Sequence 5] received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7721. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-77; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket No.: FAR 2014-0052; Sequence No. 5] received October 15, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7722. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Rehabilitation Training: Rehabilitation Long-Term Training Program — Rehabilitation Specialty Areas [Docket ID: ED-2014-OSERS-0068] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7723. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Technical Assistance on State Data Collection — IDEA Data Management Center [CFDA Number: 84.373M.] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7724. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Rehabilitation Services Administration — Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program [CFDA Number: 84.224D.] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7725. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — 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 [Docket ID: ED-2014-OSERS-0024; CFDA Number: 84.315C.] received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7726. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Technical Assistance on State Data Collection — IDEA Fiscal Data Center received November 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7727. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Violence Against Women Act [Docket ID: ED-2013-OPE-0124] (RIN: 1840-AD16) received October 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7728. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Excepted Benefits [CMS-9946-F] (RIN: 0938-AS16) received September 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7729. A letter from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report on export and reexport license requirements for integrated circuits, seismic detection systems, helicopter landing system radars, and technology for infrared up-conversion devices; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7730. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-079, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7731. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-117, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7732. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a drawdown under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, to provide immediate military assistance to the Government of Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7733. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a letter regarding commitments in the Joint Plan of Action; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7734. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on employment of U.S. citizens by certain international organizations during 2013, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276c-4; Public Law 102-138, section 181; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7735. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7736. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a formal response to the GAO report ''Combating Terrorism: U.S. Efforts in Northwest Africa Would Be Strengthened by Enhanced Program Management''; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7737. A letter from the Administrator, TSA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Administration's certification that the level of screening services and protection provided at Orlando Sanford International Airport (SFB) will be equal to or greater than the level that would be provided at the airport by TSA Transportation Security Officers; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

7738. A letter from the Chairman, National Health Care Workforce Commission, transmitting a letter regarding the National Health Care Workforce Commission; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5441. A bill to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States (Rept. 113–620). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4049. A bill to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–621, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5069. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 113–622). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5040. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Idaho County in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–623). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5162. A bill to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center'' to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–624). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3608. A bill to amend the Act of October 19, 1973, concerning taxable income to members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Rept. 113–625, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 756. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1422) to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4012) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4795) to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from November 21, 2014, through November 28, 2014 (Rept. 113–626). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committees on Ways and Means and the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3608 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4049 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 5721. A bill to amend the Defense Base Act (42 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.) to require death benefits to be paid to a deceased employee's designated beneficiary or next of kin in the case of death resulting from a war-risk hazard or act of terrorism occurring on or after September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BENISHEK (for himself and Mr. PETERS of Michigan):

H.R. 5722. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review the decisions of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation affecting cost allocation under system support resources agreements; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 5723. 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; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 5724. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide funding for the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 5725. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the individual health insurance mandate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5726. A bill to allow for energy exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. CULBERSON, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H. Res. 757. A resolution providing for authority to initiate litigation for actions by the President or other executive branch officials inconsistent with their duties under the Constitution of the United States with respect to the implementation of the immigration laws; to the Committee on Rules, 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.

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. LYNCH:

H.R. 5721.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 5722.

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

Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 3, giving Congress the Power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;''

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 5723.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 5724.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. JOLLY:

H.R. 5725.

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

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution, which reads, ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 5726.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2.

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

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 140: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 630: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 676: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 1015: Mr. FARR and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1074: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 1094: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1274: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 1507: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1652: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 1666: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 1812: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 1852: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 1981: Mr. TONKO and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 2116: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 2366: Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 2384: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 2529: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2778: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 2785: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2901: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 2918: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 3050: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 3118: Ms. HAHN, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 3133: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 3398: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 3485: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 3717: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 3747: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 3836: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 3877: Mr. KIND and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 3930: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 4226: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 4333: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 4351: Mr. NADLER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. RUNYAN.
H.R. 4427: Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4594: Mr. LABRADOR.
H.R. 4612: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 4727: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 4872: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4901: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4920: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 4963: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 5012: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 5082: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DENT, and Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 5226: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. GARCIA.
H.R. 5241: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 5267: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 5343: Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 5441: Ms. SINEMA and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5484: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 5644: Mr. TONKO, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 5656: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 5662: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 5686: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H. Res. 281: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. KIND, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. MICA, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. PETRI, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. COFFMAN.
H. Res. 536: Mr. NOLAN.
H. Res. 716: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 728: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MULVANEY, Ms. HAHN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, and Ms. CHU.
H. Res. 730: Mr. HOLT.
H. Res. 735: Mr. ROSS.
H. Res. 755: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HANNA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. VARGAS.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative MCNERNEY, or a designee, to H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray. Eternal Steward, we praise You for being with us this day, for You have embraced our Nation as a prize possession, providing us with protection when we need it most.

Sustain our lawmakers as they seek to do Your will. Empower them to see You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly this day and always. May they look to You for guidance, claiming Your promise to direct their steps. In challenging times, give them the wisdom to lift their eyes to You to receive Your grace and mercy.

Most Holy God, thank You for your love and faithfulness.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

At 5:30 p.m. the Senate will proceed to four rollcall votes in relation to the child care and development block grant bill and the Abrams, Cohen, and Ross nominations.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in that great play ''Fiddler on the Roof,'' Tevye says, among other things, and I quote: Good news will stay, and bad news will refuse to leave.

In Washington we all too often focus on the bad news that lingers instead of highlighting the many good things that are being accomplished. ObamaCare is a perfect example. The Affordable Care Act is working. Americans who have enrolled in health plans through the Affordable Care Act are happy with their coverage.

There was a very good article in newspapers all over the country today, including in the Washington Post, which I saw. In this article there is a citation of a recent Gallup survey of Americans who have coverage through ObamaCare, and the findings are very positive—and that is a gross understatement. Seventy-four percent of ObamaCare enrollees rate their coverage as good or excellent. Seventy-five percent say they are satisfied with the cost of their plans. I will repeat that. Seventy-four percent of ObamaCare enrollees rate their coverage as good or excellent, and 75 percent say they are satisfied with the cost of their plans. That is good news to me.

The Affordable Care Act is working for the American people. It is providing quality, affordable health care to families all across our country.

The Senate has a lot of work to do before the 113th Congress comes to a close. There are a few important priorities in this work period. We have to pass an extension of tax credits for American families and businesses. We have to pass the Defense authorization bill, and the President pro tempore of the Senate is concerned about extending the FISA legislation, the American freedom act. It is so important that we do these things, but also we have to fund our government. That has to be done very soon because early next month the funding expires. We have many nominations that have not been completed. Almost 200 have been held up by my Republican colleagues. John Kerry, the Secretary of State, called me and said he himself had almost 100—well, that is exaggerating a little. He had 60-some; I don't remember the exact number.

We must keep our government funded. I have been having productive bipartisan conversations with Speaker BOEHNER, the Republican leader, and Appropriations chair Senator MIKULSKI. It is clear to me that Republican leaders want to work together to keep the government funded. We have heard there are going to be no government shutdowns from the leaders, but Members of their caucuses are really saying some very scary things.

So the question is whether the Republican leaders will be able to stand up to the radical forces within their own party. It is more than just one or two people; it is a large number of Members of the Republican caucus in the Senate and, of course, the Republican caucus in the House. Can these Republican leaders stand up to these people who are intent on holding our government hostage? There has been a lot of talk the past 3 or 4 days: So we have a government shutdown; so what?

It has become increasingly clear these last few days that a number of Republicans are looking for an example to use to get their ideas—that are somewhat bizarre in the minds of most people—they are using a number of different things as an excuse: Executive action; the President is not doing enough on making sure the Iranians are held down tightly; and on and on with everything they have as an excuse to derail bipartisan legislation to fund the government.

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

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Sadly, though, we have seen this before. The government has been shut down. The government's debt has been defaulted upon. So how is it possible that there is even talk of not funding our government again by anybody? But that is what they are doing.

Just 2 weeks ago the American people sent us a very strong message: Work together. In the press conferences that followed this month's midterm elections, Republicans were saying all the right things about compromise and bipartisanship. Yet, instead of looking for common ground and working to compromise, some of these Republicans are more interested in threats and ultimatums. Why? Because these radical Republicans object to President Obama using his constitutionally established authority to do what President Ronald Reagan and both George Bushes have done—fix as much of the system as he can to protect families suffering under the broken immigration system. Going back to Dwight D. Eisenhower, every President since then has used Executive authority to fix America's immigration system—every President, Republicans and Democrats. For the Republicans to take issue with President Obama for doing the same thing is hypocritical. Why didn't they complain when the two Bush Presidents did things administratively? Why?

I hope Republicans in Congress will object to this brinkmanship. A scorched-earth policy is no way to go. Instead, responsible leaders in the Republican Party need to work with us to complete the business of funding our government regardless of when the President acts to keep families together.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the distinguished majority leader yield for an observation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Will the majority leader yield to the Senator from Vermont for a question?

Mr. REID. I yield to the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as long as I have served in the Senate—and I have served the longest in this body—I have never seen a time when noncontroversial nominations were being held up, whether we have had a Republican or Democratic President. I would note for the majority leader that we have on the calendar 18 nominees for Federal judgeships that passed unanimously. Every Republican and every Democrat in the Judiciary Committee voted for them. Many of them were recommended by Republican Senators and four of them for judicial emergencies. The oldest one has been pending since June, having gone through the committee unanimously. This is not being responsible to the American people.

The distinguished majority leader talked about the use of Executive orders. Concerns have been expressed by the other side about Executive orders on immigration. I would remind everybody that this body by a 2-to-1 margin—Republicans and Democrats joined together last year to pass a comprehensive immigration bill which covered everything from the people on the borders to those who were already in this country. The Republican leadership in the House has refused to take it up. They complain about the President 1½ years later—during all this time that has passed between the Republican and Democratic votes here, they have refused to take it up. Yet they complain that the President is going to do something.

I say bring it up and vote yes or vote no. Stop this ''we will vote maybe.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. To the President pro tempore of the Senate, if the Speaker of the House of Representatives, JOHN BOEHNER, brought up the bill that passed here in the Senate, it would pass overwhelmingly in the House. Virtually every Democrat would vote for it, and I suggest that probably half of the Republicans would vote for it. He won't allow a vote. What is this about? It is beyond my ability to comprehend how they are willing to do everything they can to stop this President from doing what Presidents have done since Dwight Eisenhower.

I would also say this: We have gotten some judges done. That is because we changed the rules to do the outlandish thing of having a majority of the Senate determine whether someone should be confirmed.

If we look at the Constitution of the United States, the people who drafted that Constitution were very smart. We know a number of them were geniuses. And they were very precise in what they wanted to have supermajority votes on. On judges they didn't want supermajority votes but a simple majority of this body, and that is what we did in changing the rules.

But I say to my friend, in spite of that, we have been able to get a lot of judges done, we are going to wind up—by the time the Judiciary Committee continues to do the good work they do, we will probably have over 20 judges who need to be approved this Congress. Postcloture, under the rules we have, there is only 1 hour of time that can be used, so we can get through the judges very quickly. For sub-Cabinet officers it takes 8 hours, and we are normally willing to yield back our time, so 4 hours on every one of those.

We have scores—we are approaching, counting judges and all of the nominations, well over 150 who have been held up, people who have been waiting and waiting. These are jobs that are needed in our country; these are not new positions we have created.

So I would hope we can get past the bitterness that has been created in this body and get the nominations done. There is no reason a judge-to-be should have to wait for all this time, as the Senator from Vermont has indicated, just to get a vote. Whatever he is doing now has been put on hold, and this is throughout the whole government.

So I would hope we can get a lot of these done. If not, we are going to have to spend a lot of time here because we cannot leave this Congress with all these things undone. I hope we can work together, as I have indicated.

REMEMBERING HOWARD GREENE, JR.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to say one thing while my friend is on the floor.

When I came to the Senate, my friend from Vermont had already been here a dozen years. I remember—and I know he does—a man who had been the secretary for the majority and the secretary for the minority who controlled the staff of the Republicans. The Senator remembers Howard Greene—a guy who did not smoke a cigar, he just chewed on it all the time; he chewed on his cigar. That is when the rules were not nearly as strict as they are now about smoking.

Howard Greene was so nice to me as a new Senator. He had a lot of authority. For over three decades he was a recognizable person here on the Senate floor. In fact, specifically, for 28 years he held many positions, including as a doorkeeper, as a cloakroom assistant. He was, as I just indicated, both secretary for the minority and secretary for the majority.

Howard finished his distinguished career as the Sergeant at Arms. He retired in 1996.

I offer my condolences to Howard Greene's family and loved ones during this difficult time. Although it is of little consolation, I hope they know how grateful we are for Howard's many years of sacrifice to this body. He will be greatly missed, and he was very kind and thoughtful to me as a new Senator.

I say to my friend, you do remember Howard Greene?

Mr. LEAHY. I do.

Mr. REID. I thank the Presiding Officer.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF HOWARD O. GREENE, JR.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this afternoon I wish to say a word about Howard Greene, whose passing we mourn today.

Howard was a leading figure here in the Senate for many years. I know Members of both parties remember his time here with fondness, even though he retired from the Senate nearly two decades ago. And I think that says a lot about Howard.

He began his service here modestly enough as a doorkeeper right outside this Chamber. The year was 1968. Howard was 26, a student at the University of Maryland. He originally intended to become a history teacher, but over time his ambitions changed, from wanting to teach about history to wanting to help shape it—and what a lucky break for the Senate.

His considerable talents were soon put to work in the Republican cloakroom. It was a big promotion, even if Howard had to first explain to his mother that working in the cloakroom didn't mean he would be hanging up people's coats.

Howard quickly gained the confidence of Senators as he rose rapidly through the ranks. His deep institutional knowledge, strong work ethic, honesty, and sense of humor were appreciated by those who worked with him, and his talents were essential for the many who relied upon him.

After the Reagan landslide of 1980, Howard put his institutional knowledge to work as secretary of the new Republican majority. After so many years out of power, it was a challenging task, but he was up to it.

All told, Howard would serve the institution he loved for more than 28 years, working under Republican leaders such as Howard Baker and Bob Dole, until stepping down from his final position of Sergeant at Arms in 1996.

Senators from both parties had a lot of nice things to say about him back then. The late Senator from Alaska, Ted Stevens, said it could seem like Howard had a crystal ball when it came to counting votes and predicting outcomes, and he praised him for his ''careful analysis, knowledge of the issues, understanding of the Members, and . . . hard work'' that often made his forecasts correct.

Senator David Pryor from Arkansas, a Democrat, noted that Howard ''respected and served and answered to not only the Senators on . . . [the Republican] side of the aisle,'' but to the Members on his side as well.

It is clear that this man from Lewes, DE, had uncommon talent and ability. We are grateful he chose to share it with us for so many years. We honor him for it today, and we send our sincerest condolences to his family in this difficult time.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 579, submitted earlier today; further, that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 579) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

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

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

CCDBG PROGRAM

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I come to the floor today because in just a little over 2 hours we are going to take up the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. Let me explain what that is.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Program was created in 1990 to provide a voucher to meet the childcare needs of families at risk of having to make the decision that one or both parents couldn't work because childcare had such a tremendous expense with it. We wanted those parents to be able to participate in the productive part of our economy and society.

I can honestly say this is one of the most successful programs Congress has ever produced. The program, as is the case with every bill, is required to be reauthorized after a certain period of time. It was started in 1995—I might add the year I got here—and it was reauthorized in 1996. This was the last time this bill was ever reauthorized.

Now, let me point out that authorization and funding are two different things. These vouchers have existed in the system but Congress has not reauthorized the program; therefore, we haven't changed the program since 1996. I ask my colleagues to stop for a moment and think about how society has changed since 1996. The world has changed since 1996. Things we took for granted in 1996 we need proof of today. Things we didn't worry about in 1996 we worry about today. Let me suggest that childcare is no different. There is still a need for some type of vouchers for families who are on the bubble, and I dare say that childcare has gotten incredibly expensive since 1996.

I rise today to congratulate this body because this afternoon, in just under 2 hours, we are going to pass the first reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant program since 1996. I will be really very honest; it wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for my partner in this endeavor, BARBARA MIKULSKI. Senator MIKULSKI has been tenacious. She has stood by my side, and she has told me when she didn't think we should move forward, because as easy and as common sense as it sounds, it has been really difficult to get to this point. This has been a 3-year process. So for those who criticize Congress, let me assure those people, we have touched every base we can touch.

Several years ago, while we served as chair and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Children and Families, Senator MIKULSKI and I promised at that time to address the shortcomings in the CCDBG Program so that children could attend childcare and their families could expect a healthy setting that fostered their development.

Now, for years, we have heard stories about abuse and neglect in many childcare settings—stories that continue to break my heart and, I think, break the heart of every American. We saw numerous inspector general reports that documented unsafe conditions where children were neglected and Federal tax dollars were misused.

Let me stop here and say this. Everything we do in this bill only applies to a childcare facility that accepts CCDBG money. They can be private institutions. They can be faith-based institutions. Their construction can be a combination of all of the above. If they accept one penny of CCDBG money, they are now required to meet the quality standards and safety standards we set in this bill. Now, in North Carolina, that covers practically every childcare facility. But in every State they don't go to the lengths we do in North Carolina nor that we go to in this piece of legislation. I hope my colleagues will go back to the States they hail from, and they will suggest that things such as background checks for workers at a childcare facility is common sense. To say to a parent who is dropping off a young child, whether the Federal Government subsidized with a voucher or not—that parent should feel 100-percent confident that the worker there is not a convicted felon, that they are not a drug addict, that they have passed the minimal background check that most of us would think is common sense.

I might also take the opportunity to stop and say to the Presiding Officer, who represents Virginia, you might think—gosh, this is a financial burden on all childcare centers. No, this is a $15 investment in the safety of every child who is housed in their facility.

For a program that in many States represents almost all the funding used for childcare subsidies, Senator MIKULSKI and I knew it was an obligation to act to reauthorize this law so appropriate boundaries were put in place. To continue to ignore these realities would have allowed Federal dollars to keep funding abuse, waste—taxpayers, parents, and children deserved our action.

Since then, between the two of us and our staffs, we have held four HELP Committee hearings. We have 236 hours of negotiations. We have dozens of meetings with 44 advocacy organizations supporting this legislation. The Senate had 18 amendments considered and voted on in this institution, the Senate, back in March when the legislation passed this body of Congress 96 to 2. That was March.

We are here today because the House changed the bill a little bit with our blessings, and this afternoon we are going to take up passage of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014.

My hope is this is going to be a unanimous vote by the Senate.

Bringing the HELP Committee together, as the Presiding Officer knows, is very difficult because of the diverse ideology of the makeup of members on the HELP Committee.

It is no small feat we have gotten to this point, and we hold together the support of people who look at the world a little bit differently than I do and may geographically come from a different area than I do.

I wish to publicly say thank you to Chairman HARKIN, Ranking Member ALEXANDER, Ranking Member ENZI before that, because if it wasn't for the leadership on the full committee, Senator MIKULSKI and I would not have had the opportunity to mark it up in committee, to pass it on the Senate floor, to work with the House, and now to have a bill back.

As I conclude, let me just say for the 1.7 million children served nationally by CCDBG and the 80,000 served in my State of North Carolina, safe and quality childcare will now be a priority, ensuring working parents trying to better their lives and those of their children will feel safe using their Federal vouchers.

In short, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this legislation. We waited way too long since 1996 to make the commonsense changes that provide safety and quality in the childcare that we, the taxpayers, provide to those families on the bubble.

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

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

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Only a few years ago a prominent Democrat firmly and unequivocally rejected the idea that the President of the United States could singlehandedly enact an amnesty for millions of immigrants who entered the country without legal authorization. In 2011, for example, this same person reminded us that ''there are laws on the books that Congress has passed'' and that therefore it should not be permissible for the President to ''suspend deportations through executive order.'' Then in 2013 this same individual noted that granting a unilateral amnesty for adults who came to the United States illegally was ''not an option'' because it would amount to ''ignoring the law.'' A few months later this same individual was speaking at an immigration event and was interrupted by a heckler who urged him to stop the deportations by Executive fiat. In response, he said:

> If in fact I could solve all of these problems without passing laws in Congress, then I would do so. But we are also a nation of laws. That is part of our tradition.

Of course, you might have guessed who that person was. It was President Barack Obama on numerous different occasions in the past few years saying he did not have the authority to issue a unilateral Executive order granting, in effect, a right to waive the law with regard to illegal immigration. I have to say that our President has a preternatural ability to say one thing and then do another—the opposite.

Now the President is threatening to authorize exactly the type of action he previously said he did not have the authority to order, and he is threatening to do so even after his go-it-alone approach on immigration and so many other issues was so roundly repudiated in this most recent election on November 4. In other words, he is showing contempt for the Constitution, for the voters, and basically anyone who disagrees with him. It is the classic ''my way or the highway'' approach.

According to press reports, he will act as early as this week and he will unilaterally grant work permits. Under what authority—I have no idea how he can legislate authority to grant work permits for people who illegally entered the country, but he said, apparently, he is going to try. These are the kinds of maneuvers we would expect to see from tin-pot dictators and banana republics, not from the Commander in Chief and the Chief Executive of the world's greatest democracy.

Apparently the President now thinks that he and, I assume by precedent, any future President can simply ignore the laws that he finds inconvenient, that ''if Congress hasn't passed the law, that is a good enough excuse for me to go it alone and do it my way,'' go around it, go against the will of Congress and the American people. This is a dangerous precedent, I hope the President recognizes. If after the next election a President of the other party—my party—is elected, won't this be viewed as a precedent which has been established by this President which could be used on everything from taxes, to regulation, to ObamaCare—you name it. But that is not how our Constitution is written. That is not what the separation of powers doctrine—which is an essential element of our Constitution—provides. Even the Washington Post—not known as being a bastion of conservative thought—has said that failing to get his way in Congress does not ''grant the president license to tear up the Constitution.''

Unfortunately, the President has shown that he has very little patience with constitutional safeguards, especially when they hamper his agenda or complicate his political needs. After all, this is the same President who has unilaterally rewritten ObamaCare by granting extensions, waivers, and the like and who has unilaterally gutted welfare reform and who has made blatantly unconstitutional appointments to the Federal bureaucracy and to the Federal judiciary, only to be corrected by the courts.

For that matter, the President has already made a number of unilateral changes in U.S. immigration policy with disastrous results. We have seen literally thousands of convicted criminals released from U.S. custody, including those with violent records. And, of course, it wasn't that long ago that we saw what had been called a genuine humanitarian crisis unfold along the southern border in my State as tens of thousands of Central American children made a treacherous journey in order to cross illegally into the United States and take advantage of a loophole in a 2008 law that we tried to correct but couldn't even get a vote on it in the Senate.

At the height of the crisis in early June, the New York Times told the story of a 13-year-old Honduran boy who was detained in Mexico while trying to reach the U.S. border, and his story was pretty typical of what we heard from many people. The Department of Homeland Security conducted interviews with many of the immigrants who came across at that time. ''Like so many others across Central America,'' the Times reported, this boy ''said his mother believed that the Obama administration had quietly changed its policy regarding unaccompanied minors and that if he made it across, he would have a better shot at staying.''

In other words, the impression that we are not going to enforce our law is a magnet.

I have no idea how this unilateral action by the President will be interpreted—granting legal status presumably to millions of people by the swipe of his pen. Will that be viewed as a green light for people who want to come to the United States from all around the world, saying: Well, if I can just get to the United States, President Obama will let me stay too.

About 1 week later the Washington Post confirmed that the influx of unaccompanied Central American children is ''being driven in large part by the perception they will be allowed to stay under the Obama administration's immigration policies.''

I mention these stories because they highlight the all-to-predictable consequences of failing to enforce U.S. immigration law.

So much of law enforcement is the deterrent value—in other words, stopping people from breaking the law in the first instance, not just catching them after they actually break it. And sending the message ''Get here if you can, and you might too be one of the ones who win the lucky immigration lottery and get to stay in the United States'' is a huge magnet for illegal immigration and it undermines—indeed, it guts the deterrent value of enforcing the law. And for what? The President reportedly, unless he rethinks this misguided strategy, will provide some form of temporary relief that will not even be able to be implemented before he leaves office in 2 years, with uncertainty for these immigrants and their families as to what is going to happen beyond.

How he is drawing the line is beyond me. I read that apparently the reports that have been dribbled out in the press—and, of course, this town is famous for intentional leaks to sort of issue trial balloons to see how people are going to react. Well, if the trial balloons are correct, if the stories are correct, the President's order will cover roughly 40 percent of the people here in violation of our immigration laws—40 percent. So why did he decide to stop at 40 percent and not do 60 percent or 80 percent or 100 percent? What about the people who have been waiting patiently in line, complying with our immigration laws? To have these other millions of people jump ahead of them and be given some form of legal status is not fair to them, and it certainly doesn't encourage people's compliance with the rules or the law.

Then we have to look at who benefits the most. And I am not talking about the immigrants; I am talking about the criminal organizations. This is part of how they operate and their business model. Such criminal organizations will be the biggest beneficiaries of the President's Executive order, which would make it even harder for our friends in Mexico to reduce violence and uphold the rule of law. It would be like a pipeline of additional money and resources into the cartels. And the cartels don't care whether they traffic in children, whether they traffic in drugs or weapons. That is how they make money. That is why they exist. That is what they do. And this ill-advised action by the President would do nothing but ensure that a pipeline of money will continue to flow into these criminal organizations.

Time magazine reported:

Cartels control most of Mexico's smuggling networks through which victims are moved, while they also take money from pimps and brothels operating in their territories.

Yet, again, President Obama just doesn't seem to care.

He also doesn't seem to care that his Executive action would harm our opportunity to reform our broken legal immigration system. Republicans and Democrats alike have ideas for how to reform our immigration system, and many of them have bipartisan support. We do know that a comprehensive bill—we have tried to pass one of those for 10 years, and it hasn't worked, so it makes sense to me to try to break it down into smaller pieces and try to build consensus for those, get them across the floor of the House and the Senate and on the President's desk—even on a controversial subject such as immigration. Yet the President has now appeared to decide to trample the normal legislative process and to do immigration policy by fiat.

What about the 60 percent who won't be covered by his Executive order? They don't get any relief under his Executive order. They are going to need to look to Congress to know what the rules are.

So in the President's desperate attempt to placate some very vocal activist groups and to make up for years of hollow promises, he has decided to flout the rule of law and end up making real immigration reform that much harder to pass.

I saw a Congressman from South Carolina, TREY GOWDY, who said: During the first 2 years the President had 60 Democrats in the Senate and controlled the House of Representatives. If immigration reform was such a priority for the President, why didn't he do that?

Well, don't just take my word for it that this will make our job much more difficult.

The junior Senator from Maine, an Independent but a Member of the Democratic caucus, said of the President's Executive amnesty: I think it will create a backlash in the country that could actually set the cause back and inflame our politics in a way that I don't think will be conducive to solving the problem.

I mentioned a moment ago that the results of this anticipated action are all too predictable. So I would ask the President: Why in the world would you want to encourage children to make one of the most dangerous journeys from Central America through Mexico and be subject to the tender mercies of these cartels, which care nothing about them? Why on Earth would you want to establish yet another big incentive for people to enter our country illegally? And why on Earth would you want to help contribute to yet another humanitarian crisis on the Texas-Mexico border?

I would urge the President, in the strongest of terms, to respect the rule of law and the democratic process and to give the new Congress that will convene in January a chance to do our job. I don't underestimate the difficulty of dealing with our broken immigration system, but I don't think we have a choice. We do not have a choice. We must. And it will not be something I will like 100 percent; it won't be something any Senator or Congressman will like 100 percent. But that shouldn't cause us to shrink from our duty.

If the President is actually interested in having his last 2 years in office be more productive than simply a lame-duck session, he needs to work with the Congress rather than go around Congress. I urge him to put the Constitution ahead of his campaign promises and to consider the likely human cost in Mexico and elsewhere of such a lawless policy change.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, a parliamentary inquiry: What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to speak on a legislative matter on which we will be voting later on this evening. I yield myself 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

CCDBG REAUTHORIZATION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, in a few minutes we will be voting on the child care and development block grant reauthorization bill. I am here to urge my colleagues to vote for final passage.

This bill is authored by myself, working shoulder to shoulder with Senator RICHARD BURR of North Carolina, under our chair and ranking member, Senators HARKIN and ALEXANDER.

On this bill we showed that we can actually work together to get things done. We worked across the aisle and across the dome with our counterparts in the House. Today we have an opportunity to pass a bill that will actually help American families with one of the biggest challenges they face—affordable childcare.

Everywhere I go in Maryland I hear young mothers and not-so-young mothers and grandmothers and actually dads saying that we need childcare that is affordable, accessible, reliable, and safe. This Child Care and Development Block Grant Act will meet those compelling human needs. It focuses on families of modest means—parents who want to work or get ready for work by going to school but can't afford childcare.

I wish to take a second to talk about the process and where we stand. This is

a bipartisan bill. It is the result of more than 2 years of work, three hearings on the HELP Committee, hundreds of meetings of stakeholders. The House unanimously passed the bill, and last week the Senate voted 96 to 1 on a cloture vote. It is time now to take the bill over the finish line and vote tonight.

This bill began in 1990, when we created the childcare program as part of our first step towards welfare reform. Eligible families received vouchers to pay for childcare of their choice, whether it is a large daycare center, a small in-home daycare center or faith-based.

This program is important because childcare for parents is significantly expensive. Childcare is the highest household expense faced by dual-income families. The average childcare for two children is about $15,000 a year. In some places that is tuition at a prep school—$15,000 to $20,000 a year. It is expensive whether you are a two-parent household or a single-parent household. For middle-class families it is really tough, and for those earning the minimum wage it is out of reach, and the costs keep increasing.

Last year, the cost of childcare actually grew eight times faster than the average family income. It is not that childcare alone increased, but of course we believe family income has been stagnant for 8 years. So we have to do something about raising the income as well as raising childcare standards and the ability to provide childcare.

Childcare is important because it helps people. In my own State this bill will give parents the kind of childcare vouchers needed, helping 1.5 million children be able to have childcare. In my own home State of Maryland this bill will help as many as 19,000 families get childcare. This is really a pretty big deal. In Maryland, childcare costs about $13,000 a year.

I held roundtables across the State. I sat in classrooms, at conference tables, and meetings listening in Baltimore County and Allegany County. I heard from parents struggling to pay childcare in this age of scrimp and save. I have heard from teachers worried about children not being prepared for a lifetime of learning. I heard from the American Academy of Pediatrics that is concerned about children staying healthy. I heard from the good folks at the Maryland Family Network, who are worried about quality, safety, and the certification of childcare.

I believe that many of the best ideas and recommendations come from the people, so I brought those ideas to Washington and sat down across the table with my colleague Senator RICHARD BURR to really talk about these issues and how we could hammer out a bill that was affordable to the taxpayer and yet reliable for parents.

One size doesn't fit all when it comes to our kids. What I heard over and over again were concerns about availability, about quality, and also affordability. My bill—the Mikulski, Burr, Harkin, Alexander or whatever order we can put it in—makes childcare better. It makes it safer, it makes it more reliable, and it also focuses on helping children to be school-ready, to be learning-ready.

It requires, first of all, in terms of safety, comprehensive background checks. Only 13 States require comprehensive background checks for childcare providers. We require more background checks for mall security guards than we do for our own children. This is unacceptable. Parents deserve peace of mind knowing that their children are safe from anyone who could possibly have a criminal record. Under our bill, 50 States will be required to do this.

It also strengthens health and safety standards. Listening to both concerned parents and the American Academy of Pediatrics, we will have health and safety standards. Childcare providers will be trained in first aid and CPR, in the prevention of sudden infant death syndrome, and also how to respond to food allergies. This is big. Our children come and some of those little guys and girls really have some significant health challenges.

It also requires inspection of facilities. Currently, many States do not require inspection of all childcare facilities. The Washington Post recently found that 43 children have died since 2004 in unregulated childcare centers in Virginia. We have now corrected that where facilities will actually be inspected to make sure they are safe. It also will make sure that inspectors will be looking for anything that presents a danger to a child—an unsecured swimming pool, unsafe sleeping arrangements, and fire hazards. It will improve reliability and stability of care.

Now, we really focused on improving quality of child care. What that means is we have significant sums, which means that States have to invest in training and professional development of childcare workers. It also will evaluate what is working and what isn't. We developed an improved quality rating system to give parents—the consumer—information to pick the right care.

This bill will provide vouchers to people who are at the minimum wage or lower. In my own State, to qualify for this type of voucher subsidy, it is income-based. In Maryland, for a family of two to be eligible for the CCDBG, their incomes cannot exceed $24,000. A family of four cannot have an income that exceeds $35,700. The children must be less than 13 years old, and the children must live with parents who are working or enrolled in an education program that is leading to a job.

This is really good. But this bill—as good as it is—it is only the first step in childcare. It can't be the only step. So while we are looking for how to help parents be able to work, particularly those at the minimum-wage level, we have to be able to look also at our middle-class families. That is why I was happy to join Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND in introducing the childcare tax deduction bill, S. 1975. This bill would allow all families to deduct the cost of childcare as a business expense. Imagine that—to actually be able to do this. So many women in the middle class also find that the cost of childcare is so expensive. With this bill families can deduct up to $14,000 in child care expenses from the amount of taxes they owe. We have to show that we are on the side of families, that we are on the side of the middle class, by offering a substantial tax deduction for childcare; and we have to show that we are on the side of the people who want to be middle class, who are working harder, going to school to be able to move ahead and move into that middle class, and that they have the childcare bill. This legislation, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, will make a significant step forward. I urge my colleagues to help and support this.

When I worked on this bill, to me it is not about numbers and statistics—19,000 or 1 million children or so on. It is about people in my own home State—whether it is the single mom in Baltimore County who, due to some major changes, found that she was needing to work full time instead of part time but was barely above the minimum wage. She wondered how she was going to have that job at the minimum wage but have childcare that was safe. When she went to the department of social services, she found a childcare subsidy that could help her be able to work today, have her children in daycare today, and lay the groundwork for a better job tomorrow.

Then there was Theresa, a single mom in Prince George's County. She has four children. They were enrolled in a childcare program while she worked in another. She was making $23,000 a year—again, below the minimum wage. Thanks to the voucher program, she was able to provide her children with childcare, actually work in the field, and begin to get the kind of training that could enable her to move on up to being a childcare worker.

It is about these people who want their child to be safe and secure. They want to make sure they are going to do the best and be able to continue to work in our society, make sure their children are taken care of, and also that we are able to provide this important step.

I hope we pass this bill tonight. I also hope that we develop a comprehensive childcare approach so that we are helping those at the minimum wage and slightly above tonight, but we also want to be able to help the middle class.

Remember what our goal is. We need to focus on the day-to-day needs of our constituents. What does that mean in terms of national policy? What we need to look at is for those who are middle class—through their hard work, their

education and determination, however they get to be there—that they have a government and a Tax Code on their side, and for those who are trying to get to the middle class, that they have an opportunity ladder and the self-help tools that enable them to move ahead.

I really hope my colleagues vote for this bill and we move it to the President's desk for signature.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a CCDBG fact sheet be printed in the RECORD.

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

CCDBG FACT SHEET

S. 1086—THE CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CCDBG) ACT OF 2014

The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014

This bipartisan bill (S. 1086) was introduced by Senators Mikulski, Burr, Harkin, and Alexander. It reauthorizes, refreshes, reforms, and revitalizes the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program.

What the CCDBG Program Does

The CCDBG program was first signed into law by President George H.W. Bush in 1990 to assist working families with the cost of providing child care. It has not been reauthorized since 1996.

CCDBG is the primary source of federal funding for child care assistance. CCDBG is administered to states in formula block grants. States use the funding to help low-income families gain access to quality, affordable child care and after-school programs while parents work, train for work, or attend school. Assistance is administered through vouchers or certificates, which can be used by parents for the provider or program of their choice—whether in a family child care home, with a relative or friend, or in a child care center.

Who the CCDBG Program Serves

CCDBG serves more than 1.6 million children every month.

Eligibility Requirements for CCDBG Assistance

There are certain requirements that must be met for families to be eligible for CCDBG assistance:

Family income cannot exceed 85% of the state median (states have flexibility to adopt income eligibility limits below this federal maximum, and generally do)

Example: In MD, for a family of two to be eligible for CCDBG funds, their annual income cannot exceed $24,277; a family of four cannot have an income that exceeds $35,702

Kids must be less than 13 years old

Kids must live with parents who are working, enrolled in school/training, or be in need of protective services

Amount of Subsidy

The CCDBG program generally requires that families contribute to the cost of care on a sliding fee scale basis. Federal regulations do allow states to waive child care fees for families with incomes at or below poverty guidelines. HHS has suggested that a family's fee should be no more than 10% of its income.

In FYI2, the average monthly subsidy paid to a family with an infant younger than 1 year was $467. The average monthly subsidy paid to a family with a child between the age of 5–6 years of age was $365.

Funding Level for the CCDBG Program

In the FY14 omnibus, the CCDBG program was funded at $2.36 billion. This is an increase of $154 million above FY13. This funding increase will ensure 22,000 additional children will receive child care assistance.

In addition to discretionary funding, mandatory funding exists for child care subsidies (authorized in Social Security Act). In FY14, there were $2.9 billion in mandatory funds—for a total of approximately $5.3 billion for child care subsidies.

Cost of Child Care

Child care is the highest household expense faced by dual income households, averaging $14,872 a year for 2 kids.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I want to speak in support of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, the bill that is before us. It has taken us a long time to get to this point. I cannot be more pleased that we are on the verge of sending this legislation to the President for his signature.

We know—we know—that learning begins at birth and the preparation for education begins even before birth. That is why I am very excited about my committee's bill to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. This bill will lead to important reforms and improvements to the early care and education of our Nation's children.

This bipartisan legislation is also a big win for working families. It helps make it possible for over 1.5 million kids to receive quality childcare every month. The last time we reauthorized the child care block grant was 1996. When we did that, childcare was seen principally as a work support activity and only incidentally as something that could have a great impact on the development of children. Today, backed by impressive scientific research, we know that childcare settings can and should be much more. In addition to providing critical work support for the parents, early childhood settings are now widely recognized as a rich early learning opportunity for all children.

So it is not just childcare—we are taking care and watching them so they don't get in trouble—it is now childcare that is part of the learning process. As I said, it begins at birth and even before birth. Because much of a child's intellect and skills development begin before he or she begins kindergarten, we need to give all children every opportunity to reach their full potential at this early stage. This means supporting access to high-quality early learning programs, including high-quality childcare. That is why reauthorizing the child care development block grant with the array of reforms and improvements is so important.

This bill contains many commonsense improvements to a program that hasn't been reauthorized, as I said, since 1996. That is nearly a whole generation. We have improved the health and safety requirements by asking States to increase the amount of funding they set aside to serve infants and toddlers. We require pre-service training and ongoing professional development for childcare workers. We ask that States inspect childcare providers at least once a year—hopefully more, but at least once a year.

I am particularly excited about the set-aside that we have in the bill to improve access to and quality of care for infants and toddlers. This is something I included for several years in my appropriations subcommittee bill, and I am pleased that it is now an important component of this reauthorization. These are the kinds of commonsense, research-based activities and services that any parent would want for their child, and they deserve it. That is why I am so pleased we are now on the cusp of passing this important reauthorization.

I should note that this legislation passed the Senate in March of this year by a vote of 96 to 2, and after a few changes by the House, it passed that Chamber by acclamation in September. I believe we had the cloture vote last week, and even then I think there was only one vote against it.

I encourage every Member of the Senate to vote in favor of final passage and finally get this bill to the President's desk.

I wish to especially thank Senators MIKULSKI and BURR—two members of our committee and the original sponsors of this legislation—for their persistence and commitment in getting this bill done.

I would also like to thank many of the staff for their years of work on this legislation.

I would like to thank Brent Palmer and Jessica McNiece of Senator MIKULSKI's staff; David Cleary, Peter Oppenheim, and Patrick Murray of Senator ALEXANDER's staff; Chris Toppings and Celia Simms of Senator BURR's staff.

I would like to thank current and past members of my staff: Pam Smith, Derek Miller, Mildred Otero, and Mario Cardona. Of course, I also wish to thank our HELP Committee's ranking member Senator ALEXANDER for his key role in reauthorizing this vital program. And my debt of gratitude to Senator ALEXANDER extends far beyond this particular bill.

This will likely be the last bill originating in the HELP Committee to see floor time in this Congress, and thus, this is the last bill that will come to the Senate floor out of the committee I so proudly chair.

I wish to take this opportunity to express not only my gratitude to Senator ALEXANDER but my respect and admiration for the senior Senator from Tennessee. In the new Congress in January, Senator ALEXANDER will assume

the chairmanship of this HELP Committee, and I know this important committee will be in very able hands.

Throughout my 30 years in the Senate, I have been blessed to share many excellent working relationships with Republican colleagues, both when I served as chair or ranking member on various committees. Senator Arlen Specter was my partner for many years on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. In fact, from 1989 until the day he left the Senate, Senator Specter and I were either chair or ranking member of that important Appropriations subcommittee.

I had great relationships on the agriculture committee with Senator Dick Lugar, Senator THAD COCHRAN, and Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS. Since 2009, as chair of the HELP Committee, I have enjoyed very productive relationships, first with Senator MIKE ENZI, who had been both the chair and then ranking member of that committee, and more recently with Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, with whom I have worked on CCDBG—the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program that we are now authorizing.

In fact, I am proud to note that when this bill is signed into law by the President, this will be the 21st HELP Committee bill enacted into law in this Congress. In a Congress that has been criticized, rightfully or wrongfully, for its lack of productivity, Senator ALEXANDER and I have forged a partnership that has enabled us to chart a different course—a course of bipartisan productiveness. To cite several examples, we worked together to pass major legislation to revamp and modernize America's job training system, overhaul and improve America's food safety system, improve drug safety and speed the approval of potentially lifesaving drugs—so 21 bills.

Someone said that our committee really represents probably one of the widest spectrums ideologically in the Senate—both from very conservative to very progressive on our committee. Yet we forged these relationships to get things done. Now, just because these relationships have helped us to get these bills through, it doesn't mean that we always agreed on everything.

The fact is our disagreements have been oftentimes and vigorous. After all, I am a proud progressive and Senator ALEXANDER is a proud conservative, but our disagreements have never been personal and they were never the last word. We have consistently sought areas of agreement, and more often than not, we found them. As a result, we have forged a remarkable record of accomplishment in the HELP Committee with 21 bills in 2 years signed into law.

More importantly, we have accomplished big things for the American people. Thanks to legislation passed by our committee, lives will be improved and lives will be saved. Drugs will be approved faster and they will be safer. Workers will have access to quality job training and retraining opportunities, including young people with disabilities who will now have provisions to support them in school to get them ready for competitive, integrated employment or for higher education or for technical education, which they have not really had before. That is one big part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that we passed that not too many people know about. So from now on, kids in school who have an IEP—an Individualized Education Program—will now have internships, summer jobs, and job coaching that will, again, raise their expectations and hope of what they can do. They will be able to visit colleges and have college internships or college support systems, which they have never had before, to enable them to seek a higher education or perhaps to go to community colleges. Those are a few of the things we have done on our committee. Soon, with this bill, babies and kids across the country will have better access to safe, high quality, and affordable care.

It has been with great pride that I have been chair of this HELP Committee. I still think it is the best committee in the Congress. I remember once Dan Inouye—Senator Inouye—said that I chaired the committee that helped define America. He chaired the committee that defended America, but I chaired the committee that defined America. I would like to think of the HELP Committee as doing that—an America where every kid has the possibility of going up that ladder or ramp of opportunity no matter the circumstances of his or her birth, where health care is a right and not a privilege, where everyone will have affordable health care coverage.

This committee has even helped those who have fallen off of that ladder of opportunity because of an illness or injury to get back on it with job retraining and support services. This committee has ensured that every person with a disability—either through an accident or through birth or illness—can have a full and meaningful and productive life. Our elderly know they are going to have the kind of support systems that will enable them to also be productive in their retirement years—in their golden years, as they say.

The Labor, Education, Health, and Pensions Committee covers a broad array of how we define America as a caring, compassionate, and productive society. It has been a challenge, but it has also been a great honor and privilege to chair this committee.

As I leave, I can say we are fortunate to have someone of Senator ALEXANDER's depth and breadth of experience. In fact, he has been the Secretary of Education, Governor of Tennessee, and President of the University of Tennessee. He is well qualified, and I know he will do a great job in leading this committee in the future.

I wish to thank all of my committee members, but especially Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER from Tennessee, and let him know on the record how much I valued our collaboration and how much I benefited from his counsel and his wisdom.

I urge all Senators to support this new reauthorization—the first time since 1996—of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program.

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

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I see my distinguished friend the Senator from Iowa on the floor. I am here, very simply, to say that we are about to vote on the Child Care and Development Block Grant, a piece of legislation that would provide childcare to 1.5 million children so that their mothers can work or continue their education or training.

I have repeated on this floor several times the story of a young woman in Memphis, TN, who attended LeMoyne-Owen College and received about $500 a month to pay for childcare for her child so she could get her degree. She then graduated from LeMoyne-Owen with a business degree and was able to work her way up to the position of assistant manager at a local Walmart. The block grant helped her be able to continue her education and obtain a good job so that she can now pay for the childcare costs of her second child on her own.

This bill has strong support on both sides of the aisle, but we Republicans especially like it because it is a block grant to the States. The grant gives States flexibility with minimal Federal rules. It also encourages the use of vouchers allowing that young mother I just mentioned to choose among her various options for childcare.

It doesn't mandate from Washington, it enables from Washington. It recognizes that leaders in States have very good judgment, and what might work in Hawaii might not in Tennessee or Iowa. Different programs may work better in different jurisdictions, and that mothers themselves ought to be able to make the judgment of where their child receives care.

I wish to thank Senator HARKIN, who is retiring this year, and who is chairman of the committee that has produced this bill. He and Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BURR have worked for years on this piece of legislation. It received a lot of consideration in the Senate and in the House. We all would like to see the Senate function better, and it did function better for this bill. When we first brought this to the Senate floor in March, the majority leader

didn't fill the tree or file cloture. We considered 50 amendments and adopted 18 of them. Fourteen of them we agreed to adopt by voice vote, four of them received roll call votes, and then we passed the bill 96 to 2. The House made a few minor changes in it. They did it while consulting with Senator HARKIN and me and others who did work on the bill, and we have come to this point today.

This is a very important piece of legislation, helping 900,000 families, 1.5 million children across the country. In Tennessee alone, 21,000 families will be helped by this. In our society today, worksite daycare is not available to every single mother or father who has a child, and this helps with that.

I thank the Senate for its consideration of this very important bill. I thank the House for working with the Senate and I congratulate Senator HARKIN. I imagine he has mentioned it, but if he hasn't, this will be the 21st piece of legislation the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has produced this year that will become law under his leadership. As Senator HARKIN goes back to Des Moines, IA, and rocks on his front porch and pursues the next chapter of his life, he can say that in the Senate, which didn't always work that well in this Congress, his committee did, and it has benefited lots of families and lots of children.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the bill, and I am glad to see it as a good example of what I hope to see more of as we move into the new year.

Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor.

RECOGNIZING HOMELESS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak about the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act. I'm glad to say that the bill before us today contains a number of provisions intended to facilitate homeless families' access to quality child care. I appreciate the work of my colleagues, particularly Chairman HARKIN, Senator MIKULSKI and Ranking Member MILLER, in supporting these important new provisions.

Unfortunately, young children who are homeless are more likely to have developmental delays, and more health and mental health problems, than low-income housed children. At the same time, their mothers are less likely to receive childcare subsidies than are poor mothers at-risk of homelessness. So I believe that this legislation will be important in helping rectify this inequity.

However, I want to ensure there is a common understanding of who we intend to include within the definition of homeless families or homeless children. The most common Federal definition of homelessness is found in the McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, at 42 U.S.C. §11434A. That definition applies to public schools, including local educational agency preschool programs, and is used in the Head Start Act, Higher Education Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, among others. The definition includes children and youth who are staying in motels, or with others temporarily because they have nowhere else to go. Eighty percent of the homeless children and youth enrolled in public schools last year were staying in these situations when they were first identified.

Is it the chairman's intention that the definition of homeless to be applied to the provisions of this bill be the definition from subtitle VII–B of the McKinney-Vento Act, the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program?

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I thank the Senator for her important question. Her understanding is correct. The definition of homeless children and youth found at 42 U.S.C. §11434A is the definition we intend to apply to homeless children and families where those terms are used in this bill.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank the Senator for that clarification, which will assist States in implementing the provisions of this bill by aligning definitions across Federal programs serving homeless families.

This bill overlaps with the McKinney-Vento Act in another way which I would like to clarify. This bill requires State plans to describe how the State will coordinate childcare services with programs for children in preschool programs and other early childhood programs serving homeless children and children in foster care, in order to expand accessibility and continuity of care and assist children enrolled in early childhood programs to receive full-day services.

The McKinney-Vento Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth program is the only education program specifically designed to promote academic success for homeless students. The McKinney-Vento Act requires every local educational agency to designate a homeless education liaison, whose job includes identifying homeless children and youth and ensuring homeless children and families receive educational services for they are eligible, including Head Start and preschool programs administered by the local educational agency. In order for States to expand accessibility and continuity of care for homeless children, it is critically important that McKinney-Vento liaisons are among the professionals with whom States and child care providers coordinate.

Is it Senator MIKULSKI's understanding and intention that McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons be included among those programs for children in preschool programs and other early childhood programs serving homeless children with which States should coordinate child care services?

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I thank the Senator for raising the issue of local educational agency McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons. Given their central role and responsibility in identifying homeless children and ensuring they receive education and early childhood education services for which they are eligible, liaisons are important partners in coordinating childcare services. The Senate-passed version of this legislation had called for coordination with McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons. It is indeed our intention that State plans include a description of how the State will coordinate childcare services with McKinney-Vento homeless education liaisons.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank the Senator for clarifying the bill's intent that McKinney-Vento liaisons be part of States' coordination of childcare services.

I would also like to clarify the intent behind two related bill provisions. First, this bill requires State plans to include a certification that there are in effect in the State requirements applicable to childcare providers which are designed to protect children's health and safety, including the establishment of a grace period that allows homeless children and children in foster care to receive services while their families are taking any necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. This provision is similar to language found in the McKinney-Vento Act and the Head Start Act. It recognizes that families experiencing homelessness have particular challenges in producing health records and other documents, due largely to their poverty and unstable living situations.

At the same time, the bill requires States to use funds for activities that improve access to childcare services, including the use of procedures to permit enrollment—after an initial eligibility determination—of homeless children while required documentation is obtained. I would ask the chairman, is it the intent of the bill language that regardless of the procedures States use to permit enrollment while required documentation is obtained, States still must establish a grace period that allows homeless children to receive services while their families are taking any necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements?

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, again, I thank the Senator for this clarifying question. Under this bill, State plans must include a certification that there are in effect in the State requirements that include the establishment of a grace period that allows homeless children to receive services while their families are taking any necessary actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. That requirement stands apart from procedures the State uses to permit enrollment of homeless children while other required documentation is obtained.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, Thank you for that explanation. I am pleased to hear that homeless children will be able to receive services while their families are taking actions to comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements.

Regarding enrollment while other required documentation is obtained, the bill language requires that States use procedures to ensure such enrollment occurs after an initial eligibility determination is made. Yet, eligibility documentation is among the required documentation homeless families must produce. However, we know that homeless families struggle to produce documents, due to their poverty and mobility. Can Senator MIKULSKI, please clarify the intent of the phrase ''after an initial eligibility determination?''

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, The language calls for procedures to permit enrollment of homeless children, after an initial eligibility determination, while required documentation is obtained. To implement this language and its intent, States will need to implement procedures to make abbreviated initial eligibility determinations of homeless children and enroll them immediately, while required documentation, including some documentation to prove eligibility, is obtained.

For example, a State could adopt a procedure that a child referred by a local educational agency McKinney-Vento homeless liaison would be determined to be initially eligible and enrolled in services immediately, while required documentation is obtained. The family then would have to take necessary steps to provide standard documentation to establish eligibility.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank Senator MIKULSKI for that important clarification. The intent of the bill as she describes it will greatly improve homeless children's access to childcare. I appreciate the Senator's dedication to this legislation, which helps expand opportunity for families and enhance the quality of childcare for young people across the country.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I support the Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, reauthorization bill, S. 1086, which is now pending before the Senate. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation, which would send it to the President for his signature. I want to congratulate my colleagues, Senator MIKULSKI for her leadership on this bill, and Senator HARKIN, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator BURR. This reauthorization has truly been a bipartisan effort and illustrative of the Senate HELP Committee's effectiveness this Congress, and I congratulate Senator HARKIN on his leadership of this committee as he retires from Congress next month. Through the HELP Committee's leadership and work with their House counterparts, this legislation will serve to better support working families and children and make a significant improvement to our current childcare programs.

The last time we authorized this program was in 1996. I know that very well because I was serving in the House of Representatives at the time and had the opportunity to be the ranking member on the Human Resources Subcommittee in the House Ways and Means Committee that was considering welfare reform and childcare, and how we could reward families for work, and how our welfare system could become a transitional program rather than a permanent program that would allow people, particularly moms, to be able to get into the workforce, stay in the workforce and climb up the economic ladder.

Today, under CCDBG, there are 1.6 million children eligible for program services. CCDBG provides not only a safe environment for those children, but allows 70 percent of their parents to work and an educational opportunity for the child at the same time. A Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF, study showed that parents who had their children in childcare for 2 years or more were more likely to remain employed. CCDBG provides stable employment, help for the child, and a positive economic situation for the family.

This bi-cameral, bi-partisan CCDBG reauthorization bill before us makes improvements to this successful program, as it should. It allows the States to develop 13 specific health and safety standards, such as first aid and CPR, and SIDS, sudden infant death syndrome. It is keeping our children safer in childcare by having safety standards that are developed. This legislation: requires the States to do annual health, safety, and fire inspections of nearly all childcare providers; expands comprehensive background checks for those who are involved in childcare; steadily increases the annual authorization of appropriations; phases in a doubling of the annual set-aside for quality initiatives to 9 percent by 2019; makes information available online for parents to make informed childcare decisions; promotes more transparency in the program; and provides additional State flexibility on how they can set priorities within the childcare program. This program is a model of how federalism should operate, with the Federal Government and the States collaborating together to improve the quality of life for many middle-class American families.

This legislation will accomplish our objectives so we can get more people into the workforce and provide access to early childhood education to help children succeed in life. This program will allow us to help American families and strengthen the economic security of America.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I suggest the absence fo a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086, an act to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill.

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill, with Reid amendment No. 3923 (to the motion to concur in the House amendment), to change the enactment date.

Reid Amendment No. 3924 (to amendment No. 3923), of a perfecting nature.

MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is considered expired.

The motion to concur with amendment No. 3923 is withdrawn.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1086.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted ''aye'' and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) would have voted ''aye.''

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

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 276 Leg.]

YEAS—88

Alexander	Franken	Moran
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Nelson
Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Begich	Harkin	Portman
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Heller	Risch
Boozman	Hirono	Roberts
Brown	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Burr	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johanns	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Chambliss	Kaine	Shelby
Coats	King	Stabenow
Cochran	Kirk	Tester
Collins	Klobuchar	Toomey
Coons	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Corker	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	Levin	Vitter
Crapo	Manchin	Walsh
Cruz	Markey	Warner
Donnelly	McCain	Warren
Durbin	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Feinstein	Menendez	Wyden
Fischer	Merkley	
Flake	Mikulski	

NAYS—1

Lee

NOT VOTING—11

Boxer	Hoeven	Sanders
Cantwell	Murkowski	Shaheen
Coburn	Murray	Thune
Hagan	Rubio	

The motion was agreed to.

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, while I was unable to vote on the motion to concur in the House Amendment to S. 1086, Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, I would have recorded a vote in opposition to this bill, just as I did when this bill was originally before the Senate in February. I have three reasons to oppose this bill.

First, the Constitution does not permit the Federal Government to operate this program. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution lists all the powers given to the Federal Government, none of which includes funding for and oversight of State and local child care programs.

Second, this bill will increase the authorized size of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, program by over $1 billion without eliminating or reducing a lower priority program elsewhere. At a time when our national debt is over $17 trillion, Congress continues to spend away the future of the next generation. This reauthorization will exacerbate this problem, and our children will deal with the harsh consequences of our Nation's future fiscal insolvency.

Third, this CCDBG reauthorization does not address previously identified duplication and overlap in existing Federal child care programs and tax expenditures. While it does include a provision for the Department of Health and Human Services to study the issue, I do not believe it goes far enough. The Government Accountability Office has already identified 33 programs for which child care is an eligible use of funds. For example, States often transfer billions of dollars in funding from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program to use in their child care programs. Ultimately, this kind of overlap and duplication underscores Congress' reckless disregard for our future well-being.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote on Executive Calendar No. 858, the Senate consider Calendar Nos. 1050, 898, 961, and 533—these are career ambassadors, in case anyone wants to know—that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in the series be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection?

Mr. REID. We expect these nominations to be approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will vote to end Republican filibusters on three district court nominations for Georgia, two of which are judicial emergency vacancies. The Senate should not need to waste our time jumping through these procedural hurdles to confirm nominees who are strongly supported by two Republican home State Senators.

After we vote to invoke cloture and confirm these three nominees, we will still have 17 judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar—11 to serve on district courts and 6 to serve on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Another nine judicial nominees will be recommended by the Judiciary Committee this Thursday. By the end of the week, there will be 26 nominees reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee pending before the full Senate. All but a few of these nominees will have been reported unanimously and several are from States with at least one and sometimes two Republican home State Senators, including: Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, and Texas. These nominees should all be confirmed before we recess in December. As I mentioned last week, I hope that Senate Republicans will work with Senate Democrats to ''clear the decks'' on pending business before the end of the 113th Congress, as the incoming majority leader has suggested.

So let us work together as we have in past lameduck sessions to get these nominees confirmed and serving their communities. In 2002, after the midterm elections, Senate Democrats worked to confirm all 20 of President Bush's judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar all but one by voice vote. In the 2006 lameduck session, after Senate Democrats won the majority in the elections, Democrats agreed to confirm all 14 of President Bush's judicial nominations pending on the Executive Calendar, but this package was blocked by a Republican Senator. In the most recent lameduck sessions, in 2010 and 2012, a total of 32 judicial nominees were confirmed. We should do the same now.

Leslie Abrams is nominated to fill a vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. She is currently an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia. Prior to becoming an assistant U.S. attorney, she was in private practice at two nationally known law firms. After graduating from Yale Law School, Ms. Abrams served as a law clerk to Judge Marvin J. Garbis on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

Mark Cohen is nominated to fill an emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. He has extensive experience, having practiced for over 30 years in both the public and private sectors. Currently a partner at the law firm Troutman Sanders, Mr. Cohen has also served as counsel to former Georgia Governor, Zell Miller, and spent part of his legal career at the Georgia office of the attorney general.

Eleanor Ross is nominated to fill an emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. She currently serves as a State court judge in DeKalb County, where she has presided over hundreds of cases dealing with both civil and criminal matters. Prior to becoming a judge, she served in various capacities as both a State and Federal prosecutor for over a decade. Throughout her legal career, she has tried over 150 cases to verdict.

All three of these nominees have the strong support of their Republican home State Senators, Senator CHAMBLISS and Senator ISAKSON. All three were also reported unanimously from the Judiciary Committee 5 months ago by voice vote.

If confirmed, Leslie Abrams and Eleanor Ross will be the first African-American women to ever serve as Federal judges in the State of Georgia. This historic moment is long overdue.

In the few remaining days of this Congress, I hope that the Republican Senators who recommended many of the pending judicial nominees to the President will work within their caucus to get consent to confirm nominees to their own home States.

I hope that all Senators will vote to end the filibuster of these nominations today and confirm them.

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

Mr. REID. I yield back all time on this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 277 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Ayotte	Cantwell	Collins
Baldwin	Cardin	Coons
Begich	Carper	Cornyn
Bennet	Casey	Donnelly
Blumenthal	Chambliss	Durbin
Booker	Coats	Feinstein
Brown	Cochran	Flake
Franken	Levin	Schatz
Gillibrand	Manchin	Schumer
Graham	Markey	Shaheen
Harkin	McCaskill	Stabenow
Hatch	Menendez	Tester
Heinrich	Merkley	Toomey
Heitkamp	Mikulski	Udall (CO)
Hirono	Murkowski	Udall (NM)
Isakson	Murphy	Vitter
Johnson (SD)	Murray	Walsh
Kaine	Nelson	Warner
King	Pryor	Warren
Kirk	Reed	Whitehouse
Klobuchar	Reid	Wicker
Landrieu	Rockefeller	Wyden
Leahy	Rubio	

NAYS—28

Alexander	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Heller	Portman
Blunt	Hoeven	Risch
Boozman	Inhofe	Roberts
Burr	Johanns	Scott
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Crapo	Lee	Shelby
Cruz	McCain	Thune
Enzi	McConnell	
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—4

Boxer	Hagan
Coburn	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 28.

The motion is agreed to.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield back time on this side.

Mr. HATCH. I yield back time on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time being yielded back, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Brian Schatz, Al Franken, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Harkin.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 278 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Ayotte	Graham	Nelson
Baldwin	Harkin	Pryor
Begich	Hatch	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Reid
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Booker	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Isakson	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	King	Stabenow
Casey	Klobuchar	Tester
Chambliss	Landrieu	Toomey
Coats	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Manchin	Vitter
Coons	Markey	Walsh
Cornyn	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wicker
Flake	Murkowski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

NAYS—29

Alexander	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Heller	Paul
Blunt	Hoeven	Portman
Boozman	Inhofe	Risch
Burr	Johanns	Roberts
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Crapo	Kirk	Sessions
Cruz	Lee	Shelby
Enzi	McCain	Thune
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—4

Boxer	Hagan
Coburn	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF MARK HOWARD COHEN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

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

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara Boxer, Al Franken, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Maria Cantwell, Amy Klobuchar, Bill Nelson, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Dianne Feinstein.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 279 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Harkin	Murphy
Begich	Hatch	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Pryor
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Inhofe	Reid
Cantwell	Isakson	Rockefeller
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Carper	Kaine	Schatz
Casey	King	Schumer
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coats	Landrieu	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Vitter
Durbin	McCain	Walsh
Feinstein	McCaskill	Warner
Flake	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—29

Alexander	Cruz	Kirk
Barrasso	Enzi	Lee
Blunt	Fischer	McConnell
Boozman	Grassley	Moran
Burr	Heller	Paul
Cochran	Hoeven	Portman
Corker	Johanns	Risch
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	
Roberts	Sessions	Thune
Scott	Shelby	Wicker

NOT VOTING—5

Boxer	Hagan	Toomey
Coburn	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

NOMINATION OF BARBARA A. LEAF, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

NOMINATION OF THEODORE G. OSIUS III, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

NOMINATION OF ERICA J. BARKS RUGGLES, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

NOMINATION OF KAREN CLARK STANTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates; Theodore G. Osius III, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Erica J. Barks Ruggles, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda; and Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back all time on these nominations.

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

VOTE ON LEAF NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON OSIUS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Theodore G. Osius III, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON RUGGLES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Erica J. Barks Ruggles, of Minnesota, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON STANTON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste?

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 action.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the confirmation vote on Executive Calendar No. 858, the Senate consider Calendar Nos. 927, 954, 1047, 1048, and 1052; that there be two minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of that time the Senate proceed to vote with no intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in this series be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, we expect the nominations that I have listed here to be confirmed by voice vote tomorrow.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS DOBY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Chris Doby on his service to the U.S. Senate and the Capitol Hill community. A loving husband and devoted father, Chris has dedicated three decades of his life to the Senate.

Chris began working for the Senate Disbursing Office as a junior auditor in 1983. His honorable character and strong work ethic quickly earned him greater responsibility. Before becoming the assistant financial clerk Chris served as auditor, audit counselor, senior auditor, senior auditor/counselor, financial manager system analyst, systems administrator and IT systems administrator. In 2005 Chris became the financial clerk of the Senate where he has served with distinction.

His discipline and special attention to detail have been remarkable. Chris is best known for his willingness to share his extensive institutional knowledge and for his calm demeanor. When faced with the difficulties of government shutdowns and the challenges of sequestration, Chris remained steadfast, and encouraged others to do the same. He has served this body, our staff and the entire Capitol Hill community with character and conviction and he will be greatly missed.

I join my colleagues in wishing Chris all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I was unable to attend last night's cloture votes on the nominations of Randolph Moss to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and Leigh Martin May to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. I was with my family welcoming my new grandson. Had I been able to attend, I would have supported both cloture motions.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY RAYMOND F. CHANDLER III

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding soldier who has, for the last three and one-half years, served as the Army Chief of Staff's primary advisor on matters related to the needs and welfare of all enlisted soldiers and their families.

In January, Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler will retire after 33 years of distinguished service to the Army and the Nation. Throughout his career, he has been an exceptional leader and has personified the values of duty, integrity, and selfless service in all of the missions to which he has contributed.

SMA Chandler was born in Whittier, CA and enlisted in the Army in September 1981. He attended one station unit training at Fort Knox, KY and graduated as a 19E armor crewman.

SMA Chandler has served in every tank crewman position and has had multiple tours as a troop, squadron, and regimental master gunner. He also served as the 19th Commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, the first enlisted commandant of that academy in its history.

I know that SMA Chandler is looking forward to spending more time with his family, including his twelve grandchildren, and I wish he and his wife Jeanne the very best. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Sergeant Major of the Army Chandler and his family for their many years of commitment, sacrifices, and service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING TURNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to commend Turner Elementary School of Turner, ME, on being named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This year, Turner Elementary was one of only 337 schools across the country and the only school from Maine to receive this prestigious recognition of high accomplishment by the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Award honors schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

This award recognizes the remarkable progress that Turner Elementary has made over the past several years in closing student achievement gaps. These outstanding improvements can be attributed to the school's emphasis on professional development opportunities for its teachers and to its commitment to educating the whole child. Turner Elementary has strengthened its curriculum initiatives in math, reading, and writing and has also benefited greatly from its talented and dedicated leadership team, which helps students, parents, and educators set and reach their goals.

I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Turner Elementary School for this well-deserved honor and congratulate not only the students but also the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents on this outstanding achievement. Together, they are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of students by helping them become energetic learners and engaged citizens.

RECOGNIZING CEDARVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to applaud Cedarville Elementary School of Fort Wayne, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing any achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school being identified as Exemplary High Performing, schools that are ranked in the top 15 percent nationally in English and mathematics, measured by each State's assessment, or as Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing, where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body from disadvantaged backgrounds are reducing the achievement gap in English and mathematics.

Cedarville Elementary School has made great strides in these areas.

Cedarville Elementary School is dedicated to combining quality education with innovative community involvement. By collaborating with community partners in Fort Wayne, Cedarville imparts on students not only the value of a great education, but also how to foster strong relationships for the future. These teaching methods have led Cedarville Elementary School to consistently achieve both an A-rating and a four star designation from the Indiana Department of Education. With hard work, Cedarville Elementary will continue to help build a stronger and better Indiana.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Bradley R. Bakle of Cedarville Elementary School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate the Cedarville Elementary School community, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING SPRUNICA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to applaud Sprunica Elementary School of Nineveh, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools, with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Sprunica Elementary School has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

In 2014 alone, Sprunica Elementary School's combined ISTEP+ passing rate for English and mathematics was 92 percent for third grade and 93 percent for fourth grade. By giving the student body a variety of tools for early educational development, such as flexibility to pursue their own reading interests and observing the many facets of nature outside of the classroom, the staff at Sprunica Elementary School provides students with an independent and hands on learning environment. Students can be challenged at their own pace. Beyond the classroom setting, the staff dedicates their time to help the student body develop strategies to become more respectful and aware citizens within the greater town of Nineveh through community service. In addition to its Blue Ribbon School recognition, it is no wonder that Sprunica has also been selected as an Indiana four star school.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Dr. Abbie Suzanne Oliver of Sprunica Elementary School, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Sprunica Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING MERLE SIDENER GIFTED ACADEMY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I also applaud Merle Sidener Gifted Academy of Indianapolis, IN for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and non-public schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among student groups.

Recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school either being measured as an Exemplary High Performing School, where schools are among the State's highest scorers in English and mathematics, or as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School, where schools with at least 40 percent of their student body coming from disadvantaged backgrounds have reduced the achievement gap in English and mathematics within the last 5 years. Merle Sidener Gifted Academy has made great strides in the area of improved proficiency in both English and mathematics.

Merle Sidener Gifted Academy has a rigorous academic curriculum, and students are provided a different approach to learning through the incorporation of technology. Students are given the opportunity of choice in their academic development—whether they want to learn a foreign language, learn how to play chess, or even take up karate. This approach helps keep the learning process not only fresh but exciting. In addition, the students at Merle Sidener Gifted Academy are taught to be aware of, not only their surroundings, but of global issues that affect people from different cultures.

I would like to acknowledge Principal Tennille Wallace of Merle Sidener Gifted Academy, the entire staff, and the student body. It undoubtedly took hard work and dedication to achieve this prestigious award.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Merle Sidener Gifted Academy, and I wish the staff and students continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE INDUCTION OF SHANE CONLAN INTO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize former Penn State linebacker Shane Conlan for being named to the College Football Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

On the night of January 2, 1987, more than 52 million Americans were introduced to Shane Patrick Conlan, then the 22-year-old cocaptain of the Pennsylvania State University Nittany Lions. This was the brightest of spotlights—the bowl game between No. 2 Penn State and No. 1 Miami still remains the most viewed college football game of all time and Conlan's performance was worthy of the stage. Despite an injured knee and a twisted ankle, Conlan intercepted his Heisman Trophy-winning opponent two times, returning one for 40 yards to set up Penn State's game-winning touchdown. This National Championship victory against a highly favored opponent and the accompanying defensive most valuable player award would be crowning achievements in a storied college career.

Mr. Conlan's origins are much more modest than that memorable night in the desert of Arizona. This son of a State policeman and a grocery store clerk grew up in a western New York town that was too small for even a stoplight. The relative obscurity of Frewsburg almost hid the young Conlan's athletic prowess. Even though he was named Western New York Player of the Year in 1981, Mr. Conlan only had one scholarship offer waiting for him when he graduated high school: Penn State.

In State College Mr. Conlan would evolve from a 6′3″, 185 pound, mild-mannered freshman to become one of the most significant contributors to Penn State's cherished legacy as ''Linebacker U.'' A 4-year letterman, 3-year starter, and first-team All-American, Mr. Conlan helped lead a football team that would go 23-to-1 over his final 2 years. In a lasting display of the reverence for Mr. Conlan in Happy Valley, several star linebackers at his alma mater have since donned his No. 31 as a tribute to his success and leadership, while he wore the blue and white. This October 25 his university and fans honored Mr. Conlan once again with a mid game salute by a sold-out crowd of 107,895 at Beaver Stadium.

After graduation from Penn State with a degree in administration of justice, success would follow Mr. Conlan

to the National Football League. There he would be named Defensive Rookie of the Year and earn three trips to the Pro Bowl during a 9-year career. Today, Mr. Conlan resides in the Pittsburgh area with his wife Caroline and their four children: Patrick, Christopher, Mary Katherine, and Daniel.

I am privileged to have the opportunity and the venue to offer congratulations to this adopted son of my State and thank him for his significant contributions to college football, the Penn State University community, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I wish him all the best as he is inducted as a member of the College Football Hall of Fame this December. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LINCOLN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Lincoln, NH—a town in Grafton County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am proud to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this historic occasion.

Located in the heart of the White Mountains, Lincoln is renowned for its spectacular scenery. Several of New Hampshire's natural wonders are in Lincoln, including ''the basin'' at Franconia Notch State Park, Indian Head Profile Rock formation, and the Flume Gorge—all examples of the Granite State's unique natural beauty.

The town of Lincoln was named for Henry Fiennes Pelham-Clinton, the 2nd Duke of Newcastle, 9th Earl of Lincoln. It was granted in 1764 by colonial Governor Benning Wentworth to a group of 70 land investors from Connecticut. The grant was so large that today Lincoln remains the second largest town by area in the State.

Lincoln's location near the Pemigewasset River was integral to the development of its logging and paper industries, an important part of the town's history. By the mid-19th century, Lincoln was a center for processing and shipping timber. North Country businessman James E. Henry purchased over 100,000 acres of timber at the turn of the century and constructed a pulp and paper mill to process the wood in what is now the center of Lincoln. Henry also built the Lincoln House Hotel to house the increasing number of tourists eager to experience the beauty of the White Mountains.

Today, the population of Lincoln has grown to over 1,600 residents, and the town has become one of New Hampshire's most popular tourist destinations. Visitors come from across the Nation to ski at Loon Mountain, hike the Appalachian Trail, spot a moose, or take a ride on the Kancamagus Highway—one of the State's most scenic routes. Families—including mine—also enjoy stopping by Clark's Trading Post to see Clark's famous trained bears perform, and riding through the mountains aboard the Hobo Railroad. Each September, Lincoln hosts the New Hampshire Highland Games, where thousands gather to celebrate Scottish culture and heritage.

On behalf of all Granite Staters, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Lincoln on reaching this special milestone, and I thank them for their many contributions to the life and spirit of the State of New Hampshire.•

TRIBUTE TO MIKE JACOBS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Mike Jacobs, who will retire as the Johnson County judge after more than two decades of public service to the citizens of Arkansas in this elected position.

As Johnson County judge, Mike was a constant advocate for services, programs, and improvements for Johnson County residents. He worked to secure funding to provide a safe source of drinking water for citizens in county, preserving funding for rural schools and protect rural firefighters. After a tornado devastated Johnson County in 2011, Mike fought to ensure FEMA would allow citizens to receive Federal disaster assistance.

Mikes passion for public service extends beyond the borders of Johnson County. As the president of board of directors for the Association of Arkansas Counties for more than 15 years, Mike has shared his efforts, experiences, and examples of success with others. He is a visionary for the State and the Nation as he also serves on the board of directors of the National Association of Counties.

I congratulate Mike for his commitment to public service. We are all grateful for his years of service and leadership to Arkansas. I am grateful to be able to call Mike a friend. While he is stepping down as county judge, Mike will continue public service in another capacity. We will be able to rely on his advice and his experience as he serves as justice of the peace.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Johnson County judge Mike Jacobs on his retirement. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.•

REMEMBERING JACK CHATFIELD

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to remember Jack Chatfield, a longtime resident of Hartford, CT, who passed away on September 18, 2014. Although Jack was not well known outside Connecticut, he helped create a better history for our Nation. Born in Baltimore, MD, in 1942, he first came to Connecticut to attend Trinity College. Later, he returned to teach, first at the Watkinson School and then at Trinity.

Jack Chatfield was an incomparable individual who lived a full life. He interrupted his undergraduate career at Trinity in 1962 to volunteer with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, SNCC. An article in the New York Times detailed how southern sheriffs had beaten his college roommate Ralph Allen, and without looking back Jack went down to join him in rural southwest Georgia. At the time, SNCC workers faced great personal danger, both from local law enforcement and from vigilantes known as ''nightriders.'' Immediately after arriving, Jack was wounded by shotgun blasts fired by nightriders while he was eating dinner in the house where he was staying. Despite this, Jack's spirit never wavered, and he kept working to register African Americans to vote. He later said that it was during this time that he became ''a true student of American history.''

Jack returned to Trinity in the fall of 1963 and graduated in 1965. He went on to earn his master's and doctorate from Columbia University. During this time, he turned his attention to teaching, which he found to be his true calling. He returned to Trinity in 1987.

In the classroom, Jack absolutely excelled. He had an exceptional ability to teach history as if it were happening today. He drew his students in, immersing them in history texts that would make them think and question, building knowledge and skills that they would never forget. His love of the subject was equaled by his unwavering dedication to his students. Whether they were interested or not, brilliant or not, Jack wanted to reach them all. He was honored for his ability with Trinity's Hughes Teaching Prize for junior faculty in 1993 and its Brownell Prize for senior faculty in 2002.

Jack was equally concerned with how his students were faring outside the classroom, and he saw part of his job as facilitating their moral development and understanding of life. With another colleague, he started what became known as the ''Friday Table.'' This informal gathering of students and faculty for Friday lunch became a tradition that endured for over 15 years. Around the table, the participants would talk about history and politics, life at Trinity, and other issues of importance. For many of the students who were fortunate enough to participate, this remains one of their most cherished memories.

The world is a little bit emptier today without Jack Chatfield, but his spirit and vision live on. Robert Kennedy once remarked that our actions could send out ripples of hope and that those ripples together can make a significant difference. Everyone who knew Jack Chatfield came away a little better for the experience, and each of these people are one of his ripples of hope. Whether consciously or unconsciously, they will continue to carry on his vision, maintaining his legacy and his spirit for many years to come.•

RECOGNIZING JANICE HELWIG

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to pay tribute to Janice Helwig

for her 20 years of faithful service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Helsinki Commission. Janice joined the Helsinki Commission as a member of the professional staff just a few years after the watershed changes in Europe in 1989, including the fall of communism, the unification of Germany, and the breakup of the Soviet Union.

While 1989 did indeed mark a transition to peace and prosperity for many countries in Central Europe—a Europe ''whole and free'' in the words of President George Bush—by the time Janice joined the Commission staff in late 1994 it was clear that the countries of the region still had many challenges ahead.

At the 1994 Budapest Summit, where Janice first joined the U.S. delegation to the OSCE as a member of the Helsinki Commission contingent, she heard Russian President Boris Yeltsin warn that ''Europe, having not yet freed itself from the heritage of the Cold War, is in danger of plunging into a cold peace.'' Unfortunately, Russia's effort to solidify its own sphere of influence and to block the OSCE's ability to advance human rights has been a hallmark of Moscow's approach throughout Janice's tenure.

As the Helsinki Commission's policy adviser attached to the U.S. Mission to the OSCE, Janice has worked on almost every aspect of the Commission's mandate. Her expertise and dedication on Central Asia has particularly stood out.

In the aftermath of the crackdown in Turkmenistan beginning in November 2002, Janice was a tireless advocate for the victims of the regime. She has faithfully and continuously pressed to determine the fate of all those who were disappeared and been the voice of those who were silenced.

In the wake of the Uzbekistan Government's massacre in Andijan in 2005, she helped put a spotlight on the tragic loss of life there. She also personally went to Kyrgyzstan after the outbreak of inter-ethnic conflict in 2010 and met with survivors. When Kazakhstani human rights advocate Evgeny Zhovtis was imprisoned in Siberia after a sham process, Janice visited him in prison. An international organization is only a means to an end, not an end to itself. In the case of the OSCE, that end is the promotion of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Janice has helped to ensure that the OSCE stays focused on those goals.

As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am pleased to recognize and commend Janice Helwig for her commitment and service to the Helsinki Commission.●

RECOGNIZING THE USA CANOE/KAYAK TEAM

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the members of the U.S. canoe/kayak team on their outstanding performance at Deep Creek 2014—the International Canoe Federation, ICF, Canoe Slalom World Championships—held at the Adventure Sports Center International, ASCI, in Garrett County, MD this past September.

U.S. paddlers advanced to the semifinals in every event, despite competing alongside more than 400 Olympic-level athletes from 46 countries. I congratulate U.S. team member and Marylander Fabien Lefevre on winning the Gold Medal in C1M—canoe single men—and advancing to the finals in K1M—kayak single men—and to his team members Michal Smolen, K1M; Casey Eichfeld, C1M; Dana Mann, K1W; and the team of Casey Eichfeld and Devin McEwan, C2M, who paddled their way into semifinals. I offer my congratulations to these outstanding athletes and my encouragement to all the members of the U.S. canoe/kayak team as they train and compete for a chance to represent the United States at the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil.

U.S.A. canoe/kayak is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the national governing body for the Olympic sports of flatwater sprint and whitewater slalom as well as the paralympic sport of paracanoe. Since 2009, the team has been led by Olympic Gold Medalist, 10-time U.S. National Champion, and 6-time World Cup Medalist Joe Jacobi. Joe has been a major force in energizing the team and developing the vitality of paddlesports in the United States. I wish him all the best as he steps down from this role later this year to pursue new projects and initiatives.

I also offer my congratulations to Garrett County commissioner Gregan Crawford and Maryland Office of Sports marketing executive director Terry Hasseltine who served as cochairs for Deep Creek 2014; Deep Creek 2014 executive director Todd Copley; ASCI executive director Mike Logsdon; and the many sponsors and volunteers who worked together to bring this world-class event to the United States and to provide a warm welcome to athletes and visitors from around the world. This was only the second time this prestigious international competition has been held in the United States since its inception in 1949; I am proud that Mountain Maryland also hosted the World Championships on the Savage River in 1989.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with members of the U.S. team and students in Garrett College's Adventure Sports Institute who are preparing to lead the next generation of athletes and outdoor sports enthusiasts. I commend the region's leaders for recognizing Mountain Maryland's unique opportunity to support the training and development of leaders in this exciting industry, and I look forward to the continued growth of competitive paddle sports in my State and around the country.●

TRIBUTE TO NARVA ROSS

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge and thank Ms. Narva Ross, who will retire on January 2, 2015 from the Department of the Navy, for her completion of 45 years of Federal service.

Ms. Ross is a native of Plummerville, AR where her mother still resides. She has held positions with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of Economic Opportunity, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of the Navy. Ms. Ross has been a dedicated Federal employee and has served with distinction in a highly professional and exemplary manner for the Department of the Navy for the last 38 years of her career. She has received numerous performance awards including the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1990.

Since July 1, 1990 Ms. Ross has been the lead administrative officer for the Sea Warfare and Weapons Department, Office of Naval Research, Department of the Navy. The Department has an annual budget of approximately $500 million and has 100 employees. As administrative officer, Ms. Ross has provided leadership for all human resources functions, and for the implementation of personnel policy and procedures. She also serves as the Department's lead for the creation of administrative business rules and processes, and she manages contracts for support personnel.

Ms. Ross has two children, Antoine and Jerri, and two grandchildren. Her husband, who passed away in 2005 after an extended illness, was a Vietnam Veteran serving 17 months in theater. Ms. Ross cared for her husband during his illness while working full time and raising their children.

Ms. Narva Ross has been a valued servant to the people of the United States and Arkansas. We are fortunate to have had such a dedicated Federal employee and I thank her again for her 45 years of service.●

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD A. MULDER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Bernard A. Mulder, a veteran of World War II.

Bernard, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say thank you for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Bernard's service in the Second World War because no story of bravery and especially not one from our ''greatest generation'' should ever be forgotten.

Bernard was born in Beaumont, TX, on July 21, 1922. After growing up in Beaumont and Galveston, he graduated from Galveston High School in 1939. Bernard enlisted with the Army Air Corps in San Antonio in May of 1941.

He trained in Texas and Nevada, and soon after, a squadron commander suggested that he put in for flight training. In December 1941, the same month as Pearl Harbor, Bernard was accepted for primary flight training in Santa Maria, CA. Until then, Bernard had never even been near a plane, much less flown one.

Bernard flew training operations until heading overseas in November 1942 to join the war effort. Bernard was stationed with the British Aid Army in North Africa, where he flew supplies to Cairo and the Western Front, and returned the wounded to hospitals.

During the invasion of Sicily, Bernard dropped off the 82nd Airborne. He did it once again on D-day, dropping them at Sainte Mere-Englise, which became the first town liberated on the Western Front.

While dropping supplies to troops in France, Bernard's plane was hit and he was shot. In July of 1944 Bernard was flown back to the United States to recover.

One good thing did come out of his 9-month hospital stay: Bernard met the love of his life, an Australian nurse named Margaret. Bernard and Margaret married in July 1945, and in January 1946 Bernard ended his service in the military.

Through the GI bill, Bernard attended the University of Colorado and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Bernard and Margaret then moved to Perth, Australia, in August of 1960, where Bernard worked as a machine designer for 15 years. Margaret sadly passed away in 1975.

After returning to the United States, Bernard discovered his love of travel and began to explore the American West. Bernard has lived in Las Vegas; Guadalajara, Mexico; Arizona; and Wyoming. He's been to all 50 States.

Bernard moved to Billings after he read that monthly bus passes for senior citizens were only $3. Bernard then offered to make Christmas ornaments for a daycare in downtown Billings, and after 6 years, the teachers asked him to join the Foster Grandparent Program.

Every morning since then, Bernard works with 4- and 5-year-olds. They keep Grandpa Bernard young.

While Bernard was in the hospital, two of his medals were stolen from his belongings. He also never received the rest of the medals he earned. This past September, in the presence of his friends, who claim him as family, it was my honor to finally present to Bernard his Purple Heart, Air Medal with Two Bronze Service Stars, and Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon.

Bernard also earned the following medals: Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Four Bronze Service Stars, and a World War II Victory Medal.

These medals are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service. These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

RECOGNIZING THE ROBERT HICKS HOUSE

● Mr.VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor the home of civil rights hero, the late Robert ''Bob'' Hicks in Bogalusa, LA. This month, the State of Louisiana is unveiling a historical land marker on the site where, 50 years ago, Mr. Hicks organized armed men outside his home to protect civil rights workers from Ku Klux Klan violence.

Mr. Hicks, a former paper mill worker, became a key civil rights leader during the tumultuous 1960s and 70s in his hometown of Bogalusa, LA. He earned the respect of others as a courageous organizer, who not only stood toe-to-toe with the Ku Klux Klan, but also fought against the racist political power structure and the city's discriminatory businesses. He filed a landmark civil rights lawsuit in Federal court against the city requiring the police to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and to protect those who protested against injustice in the city. His lawsuits also resulted in orders to desegregate Bogalusa's public schools and the prohibition of new public housing in segregated neighborhoods in the city. His lawsuit against his employer, the Crown Zellerbach Corporation, resulted in the prohibition of unfair hiring tests and seniority systems at the city's major paper mill. Mr. Hicks became the first black supervisor at the paper mill, and his work opened doors for others, as his case became the precedent for similar discrimination cases throughout the region.

On the night of February 1, 1965, Mr. Hicks received a call telling him the Klan was coming to bomb his home, because he was accommodating two white civil rights workers there. Mr. Hicks and his wife Valeria found neighbors willing to take in their children and they reached out to others for protection. Soon, a group of armed men gathered to protect the Hicks' home, and there was never a violent confrontation. Less than 3 weeks later, the leaders of a secretive, paramilitary organization called the Deacons for Defense and Justice visited Bogalusa. The organization had been formed in Jonesboro, LA, in 1964 mainly to protect unarmed civil rights demonstrators from the Klan. After listening to the Deacons, Mr. Hicks took the lead in forming a Bogalusa chapter, recruiting many of the men who had joined him at his house to protect his family and guests.

Mr. Hicks died of cancer at his home in Bogalusa on April 13, 2010, at the age of 81. He was one of the last surviving Deacon leaders. The historical land marker will be unveiled on November 22, 2014, and it will be the first official State marker honoring an African American in Washington Parish, LA.

I am honored to join with the State of Louisiana in recognizing the Robert ''Bob'' Hicks House.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 898. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

S. 1934. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse to Teton County, Wyoming.

H.R. 1233. An act to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4194. An act to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed during the session of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 2141. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2539. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research.

S. 2583. An act to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3326. An act to provide for an exchange of land between the United States and the Trinity Public Utilities District of Trinity County, California, involving a parcel of National Forest System land in Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

H.R. 4846. An act to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4867. An act to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of

Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5167. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

H.R. 5682. An act to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

H.J. Res. 129. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3326. An act to provide for an exchange of land between the United States and the Trinity Public Utilities District of Trinity County, California, involving a parcel of National Forest System land in Shasta-Trinity National Forest; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4846. An act to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5167. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2. An act to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, November 17, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 898. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.

S. 1934. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse to Teton County, Wyoming.

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–345. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska applying to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states under Article V of the Constitution of the United States to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office of federal government officials; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the founders of the Constitution of the United States empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government; and

Whereas the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded; and

Whereas the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of their people, particularly for the generations to come, to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a convention of the states under art. V to place clear restraints on these and related abuses of power: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That under art. V, Constitution of the United States, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully applies to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office of federal government officials; and be it further

Resolved, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with art. V, Constitution of the United States, until at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states have applied for a similar convention of the states; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the legislatures of the other 49 states to apply to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.

POM–346. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska opposing the warrantless collection of telephone call data by the National Security Agency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides ''The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized''; and

Whereas the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides ''No person shall . . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law''; and

Whereas, on December 16, 2013, United States District Court Judge Richard Leon ruled that the National Security Agency's program, bulk collection, and querying of telephone record metadata are likely unconstitutional; and

Whereas the legislature objects to the dragnet approach to data collection allowed by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, a court that operates in secret and, under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, issues orders that perpetuate the warrantless collection of data of nearly all Americans; and

Whereas the National Security Agency stores the date and time of calls, their duration, and the participating telephone numbers of the calls of nearly all Americans in a centralized database, which allows National Security Agency analysts to access not only those numbers, but the numbers with which the numbers have been in contact, and, in turn, the numbers in contact with those numbers; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, in its January 2014 report titled ''Report on the Telephone Records Program Conducted under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act and on the Operations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court,'' questions the legal basis for the National Security Agency's mass telephone call data collection program; and

Whereas, when telephone call data of Americans is collected by the National Security Agency, that data is not related to specific investigations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

Whereas orders issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court at the request of the federal government require telephone companies to provide new calling records on a daily basis, a mandate not grounded in statute; and

Whereas sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act is designed to enable the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain records in the course of investigations, but the National Security Agency's mass collection of the records is not consistent with that design; and

Whereas the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 prohibits telephone companies from sharing consumer data with the government except in special circumstances, and the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board concluded that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program may violate the Act; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board found that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program has not prevented, discovered, or identified terrorist attacks, plots, or suspects that threatened the security of the United States; and

Whereas the widespread collection of telephone call data of Americans reveals highly sensitive personal information; and

Whereas the legislature resolutely opposes the continuation of the National Security Agency's warrantless data collection program; and

Whereas the legislature views the National Security Agency's storage in a central database of the telephone call metadata of all Americans as an unconstitutional practice that should be immediately suspended; and

Whereas the history of government coercion, persecution, and abuse of personal information and human life in the twentieth

century prompts the legislature to seek to protect the liberty of future generations from an oppressive and tyrannical federal government; and

Whereas the fundamental rights of Americans to speak freely and associate with others are threatened and are likely being diminished by the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data; and

Whereas the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data may intimidate or chill the freedom of expression of individuals and groups that disagree with certain government policies or result in extreme scrutiny of those persons simply for opposing those policies; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has deviated from its purpose to authorize warrants for electronic surveillance relating only to a specific person, a specific place, or a specific communications account or device; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court operates in a secretive manner that prevents the court from hearing public input regarding government requests to conduct surveillance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to end the mass telephone call data collection program conducted under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, because of its lack of a statutory foundation and because it raises serious constitutional concerns under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to eliminate all stored metadata upon ending the mass telephone call data collection program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to authorize the creation of a panel of private sector lawyers to serve as advocates for the public before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to increase public knowledge and oversight; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges judges of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to write opinions in a manner that allows the government to declassify and release the opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to work to declassify past opinions and release those opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States Attorney General and members of the intelligence and judiciary committees of the United States Congress to inform the Alaska State Legislature of the federal government's activities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and provide the Alaska State Legislature with copies of reports submitted under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor to prohibit the use of state personnel and resources to assist the National Security Agency in its collection of mass data on Alaskans without a specific search warrant; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature considers the National Security Agency's unilateral collection of the telephone call data of all Americans a violation of statute, an unconstitutional program, and a troubling overreach by the federal government; the Alaska State Legislature has sworn to uphold both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska and will not assist the federal government by facilitating programs that are tyrannical in nature, that subject Americans to unreasonable and unwarranted searches, and that violate the fundamental principle of liberty; let this resolution serve as a notice to this Administration and all future Administrations that Alaskans reject surrendering their liberty in the name of an unconstitutional program.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Mike Rogers, Chair, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable C. A. Dutch Ruppersburger, Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Jeh Johnson, United States Secretary of Homeland Security; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; General Keith B. Alexander, United States Army, Director, National Security Agency; Richard H. Ledgett, Jr., Deputy Director, National Security Agency; James B. Comey, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM–347. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging that health, safety, and planning concerns be addressed and mitigated in the environmental review and all other review processes before project permissions be granted for Spectra Energy's Algonquin Incremental Market natural gas pipeline, compressor, and metering stations expansion project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM–348. A resolution adopted by the Puerto Rico Bar Association requesting that the government of the United States exempt Puerto Rico from the regulations of the Jones Act, also known in Puerto Rico as the Cabotage Act, to allow foreign-flag ships to bring goods to the country, which has previously been done in similar situations with the U.S. Virgin Islands, Alaska, Hawaii, and other jurisdictions of the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM–349. A resolution adopted by the Puerto Rico Bar Association reaffirming the historical opposition of the Puerto Rico Bar Association to the death penalty and urging such actions as are necessary to implement that opposition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1804. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–273).

S. 1893. A bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–274).

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4366. A bill to strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement (Rept. No. 113–275).

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. STABENOW:

S. 2929. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to review the decisions of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation affecting cost allocation under system support resources agreements; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2930. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2931. A bill to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules and consideration of the least burdensome regulatory alternative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2932. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish microlabs to improve regional engagement with national laboratories; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2933. A bill to prohibit the unauthorized use of electronic tracking devices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2934. A bill to prohibit trespassing on critical infrastructure used in or affecting interstate commerce to commit a criminal offense; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2935. A bill to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking; 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. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 579. A resolution relative to the death of Howard O. Greene, Jr., former Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 580. A resolution expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 346

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 604, a bill to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to relocate to Jerusalem the United States Embassy in Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 666

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 666, a bill to prohibit attendance of an animal fighting venture, and for other purposes.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve operations of recovery auditors under the Medicare integrity program, to increase transparency and accuracy in audits conducted by contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1086

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1362

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1362, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a permanent background check system.

S. 1695

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

S. 1828

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1828, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2053

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2053, a bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action on the Capitol Grounds.

S. 2113

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2113, a bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes.

S. 2115

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2115, a bill to provide for the establishment of a fund to provide for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2348

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2348, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 2621

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.

S. 2646

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2646, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2663

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2663, a bill to provide high-skilled visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 2685

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2685, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 2693

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2693, a bill to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2694

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms.

HIRONO) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) 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. 2746

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2746, supra.

S. 2787

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2787, a bill to expand and clarify the prohibition on inaccurate caller ID information.

S. 2828

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2828, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 2876

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2876, a bill to establish a public education and awareness and access program relating to emergency contraception.

S. 2917

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2917, a bill to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases.

S. 2921

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2921, a bill to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the ''Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic''.

S. 2924

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2924, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials.

AMENDMENT NO. 3741

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3741 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill 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.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 579—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF HOWARD O. GREENE, JR., FORMER SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 579

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr. began his service to the United States Senate as a Doorkeeper in January 1968;

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr. served the United States Senate as Republican cloakroom assistant, Assistant Secretary for the Minority, Secretary for the Minority, and Secretary for the Majority;

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr. was elected as Senate Sergeant at Arms during the 104th Congress;

Whereas Howard O. Greene, Jr.'s more than 28 years of service was characterized by a deep and abiding respect for the institution and customs of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Howard O. Greene, Jr.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Howard O. Greene, Jr.

SENATE RESOLUTION 580—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH BY PROMOTING NATIONAL AWARENESS OF ADOPTION AND THE CHILDREN AWAITING FAMILIES, CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INVOLVED IN ADOPTION, AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO SECURE SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL CHILDREN

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 580

Whereas there are millions of unparented children in the world, including 402,378 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 102,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 62 percent of the children in foster care in the United States are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 2 years;

Whereas for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas in 2013, nearly 23,000 youth ''aged out'' of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home;

Whereas every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that although ''Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years'';

Whereas while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 50 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 39 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas family reunification, kinship care, and domestic and inter-county adoption promote permanency and stability to a far greater degree than long-term institutionalization and long-term, often disrupted foster care;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in the month of November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, nearly 50,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas in 2013, nearly 400 events were held in the United States, finalizing the adoptions of approximately 4,500 children from foster care; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 22, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.

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 November 20, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Hearing on the nomination of Lauren McFerran to serve as a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Sarah Cupp of the committee staff on (202) 224–5484.

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 November 20, 2014, at 1 p.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Why Are Some Generic Drugs Skyrocketing In Price?''.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Billy Gendell of the committee staff on (202) 224–5480.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, first, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Summerside, Marcha Chaudry, and Zack Decker, the interns with my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2280

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the proponent debate time for S. 2280 be divided as follows: 2 hours under the control of Senator HOEVEN or his designee and 1 hour under the control of Senator LANDRIEU or her designee.

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2) to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 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 resume consideration of S. 2280, as provided under the previous order; and that the Senate then recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, if all debate time is used, there will be up to five rollcall votes at approximately 6:15 p.m. in relation to the Keystone XL Pipeline, confirmation of the Abrams, Cohen, and Ross nominations, and then 30 minutes of debate prior to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the USA FREEDOM Act.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 579 as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Howard O. Greene, Jr.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.

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

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ANDREW E. BUSCH

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RICHARD D. CLARKE, JR.

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

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOHN F. MULHOLLAND, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. AARON T. WALTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID W. LING

IN THE NAVY

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

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. TROY M. SHOEMAKER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

RICHARD M. HESTER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

LAKEEVA B. GUNDERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5721:

To be lieutenant commander

TRAVIS S. ANDERSON
AARON S. ARKY
JOHN M. BEAR
BENJAMIN J. BERNARD
PATRICK J. BRAY
DAVID M. CAMP
MICHAEL J. CHAVARRIA
JASON H. DAO
PHILLIP E. DAVIS
GREGORY L. DESCOVICH
ANTHONY K. DEVOTO
RIAN Q. EVERETT
ANDREW D. FREEMAN
MICHAEL W. FRITTS
KEVIN L. GARNER
DONALD R. HEAD
JAMES H. HORA
MICHAEL J. HUMARA
DAMIEAN M. JOHNSON
KYLE A. JOHNSON
BRAD W. KASENBERG
SAMEER KHANNA
DOMINIC J. KRAMER
NELS D. LINDBERG
CHARLES A. LONGEWAY
NATHAN M. R. MCCOY
SETH K. POWELL
GRABIELA QUINONES
LUKE RADLOWSKI
ANDREW REGALADO
ERIK S. REYNOLDS
LAURA B. SANTIAGO
KARL Q. SAULT

CHRISTIAN L. SMITH
THAD D. TASSO
RICHARD J. TERRIO II
MICHAEL S. WELLS
JULIAN G. WILSON III

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 17, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KAREN CLARK STANTON, OF MICHIGAN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR–LESTE.

THEODORE G. OSIUS III, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

ERICA J. BARKS RUGGLES, OF MINNESOTA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA.

BARBARA A. LEAF, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Los Angeles City College (LACC) upon its eighty-fifth anniversary.

LACC's site is one of the most significant locations in Los Angeles' education history, as it was not just the first community college in Los Angeles, but also served as the initial campus for both the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and Cal State University Los Angeles. Its storied history began with the Normal School in Los Angeles, which provided graduates with credentials to teach kindergarten through twelfth grade. In 1919, to address the city's request for a local university, the Normal School transitioned into serving as the southern branch of the University of California Berkeley (UC Berkeley) for classes only; and in 1925, UC Berkeley permitted the southern branch, now UCLA, to award degrees.

In 1929, after UCLA purchased their own land and moved west, the Los Angeles Board of Education bought the campus and turned it into the Los Angeles Junior College, now called Los Angeles City College. On September 4, 1929, LACC welcomed 1,350 students to its first fall semester, at the time the fourth largest academic institution in the country. Under new president Dr. William Henry Snyder, LACC's mission was twofold: to provide two years of transfer education, and to provide career training with general education via vocational programs such as civil engineering, mechanical and electrical engineering, civic health, aeronautical engineering, secretarial science, social arts, and general business.

The Depression era saw enrollment grow in 1933 from over 4,000 students to nearly 7,000 students in 1940. Enrollment dropped significantly during World War II, and during this time, the college assisted the war effort by conducting courses for the Aviation Ground School, Civilian Pilot Training Program, the Army Specialized Training, and the Naval Reserve. After the war's end, many students attended LACC under the G.I. Bill, when enrollment went from 3,000 to 8,000 and half of the students were veterans. In 1947, an experimental four-year school was formed on the campus, called the Los Angeles State College of Applied Arts and Science, which while an admirable idea, proved to be impractical; so in 1955, the four-year school moved east to become California State University Los Angeles. During the 1950's, LACC received its first accreditation as a junior college, classes covering remedial instruction and new occupational programs including computer technology, human services, dental assisting, and nuclear medicine technology were offered, and an American Cultures Department was formed.

The 1960's saw increased diversity among the student body, and new programs such as community service and non-credited classes in recreational areas, and the 1970's brought its first woman president, Dr. Stelle Feuers and an enrollment of 22,000 students. Today, some of LACC's programs and developments include the addition of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Academy, a Guardian Scholars Program (GSP) for current and former foster youth, and the LACC Alumni Association Foundation which includes a database of over 500,000 alumni. Famous LACC alumni include composer John Williams, musicians Leonard Slatkin, Les McCann, and Odetta, actors Donna Reed, Morgan Freeman, Clint Eastwood, Esther Williams and Robert Vaughn, and producer Gene Roddenberry, creator of Star Trek. The college is currently thriving under the guidance of President Reneé D. Martinez.

I ask all Members to join with me in commending Los Angeles City College for eighty-five years of educating the greater Los Angeles community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BILL EVANS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM SKYTOWER COMMUNICATIONS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bill Evans. Considered to have pioneered FM radio in Hardin County, Bill is set to retire as Owner and President of Skytower Communications.

Bill previously served as president of the Kentucky Broadcasters Association, even receiving the Kentucky Mic Award. He was also active with the National Association of Broadcasters, serving as a board member for the Kentucky and West Virginia region. Bill also served as President of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce, in addition to receiving the Big E award and being named the Small Business Person of the Year.

Anyone who knows Bill knows that he's only one-half of a team. That other half is his wife, Marilyn. Together, they have served as chair of the United Way Committee and are very active at Severns Valley Baptist Church, where Bill has served three terms as a deacon and is currently chairman of the deacons. Marilyn has also been instrumental with her work on the Hardin County Fair Board and in leading the creation of a free children's fair for the community. Marilyn has also served as President of the Junior Women's Club. A real fixture in the community, Bill and Marilyn make quite the team.

I wish Bill well in his retirement, but know he will continue to be a driving force in Hardin County.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SENATOR JESUS (JESS) Q. TORRES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend Jesus ''Jess'' Q. Torres. Mr. Torres served as a Senator in the 16th Guam Legislature. Senator Torres passed away on November 10, 2014 at the age of 72.

Senator Torres was born on August 14, 1942 to Jose Pangelinan and Felecita Quinene Torres. He graduated from George Washington High School. He attended the University of Nebraska, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science.

Mr. Torres served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1969 and was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant. After his time in the Army, Jess became a staff assistant to the late Governor Carlos G. Camacho. Jess went on to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land Management and then as the Administrative Director of the 15th Guam Legislature.

Jess was then elected to the 16th Guam Legislature where he served from 1981 to 1982. After his time at the Guam Legislature, he was appointed by Governor Joseph Ada to be the Executive Manager of the Guam International Airport Authority from January 1987 to January 1995. During his term, he oversaw the construction of the current terminal at the GIAA, which was designated as the Antonio B. Won Pat Guam International Airport Authority, in honor of Guam's first Delegate to Congress.

In 2003, Jess was chosen by Governor Felix Camacho to serve on the GIAA's Board of Directors and he chaired the Committee on Personnel. In 2004, he was appointed to a second term as GIAA's Executive Manager. During this term, Jess is credited for turning around five consecutive years of losses and reducing the expenditures of the GIAA. He was also recognized for his efficiency and management skills that led to vast improvements at the Airport Authority.

Mr. Torres has also served on the Board of Directors of the Guam Economic Development Authority. He played an active role in politics on Guam and served as the Chairman of the Republican Party of Guam, where he was instrumental in the party's success and maintaining party unity.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Senator Jess Torres, and I join the people of Guam in celebrating his life and recognizing his dedicated service to Guam. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, loved ones and friends. He will be missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

A TRIBUTE TO LEWIS MACADAMS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lewis MacAdams, Jr. whose life's work and 70th birthday are being celebrated at the Friends of Los Angeles River's (FoLAR) Fandango on October 12th, 2014.

The project that would most define Lewis's extraordinary life, and ultimately redefine the landscape of Los Angeles, began in 1985 when he co-founded the Friends of Los Angeles River. Lewis says that he asked the Los Angeles River if he could speak for it, and the river, in his words, ''didn't say no.''

Lewis has described the revitalization of the Los Angeles River as his ''forty-year artwork.'' He began this work with a series of community clean-ups, performances and protests. His early efforts blossomed into a social movement that has given Los Angeles a renewed sense of its own possibility for ecological transformation. Using poetry as well as politics, Lewis fought back against projects that would have extinguished the last glimmer of life out of the river, organizing broad community coalitions and winning the support of officials at every level of government.

Over the past three decades, Lewis's leadership of FoLAR has given Angelenos a vision of the river as a 51-mile greenway from the mountains to the sea. FoLAR's annual ''La Gran Limpieza'' has drawn thousands of volunteers to clean up the river, has trained dozens of educators, and has introduced thousands of students to the river's existence and ecology. He has led countless ecological studies, vastly enriching the region's understanding of the river's abundant and diverse habitats. In 2014, FoLAR's vast library of environmental work was acquired by the special collections of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) archive.

Most recently, Lewis MacAdams, Jr. helped win the Army Corps of Engineers' support for the habitat restoration and redevelopment of the Los Angeles River to return it to its pristine state generations ago. Without Lewis MacAdams' passion, commitment and drive, the cultural and ecological health of the Los Angeles River would be unimaginably diminished. In celebration of the FoLAR Fandango, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in commending Lewis MacAdams, Jr. for his great accomplishments and contributions.

IN MEMORY OF CLARENCE ROBERTS JOHNSON

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Clarence Roberts Johnson. The New Haven, KY, native was elected mayor in 2010 and held that post until he passed away on August 28, 2014.

A fixture in his community, ''Bobby'' wore many hats throughout his career. He was a licensed barber and a small business owner in the community. Bobby was committed to providing quality emergency services in Nelson County, both by establishing the Rolling Fork Fire Department and working to provide ambulance services. In addition, Bobby also served 18 years as the Police Chief in New Haven and was elected City Commissioner, serving two terms before becoming mayor.

It is easy to see that Bobby had an eye for public safety. When concerns of flood waters arose in New Haven, Bobby walked the banks of the river and ultimately saw that the river course had changed. This discovery, which he ultimately shared with my office and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will lead to a safer community.

Bobby was always proud of living in New Haven and I know the city's residents were proud to call him their mayor. We will miss him and are thankful for his service.

YUMA COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the sesquicentennial of Yuma County, Arizona. Established in 1864 as one of the four original counties of the Territory of Arizona, Yuma County has been a cornerstone for Arizona commerce, agriculture, development, and culture throughout its history.

Celebrating 150 years since being formally organized, the area of Yuma County has a history which extends back much further. It is a history closely intertwined with the long and deep Colorado River which stretches along the county's western border. Not only did the Colorado bring the area's first European visitors—Spanish explorers who sailed up the river in 1540 and discovered a thriving Native American village on its banks—it also has served as the lifeblood for the region's commerce and agriculture.

Yuma County leads the state and is third in the nation for vegetable production. In fact, Yuma County is the ''winter lettuce capital of the world'' and supplies 90% of our country's lettuce between November and March. The County is also the world's top producer of gourmet Medjool dates.

Yuma County has influenced the culture and identity of Arizona and the United States: the gradual taming of the Colorado River which unlocked some of the world's best agricultural harvests, the famous Yuma Territorial Prison which housed some of the frontier's most nefarious criminals, and the booms and busts of bountiful ore and mineral mines that populated the desert. These are the stories of the Wild West that have shaped the independent and determined spirit of the County and its proud residents.

From its original Native American settlers to its Wild West days to its rich agricultural history, Yuma County's story is an integral part of the American identity. On November 10, 2014 we celebrate 150 years for Yuma County; let us look forward to 150 more.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONALD R. FORD

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Donald R. Ford Sr., 83, who passed away on November 1st, 2014.

Donald was very active in community and youth programs throughout his lifetime. He earned his B.A. in 1953 from Bethany College, Cum Laude with Honors. While a student at Bethany College, he served as President of the Student Body and was elected Commander of his chapter of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. Donald continued his education at the University of Michigan Law School where he received his J.D. degree in 1956. While attending the University of Michigan Law School, he was a quarter finalist in the Campbell Moot Court competition and was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Legal fraternity.

After completing his education, Donald continued to use his natural and proven leadership skills in the Warren community. For over fifteen years, Donald practiced law in Warren before assuming the position of Judge of the Warren Municipal Court in 1972. He was the first attorney and Judge from Trumbull County to serve on all four levels of the Ohio Judicial System, and also was Trumbull County's longest serving jurist for over 35 years. Apart from his service to the city of Warren, Donald was an assistant Professor at the Trumbull Branch of Kent State University, where he taught courses in criminal law and criminal evidence for over twenty-eight years. For his outstanding service and leadership, Donald received many distinguished awards including Trumbull County Democratic Man of the Year, Distinguished Citizen Award from the Warren Urban League, and Ohio Elks Hall of Fame Award.

Donald is survived by his wife of fifty-nine years Janet L. Ford; his son, John A. Ford; his daughter Leslie J. Ford; daughter Ann Ford and daughter-in-law Sharon Ford. He leaves seven grandchildren, Rory Ford, Devin Ford, Jaclyn Ford, Bryan Ford, David Ford, Zoe Crane and Cole Shepherd. He was preceded in death by his parents and son Donald R. Ford Jr. I am deeply saddened and I extend my condolences to his entire family. Trumbull County, the City of Warren, and the State of Ohio are much better places because of Donald's leadership and selfless contributions. He and his service will never be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO MARVIN SCHACHTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marvin Schachter of Pasadena, California, upon receiving the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California Bill of Rights Award.

Born on May 17, 1924, Marvin grew up in Brooklyn during the Great Depression as the

youngest of four children. The hard-hitting Great Depression years had enormous influence in determining Marvin's life direction. At the young age of 15, he became involved in student activism and joined the national board of the American Student Union, a progressive organization of college students known for its protests against militarism. In 1943, Marvin was drafted into the Army and served in military intelligence until February, 1946 when he was discharged. Shortly after his discharge, he received his bachelor's degree at Brooklyn College, married Doris Donnally and began his graduate work in economics at Columbia University. During this time, he was actively involved in the civil rights movement organizing marches and establishing statewide student organizations against segregationist laws. He completed his master's degree in economics at the University of Colorado, and in 1951, he was admitted as a graduate student at Cambridge University, England.

When Marvin returned to the United States as a trained economist, he wanted to pursue a career in academia, but was prevented from doing so due to unwarranted concern over his history of student activism. He became a market researcher for Hallicrafters, a company that specialized in constructing electronic equipment for the Air Force, but was let go when an executive learned of his activism in leftist organizations. This turn of events led Marvin to go into retail and merchandising.

In 1954, tragically, his wife Doris passed away. In 1956, Marvin met and married Esther Adler. The Schachters moved to Los Angeles for Marvin to take a job offer by the Mays Department Stores Company. At that time, Marvin joined the American Friends Service Committee in Pasadena and the ACLU's board of directors. He became president of the ACLU of Southern California, and served on the national board for 17 years. In the 1980s, Mr. Schachter hosted a weekly radio program on domestic and foreign policy issues on KPFK, and became one of the founders of the Pasadena Weekly, for which he continues to write an occasional column. Marvin left a successful retail career to establish a real estate business, but continued his social and political work. He was the Vice Chair of the Interfaith Center to Reverse the Arms Race, a leader in the California nuclear freeze movement, and chaired a steering committee that organized and united California's disabled communities.

In the 1990s, Marvin expanded his volunteer service to include the senior community, serving as a Governor's appointee to the California Commission on Aging, chair of the Senior Advocacy Council of Pasadena, and President of the L.A. County Agency on Aging Advisory Council. Recently, he has worked with the International Criminal Court Alliance, the United Nations Association, the California Commission on Aging, and the Center for Healthcare Rights, among many other organizations. He is also documenting his life through the Pasadena Historical Society's Oral History Project. Marvin and Esther have two daughters, Pamela and Amanda, and two grandchildren, Emma and Max.

I ask that all Members of Congress please join me in recognizing the extraordinary lifetime contributions of Marvin Schachter, a true guardian of our civil liberties.

NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 5266, the reauthorization of the National Estuary Program (NEP).

The 33rd Congressional District, which I represent, includes the Santa Monica Bay, an estuary that includes some of the most iconic coastline in the nation. In 1988, the State of California and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project as a National Estuary Program under the Clean Water Act. Estuaries, protected and restored by funding from the National Estuary Program, are some of the most productive habitats on earth. Unfortunately, due to population growth across the coastline, these estuaries are increasingly under threat from pollution and environmental degradation.

Luckily, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) is working to protect its vital resources. Through an action plan called the Bay Restoration Plan, the Commission and its partners are working to improve the environmental health of the Santa Monica Bay and its surroundings by improving water quality, restoring damaged habitats and conserving natural and marine resources.

The reauthorization of the National Estuaries Program under H.R. 5266 is essential to helping safeguard the ecological and economic viability of our nation's estuaries. This legislation will direct more money to our nation's estuaries while reducing overall authorization levels by reducing administrative costs at EPA and designating money to National Estuary Programs.

Since 1987, the establishment of the National Estuaries Program has allowed us to identify and help preserve 28 different watersheds. These watersheds are essential to the future of our nation's coastlines. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5266 to protect our coastal ecology for generations to come.

APPROVAL OF THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this is the eighth time that the House has voted to approve Keystone and short circuit the review process, and I have opposed it each time. Continuing this pattern is not helpful or a good use of our time.

My position has long been clear: there is a legal and regulatory process that the Administration is currently following to determine if this pipeline is in the interest of the American people.

It is important to consider the environmental impact that this pipeline may have, including a potential direct increase in the energy-intensive extraction of tar sands oil. It is also important to consider the impacts to local communities where this pipeline would be built as well as threats to the water supply. Oil from the tar sands continues to reach American refineries.

We should do the analysis of this pipeline right, and wait for it to finish. Most importantly, we should focus on long-term, sustainable solutions to meet our nation's future energy needs, lower our carbon emissions and make our communities more resilient to a changing climate.

If I had been present for the vote, I would have voted no.

IN TRIBUTE TO 1SG. GERALD B. WRIGHT (RET.) ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, in America's veterans we regularly see many of the most prized attributes of American spirit. Our men and women in uniform are frequently called upon to create innovative solutions to complex problems in the most dangerous of environments. Through such harrowing experiences, our veterans develop skills and knowledge that frequently lead them to find new ways to continue serving and supporting their communities long after they take off the uniform. Few exemplify these qualities more than First Sergeant Gerald B. Wright (Ret.), who will be inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame next week.

I have known Gerry for over 15 years, during which time I have witnessed his dedication to service both in and out of uniform. A tireless advocate for service members, their families and veterans from all branches and components of our Armed Forces, Gerry's advocacy and devotion to those who have served demonstrates the qualities that make him a revered member of his community, state and nation.

Gerry first enlisted in the U.S. Army in October 1968, and was deployed to Vietnam less than a year later. He served with the 19th Combat Engineers Battalion, 18th Engineering Brigade where he was responsible for road work, mine sweeps, security, and reconnaissance. In 1970, he was attached to the Seventh Special Forces Group, before returning to the United States to attend Pathfinder School, becoming an expert in land navigation.

After completing his second tour in November 1971, Gerry retired from active duty and returned to Connecticut to start his family and found his own business. Still fulfilling the call to serve, Gerry joined the Connecticut Army National Guard, with whom he would serve for 17½ additional years, during which he was part of Operation Desert Storm, and also led soldiers from Connecticut to Southern California to assist in constructing fencing and obstacles at our nation's border. There, he was commended by his commander for being the first rotation to not have a single heat or accident casualty due to the extreme temperatures of the region.

Gerry's care for his comrades and brothers-in-arms has not shown the slightest signs of

fading since his retirement from the National Guard in 1999. Gerry has consistently supported his fellow service members by storing the possessions of deploying soldiers, repairing and donating vehicles to veterans unable to afford their own, or helping place transitioning soldiers in civilian jobs, sometimes at his own business. Since 9/11, Gerry has been a regular, consistent attendee at ''Send Off'' and ''Welcome Home'' events at the Hartford Armory for Connecticut National Guard units deployed to the Middle East. In August of 2010, Gerry also completed the grueling ''Legacy Run to Reno'', a fundraiser to benefit military children who lost a parent in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Gerry is an invaluable asset to eastern Connecticut's veteran community, and a shining example of every honorable quality we see in our service members. Next week, he will be inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame—the latest in a long list of honors and awards for which he is more than deserving.

CONGRATULATING EHCMA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA) Workforce Development Committee for being awarded the Visionary Award from the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region Board of Directors.

This award honors individuals and organizations whose work on key regional issues has expanded economic and social opportunity in our community. The Workforce Development Committee has raised $100,000 in scholarship funds for Lee College and San Jacinto College. These scholarships will help train tomorrow's petrochemical and manufacturing leaders. Strong investment in the future of these industries creates opportunity and prosperity that will benefit the entire American economy in the long run.

I thank the Workforce Development Committee for their investment in our community that supports future opportunities for so many businesses and families. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to the EHCMA Workforce Development Committee for receiving the Economic Alliance's Visionary Award.

CONGRATULATING JESSICA RIVKA CHERRY AND DANIEL JOSEPH CHAVIN ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR WEDDING

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, please join me in recognizing Miss Jessica Rivka Cherry and Mr. Daniel Joseph Chavin, as they celebrate their dedication to each other and to their future together.

Jessica and Daniel celebrated their commitment to each other on Sunday, November 16, 2014, in the greatest city in America, my hometown, Chicago, IL.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that both families share in the happiness of this union. Their commitment to each other is one to be celebrated and commended and one in which I offer my congratulations and wish them the best as they begin their new life together.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARTHUR J. HILL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend Arthur J. Hill, who passed away on November 4, 2014 at the age of 99. Arthur was a successful businessman, war hero, and community volunteer who made his community and country a better place through his dedication to his service.

Arthur was born in Coos Bay, Oregon where he attended local schools, and then continued on to study engineering at the University of Oregon. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, at the age of 27 he volunteered for the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 146th Engineers Battalion as the Headquarters Company Commander, which is a position that he kept until the end of the Second World War when he retired with the rank of Captain.

During his campaign in World War II, Arthur worked tirelessly for the U.S. Army. Arthur's battalion built and operated an assault training center consisting of exact duplications of German fortifications, which was replicated from secret aerial reconnaissance photos of the Normandy landing beaches. He also participated in four additional European Campaigns in Northern France, Ardennes and Alsace, the Rhineland, and Central Europe.

In recognition of his efforts in training 65 civil engineers to assist in the reconstruction of the town of Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, the Czech Government awarded Arthur the Czech Military Medal. He was also awarded the Czech Presidential Medal on the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia, and was chosen as the recipient of the first annual ''Hero of the Valley Award,'' which is given to a distinguished military veteran in the San Joaquin Valley.

Upon returning home from serving our country, Art met and married his wife, Betty Jane ''BJ''; the couple enjoyed over 50 years of happy marriage until she passed away in 1998. After the war, Arthur went on to work in the oil industry until 1980, when he retired as president of Hill Oil Company. He then worked at the Veterans Memorial Museum from 1992 until 2011 where he served as Director for ten years. The Veterans Memorial Museum is considered by many to be one of the finest military museums in the country. Art was also a member of the Fresno Rotary Club for over 50 years and was Commander of the American Legion in Fresno.

Arthur loved to spend time with veterans, and cared for them so much that in 2010, he established the ''Veterans of the Central Valley Fund'' at the Fresno Regional Foundation. This fund supports the Veterans Memorial Museum and other projects benefitting veterans. Apart from serving the community, Arthur and his wife Betty Jane loved to spend their time traveling the world. Arthur is survived by his son Brad and his wife Audrey, and their daughter Carly and her husband Keith Berry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SHAISTA MAHMOOD

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a great Virginian, an 8th District constituent and my dear friend, Shaista Mahmood.

It's been decades since Shaista first came to our country from Pakistan with her new husband Rafat (Ray), her commitment to her adopted home is matched by none. All througout Northern Virginia, life is improving thanks to the work of the Mahmoods. From their humble beginnings starting at the age of 23 with their first business in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, they've been important members of the small business community in the 8th District.

But it has been Shaista's charitable work for causes around the world that is most profound. In fact, the organizations to which she has devoted her time are too numerous to list. Whether it's supporting children recovering from life in war-torn regions of our globe at Seeds of Peace or securing positive change for women as worldwide economic drivers at Vital Voices, Shaista's commitment to making a difference in the lives of women and children is unmatched.

I've been honored to share this commitment to so many of these causes, but none more so than her devotion to improving women's and children's rights around the globe. Hers has been a silent hand at the wheel driving forces for change all around the globe, demanding equal rights for the many who are treated unjustly as a matter of course and tradition every day.

These are the very issues that have inspired so many of us to devote decades of our life to public service. But while we are welcomed and honored in DC and throughout the country as public servants, Shaista asks for no such recognition. She is proud to let her good work stand as testament alone to the countless hours of commitment she has spent advancing these global issues.

Since we first met years ago, thanks in small part to her delicious Pakistani cooking, the roots she has planted in Northern Virginia are deep and wide. Along with Ray, Shaista has opened her home to countless organizations, including elected officials at every level from across the political spectrum. We are all fortunate to call Shaista our friend, and for many, our inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me today in celebrating Shaista's commitment to making this world a better place all within it. I'm honored to call her a constitutent and even more honored to call her a friend.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the National Low Income Housing Coalition, or ''NLIHC,'' on its 40th Anniversary.

NLIHC is the only national advocacy organization solely focused on the housing needs of extremely low income households—that is, households with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income.

While numerous organizations concentrate on federal housing policy, NLIHC is unique because of its sole focus on the needs of extremely low income people, the only population experiencing an absolute shortage of affordable housing. NLIHC remains firm to its mission, even at times when doing so is not popular.

Since its inception, NLIHC has been a leader in the effort to address the housing needs of those with the lowest incomes. From the time that Cushing N. Dolbeare founded the Ad Hoc Low Income Housing Coalition, a predecessor to NLIHC, the organization has worked to better educate constituents about when and how to make their voices heard.

Ms. Dolbeare authored or co-authored dozens of articles, books and reports, most notably a widely-cited annual report on the gap between housing costs and the wages of low income people. This publication continues to be relied upon on Capitol Hill, and the data included in it are instrumental in making the case for continued federal support for housing programs that reach those in our society with the very lowest incomes.

NLIHC has found through its research that for every 100 extremely low income renter households, there are only 31 affordable and available units. This shortage worsens every year and exists in every state in the country. The need is particularly acute given current funding for HUD programs, which is only enough to reach one in four eligible households. Households who cannot get assistance, even though they are eligible, must spend the majority of their meager incomes on housing, leaving very little for other expenses. Often, something like a medical emergency or job loss leaves a household at risk of experiencing homelessness or another unstable housing situation.

To address the housing shortage, NLIHC's most notable achievement to date has been its work towards creating a National Housing Trust Fund in 2008. The NHTF was initially to be funded by contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The contributions were temporarily suspended in 2008 at the height of the financial crisis. The Trust Fund, once it is capitalized, will provide the largest investment in over 40 years for the production, preservation, and rehabilitation of affordable housing for extremely low income households. It would jumpstart construction in our communities—providing both jobs and sustainable housing opportunities to moderate and low-income people.

I have been eager to see the Housing Trust Fund funded, and I call on my colleagues to find additional sources of funding from outside of the appropriations process, to capitalize it. The NHTF, funded to scale, is the most promising way for our nation to end the affordable housing shortage which exists in every state in the country, and advance on the progress we are already making as a country towards ending homelessness.

In addition, NLIHC has been a leading voice in assuring that the rights of renters and extremely low income households are protected as Congress addressed foreclosures.

With hundreds of members across the country, and consistently incisive research and policy analysis, NLIHC is a respected voice in Washington, D.C. that has helped produce policies impacting the lives of millions. I congratulate NLIHC on its 40th Anniversary, and I look forward to working with NLIHC in the future to address the housing needs of the very poorest Americans. There is a lot of work that remains to be done, but I have no doubt that with NLIHC as a partner, we are up to the task.

PRESIDENTIAL PARDON FOR JOHN KIRIAKOU

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for a Presidential pardon for John Kiriakou. Mr. Kiriakou is an American hero. A 15 year CIA veteran, he was decorated and recognized more than a dozen times for his outstanding work in the always-demanding intelligence world, served in dangerous Middle East posts and helped lead the team in Pakistan that captured our first high value Al Qaeda target during the biggest coordinated operation in Agency counter-terrorism history.

John Kiriakou is also a devoted family man to his wife and five children, a church-going member of the Greek-American community, a best-selling author and a serious-minded former Congressional foreign policy aide.

John Kiriakou is a whistleblower, as well. The first American intelligence officer to officially and on-record reveal that the U.S. was in the torture business as a matter of White House policy under President Bush. In confirming what the American media and policymakers were hearing whispered—that waterboarding and other enhanced interrogation techniques were a matter of standard military and intelligence procedures—he helped begin an intense and overdue debate over whether torture violated international law, tarnished our higher American principles and undermined the critical need for reliable, actionable information.

And John Kiriakou is a convicted felon, serving a 2½ year plea bargained sentence in a Pennsylvania federal prison. The charge against him is violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act, whereby John answered a question from a U.S. reporter who was duplicitously fronting for lawyers defending Al Qaeda prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay and in the process unintentionally confirmed the classified identity of a CIA colleague. A colleague who, by the way, was being erroneously labeled as an enhanced interrogation techniques torturer.

All four of these realities about John are intertwined. He is not a spy nor a turncoat, he did not sell secrets to an enemy or act to hurt U.S. national security. But John did shine a critical spotlight on a CIA practice that many wanted kept in the shadows and he did challenge the authority of those who authorized, oversaw, and encouraged the use of waterboarding and other acts of torture. And he did this with the moral authority of someone who served inside the intelligence world, refused an invitation to be trained in waterboarding and other like methods, knew and loved the rank-and-file men and women who sacrifice family life, safety, and prosperity for the mission of gathering and assessing secrets that might threaten American interests and lives.

The real issue here is the extremely selective prosecution of John and the ongoing efforts to intimidate him from talking about our intelligence community's misfires. Even former CIA Director Leon Panetta now concedes he accidentally revealed classified information to the writer of Zero Dark Thirty, but faces no legal ramifications. Jose Rodriguez, the CIA's former head of the Clandestine Service, admits to deciding without any legal authorization to erase videotapes of torture sessions so they could never be used in U.S. courts, but has never been forced to answer for this destruction of evidence.

Whatever John's misdeeds—and he admits that answering that reporter's questions was ill-advised and naïve—he has more than paid for them. After fifteen years of service to his country, the personal risks and costs of a life in the intelligence world, the legal double-standard applied, and now two years in prison John Kiriakou deserves a Presidential pardon so his record can be cleared, just as this country is trying to heal from a dark chapter in its history.

HONORING ALFONSO J. ORTIZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alfonso J. Ortiz, a devoted husband, loving father and proud New Mexican.

Alfonso's New Mexico roots run deep—he is a direct descendent of a Conquistador during the time of Diego De Vargas who served as Spanish governor for the New Spain territory of Santa Fe de Nuevo México. Alfonso would carry on this legacy. From the beginning, Alfonso displayed an impassioned sense of duty, pride and commitment to those he loved, his community and our country. At 17 years old, Alfonso proudly enlisted in the United States Army serving with honor and distinction in World War II.

Alfonso would embark on a 30 year career as a Civil Service Employee with the United States Post Office (USPS). Starting out as a Rural Route Letter Carrier, Alfonso ascended through the ranks and at one point supervised all the mail carriers in Santa Fe. Alfonso was a man of great integrity and revered by his employees. Whenever a letter carrier passed by, they would remind his children of what a wonderful boss he was; they would do anything in the world for him because they knew he never asked of them anything he would not do himself.

After World War II, Alfonzo returned to New Mexico to marry the love of his life Anne Rodriguez. They would live out their life together in Santa Fe, New Mexico with their 6 children and 8 grandchildren. Alfonso's unconditional and everlasting love for his family was boundless and when his wife Anne developed cancer he was her main caregiver, always at her side, even as she drew her last breath.

Alfonso represents the best of our country—kindness toward others, respect for everyone and limitless love. He lived his life with ardor, zeal and enterprise; striving to create a better life for his family and community. Alfonso is a spectacular new Mexican who moved and inspired individuals not with rhetoric but through actions, leading by example. Today, Alfonso is not with us but his legacy and lessons will endure in all those he met. May the memory of Alfonso live on in our hearts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on November 14, 2014 I travelled to El Salvador to commemorate the assassination of six Jesuit priests 25 years ago. As a result, I was absent for rollcall votes 518 and 519. If I were present, I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall 518 and ''no'' on rollcall 519.

THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Daughters of Penelope, who for 85 years have been working to improve the status and well-being of women and their families in this country and around the world.

By promoting the ideals of ancient Greece including civic engagement and good citizenship through community service and philanthropy, the Daughters of Penelope have helped to raise awareness for a number of civic and humanitarian causes.

From its financial support for breast cancer research to its assistance to victims and communities affected by natural disasters to its work in support of affordable and dignified housing for this nation's senior citizens, the members of the Daughters of Penelope have answered the call of those in need for more than a half century.

So it is with great appreciation that I rise to recognize the work and members of the Daughters of Penelope for their commitment to volunteerism, for their charity and for all they have done over these many years to advance the standing of women around the world.

CONGRATULATING EAGLE SCOUT BARON RYAN

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eagle Scout Baron Ryan on earning all 139 Merit Badges possible during his time in the Boy Scouts.

This feat is even more remarkable since only 242 boys out of the 110 million Boy Scouts who have ever been involved in Boy Scouts have earned every Merit Badge possible. Even then, because the Boy Scouts reissued 4 additional historical Merit Badges in 2010 to celebrate the organization's 100th anniversary, Baron earned a total number of Merit Badges that only a handful of Boys Scouts in all of scouting history have accomplished.

But Scouting is not only about achieving Merit Badges. In his time as a Scout, Baron has completed hours upon hours of service to his community through projects such as collecting food for Least of These during Scouting for Food, playing his bugle for numerous Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, cleaning up area rivers, serving our nation's veterans at VFW and American Legion events, and volunteering with charities such as Lost and Found, which serves children and teens in the Missouri Ozarks who are grieving due to the loss of a parent.

Aside from the time Baron dedicated to his community, he also dedicated himself and his time to his troop. During his time as a Boy Scout, Baron held many important leadership roles, including troop guide, instructor, historian, and chaplain's aide among others. As a Scout, Baron has also spent approximately 150 nights camping with his troop, including participating in high adventure crews at the Boy Scouts' Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Sea Base in the Florida Keys, and Northern Tier in Minnesota, all of which ultimately earned him the Boy Scouts' coveted Triple Crown award.

As if his accomplishments do not already seem vast, for his Eagle Project, Baron produced a 1,022 page book called Lamonga, River of the Seven Spirits that was ultimately donated free of cost to hundreds of Missouri schools and libraries.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Baron on all that he has accomplished and wish him well in his future endeavors.

NOVEMBER 15TH MARKED BEGINNING OF OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, November 15th was a big day for all of us. November 15th marked the beginning of open enrollment for quality, affordable health care for millions of Americans.

Because health care should be a right, not a privilege. We need to continue moving our communities from a culture of coping to a culture of coverage.

This Saturday, alongside Executive Director of Covered California Mr. Peter Lee, I relaunched my ''Enroll OC'' or ''Inscribete HOY'' initiative to connect Orange County residents with certified, in-person, bilingual health insurance enrollment services.

Despite some bumps along the road last year, Orange County surpassed enrollment expectations by almost three-hundred percent, enrolling over 131,000 people, including more then 2,000 folks who were helped by ''Enroll OC.''

And believe me, we will do it again. In fact, we have to do it again.

We enrolled one million Californians and cut our uninsured rate in half—the Affordable Care Act is working. It's time to stop repealing and start enrolling and I hope all of my colleagues, from both sides of the aisle, will join our effort.

Let's commit to ready, set, enroll.

REMEMBERING TERRENCE P. ALLEN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of an important and respected member of the Chicago community, Terrence P. Allen, who recently passed away at the young age of 54. Terry Allen has been a long and outstanding activist for the middle-class, guiding him through a long and distinguished career fighting for workers. Terry passed away on November 11, 2014 after heroically battling cancer.

Terry served for decades as a dedicated leader of working people, taking over the city's largest electrical workers union in 2011 as the Business Manager for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 134. In this role, Terry represented thousands of Chicagoland workers with great distinction. As distinguished as he was on behalf of workers, Terry made many other contributions to the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago for which we are all grateful.

Terry's top priority was always his family and the love and support they provided was most important in his life. He married the love of his life, Jean Conrick, and together they raised 3 children; Billy, Amanda and Michael. Terry was the youngest of 8 children born to Thomas and Irene Allen. His loving family included his siblings Barbara (John) Wiemhoff, Nancy (Hon. Tim) Cullerton, Honorable Tom (Jan), Jim (Lin), Tim (Mary), Dan (Sue) and his twin brother, Pat (Laura), along with his wife's family; parents, Bill and Camille Conrick, Mary Ann (Dan) Jordan, Bill Conrick, Joanne (Dan) Lynch, Tom Conrick, and Cathy (Jay) Ek. Uncle and Great Uncle Terry will be fondly remembered by his 46 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Terrence Allen was an inspiration to all who knew him. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering him for his tireless service and dedication. I join his family, friends and IBEW Local 134 to honor his legacy, celebrate his life and remember his illustrious contributions to the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago. I wish to express my deepest condolences to his family, and may God bless the

Allen/Conrick family and the memory of a man who was truly loved by his family, his friends, and his community.

RECOGNIZING MR. HARRY H. CROHE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I proudly recognize the dedicated service of Harry H. Crohe and his commitment to safety and security as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and Training Officer of the Bucks County Emergency Management Agency. Harry Crohe has honorably served for the last 16 years during a period of the Agency's expansion and growth. In addition, he has a long history of volunteer service in his Bristol Borough community, having served for more than 50 years as a volunteer and officer with the Bucks County Rescue Squad and the American Hose Hook and Ladder. No. 2, where he continues to serve. Harry Crohe is an outstanding example of the dedication of Bucks County citizens and employees who are counted within the ranks of first responders. I gratefully acknowledge his leadership and service on behalf of the County of Bucks and his remarkable spirit of volunteerism and wish him a bright and healthy future.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO H.R. 4, THE JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 4, the Jobs for America Act. H.R. 4 is not a new bill to be considered on the House floor. It is a compilation of bills, many of which have already been passed by Republicans on a partisan basis. Republicans claim the bill would create jobs and strengthen the economy. In reality, H.R. 4 would weaken meaningful reforms and regulations that protect American consumers, families and workers. In addition, the bill would add $574 billion to the deficit. This bill does a disservice to the American people, the future of our economy and our environment.

H.R. 4 would impose numerous administrative hurdles that would degrade the regulatory process. Agencies would be required to conduct cost-benefit analyses and could be forced to adopt rules that are the least costly, not necessarily the most beneficial. Agencies would also have to calculate often unquantifiable effects of rules on small businesses, another costly and unnecessary use of time and resources. To further delay the rulemaking process, H.R. 4 would require agencies to submit rules to the Office of Management and Budget for review, post rules online for at least six months and seek approval from both the House and Senate before the rules may take effect. Requiring congressional approval on all major rules would allow members of Congress to prevent finalization of rules that have already received extensive public input.

A real life example can help demonstrate the impact of H.R. 4. Congress passed the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) in 2010 to improve the ability of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to police the food supply and protect consumers from dangerous contaminants. Foods we never would have imagined to be unsafe, from spinach to peanut butter, have harmed thousands of Americans. FDA has been working hard to comply with the mandate of the new law and is in the process of finalizing a number of rules that would implement some of the key pieces of the food safety legislation. The administrative hurdles that H.R. 4 establishes would severely delay the implementation of these rules, putting Americans at risk of foodborne illnesses, despite the law's obvious merits and public support.

Furthermore, H.R. 4 would undermine existing regulations and laws. The measure would limit the ability of citizens to hold agencies accountable for not adequately fulfilling their regulatory obligations. It would exempt private equity fund advisors from important disclosure requirements, jeopardizing the financial system and protections for investors and the public. The bill would threaten existing public land and environmental regulations by allowing increased logging in national forests. It would weaken the employer-sponsored insurance system and hurt American workers by increasing the definition of full-time work week under the Affordable Care Act from 30 hours a week to 40 hours a week. There is simply no evidence that the ACA has led to a shift in part-time work. In fact, since the ACA became law, we have added more than nine million private sector jobs and expanded health insurance coverage through the marketplaces to more than eight million Americans.

Today, the Republican majority brings to the floor a package of bills that have already passed the House and been rejected by the Senate. H.R. 4 would inhibit the ability of federal regulatory agencies to issue necessary health, safety, environmental and financial regulations. The measure does nothing to improve the economy, create jobs or protect Americans; it does everything to threaten the progress we have already made.

I oppose H.R. 4 and I urge my colleagues do the same.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 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 $17,941,406,575,143.38. We've added $7,314,529,526,230.30 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING LUKE MAYOCK

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Luke Mayock for being named the Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Houston. Mayock is a senior at Clements High School in my hometown of Sugar Land, Texas. This award recognizes Mayock's academic and athletic achievements.

He is among an elite group of high school athletes. In 2014, he recorded 50 receptions, 647 yards and five touchdowns in addition to serving as the team's punt returner and placekicker. Mayock has also been recognized for his academic strength in English and math. He also coaches a youth league basketball team and supports his church's international retreats to assist underdeveloped communities.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Luke Mayock for receiving the 2014 Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award. We look forward to his continued success both on and off the field.

REMINDING AMERICANS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS AND CELEBRATING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WEEK

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, community foundations epitomize the philanthropic culture of the United States. Established in 1989, Community Foundation Week takes place from November 12–18th annually and honors the tremendous contributions of community foundations across our country. They hold a unique place in American society and provide hope and opportunity to millions of Americans. One hundred years ago, the world's first community foundation was established in Cleveland, Ohio. Since then more than 700 community foundations have been created in America inspiring millions of Americans to give back to this great country with their time, talent and treasure.

Today, I would like to recognize the work of Indiana's community foundations that operate under the definitions supported by he National Standards for Community Foundations. Indiana is blessed to have a community foundation in every county, including nine in my district: Community Foundation of Howard County; Community Foundation of Grant County; Blackford County Community Foundation; Tipton County Community Foundation; Madison County Community Foundation; South Madison County Community Foundation; Legacy Fund; Community Foundation of Boone County; and The Indianapolis Foundation.

These foundations are a model for how philanthropy can inspire communities to come together in support of a common cause. The Legacy Fund, the community foundation serving Hamilton County and an affiliate of Central

Indiana Community Foundation, is helping to meet the needs of at-risk students in the county through the Youth Assistance Program (YAP). This innovative program is serving as a critical connector to keep students and their families on the right track. In collaboration with the county judicial system, schools, youth programs, law enforcement, and city leaders, students displaying negative behavior or facing a challenging situation at home or school are referred to YAP. The program in turn connects students to appropriate programs, classes, mentoring relationships, emergency supports, or counseling services, and families may be referred to services as well. All of this leads to an ultimate goal of self-sufficiency for families and keeping youth out of the judicial system at a young age.

This is just one example of the extraordinary work of place-based philanthropy in local communities throughout the country. The spirit of generosity embodied by over 700 U.S.-based community foundations is a core American value. This week, I am honored to recognize these community foundations for their outstanding efforts.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JERRY ''JR'' MCBRIDE

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jerry ''JR'' McBride, husband, father, and dedicated public servant.

JR McBride, who represented District 4 on the DuPage County Board, died October 24, 2014 after a long battle with cancer. He was just 47 years old. JR was the perfect definition of a public servant; dedicated to his constituents, above partisan politics, and devoted to doing the right thing for his community. He was chairman of the board's legislative committee and previously chaired the judicial and public safety, public transit, and technology committees.

He was extremely generous with his time and valued his community service. JR was actively involved in various organizations, such as the Metropolitan Family Services of DuPage, Rotary Club, DuPage Chapter of the American Cancer Society, and the Glenbard West High School Booster Club. He was also a founding member of the Jubilee Board which raised funds for Outreach Community Ministries in Wheaton, IL. In short, he was always looking for ways to help improve the communities he served.

JR graduated from Fenwick High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Loras College in Iowa. After graduation he joined his family's business, McBride Insurance Company. He eventually moved to Glen Ellyn in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, and Distinguished Colleagues, JR McBride was a man who understood well his duty to family and community. He is survived by his wife, Becky; four daughters, Lauren, Molly, Abigail and Sara; a son, Marty; his father, Jerry Sr.; two sisters, Kara Brophy and Joy Gibson; and a brother, Bill. Please join me in remembering him as a shining example of how a caring, committed public servant can make a positive difference in the lives of others.

HAPPY 90TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, November 11th marks the 90th anniversary of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA). On this day, we should not only honor our veterans for their service and sacrifice, but also honor the FRA for their unwavering commitment to support the needs of our active duty, Reserves, and retired military members, veterans and family members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Founded by Navy Chief Yeoman George L. Carlin and chartered in 1924, the FRA is one of the oldest and largest enlisted organizations and a founding member of The Military Coalition. Its mission has been to serve as the premier ''watch dog'' group in maintaining and improving the quality of life for Sea Service personnel and their families.

As a veteran myself, I wish to express my immense gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the Fleet Reserve Association and their outgoing National President, Mr. Virgil P. Courneya and incoming National President, Mr. John Ippert.

Consistent with their motto, ''loyalty, protection and service'', for nearly nine decades, commitment to their members resulted in legislation enhancing quality of life programs while protecting rights and privileges.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF LARRY D. MORSE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Larry D. Morse, who passed away on October 28, 2014, at the age of 87. Larry was the founder of Morse, Morse & Morse law firm, and he was a longtime resident of Merced. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, who cherished time with his family above all else. Larry was dutifully active and civically engaged in Merced as a Rotarian for more than 50 years, and he was a member on the board of directors of Merco Credit Union, the Merced College Foundation Board, and Merced Boosters.

While attending Hollywood High School in the 1940s, Larry began working as an usher for NBC Studios in Hollywood and was later promoted to supervisor. It was at NBC Studios where Larry met a new employee, Saranne Condon. Larry and Saranne would go on to spend the next 70 years in a romantic, loving, and nurturing relationship. After his time at NBC Studios, Larry attended Southwestern School of Law in Los Angeles and later began his successful career as an attorney and founder of the law firm Morse, Michelizzi & Wright in Lancaster, California. In 1973, Larry was appointed to the Los Angeles County Municipal Court Bench by Governor Ronald Reagan. After serving on the bench, Larry and his family relocated in 1977 to Merced, where Larry began working at Allen, Van Winkle & Ivey law firm.

Larry adored his wife Saranne and their six children. Together, Larry and Saranne placed their children's education above all else, opting to send their children out of state for college so that they could experience life outside of California.

After his sons, Neil and Brian, graduated from law school, they united with their father to found the law firm Morse, Morse & Morse, located in Merced's historic Virginia Smith home. Practicing law with his sons was an immense source of pride for Larry.

Larry is survived by his beloved wife Saranne and the wonderful family they built with their life together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Larry D. Morse. Throughout his life and career, Larry maintained an outstanding character and a commitment to his community. He will be greatly missed by many.

CELEBRATING THE VILLAGE OF ELMWOOD PARK CENTENNIAL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Village of Elmwood Park as they celebrate their Centennial. The historic election held on April 8, 1914, established Elmwood Park as an official village and was the catalyst to the village's remarkable transformation.

Thanks to the vision of Mr. John Mills, a Chicago area developer, the 1927 Westwood subdivision in Elmwood Park became one of the early ''planned communities'' in our nation. Mr. Mills' Westwood project was the largest residential program of its kind ever attempted in the State of Illinois. The $25 million building program provided paved streets, sewers, sidewalks and plans for 1,679 bungalows spread over 245 acres in Elmwood Park.

Due to the ambitious project, the population increased over 700 percent growing from 1,380 to 11,270 people by 1930, making Elmwood Park the sixth fastest growing community in the nation at that time.

The Honorable Elmer W. Conti was elected Village President in 1953. Under his guidance, Elmwood Park was recognized for honorable mention in the All-American awards in 1954, 1955, and 1958 for its village administration, financial stability, citizen involvement and progress in education. Village President Conti served for 32 years, retiring in 1985.

In the last 25 years the Village of Elmwood Park has had outstanding leaders. Honorable Peter N. Silvestri served as Village President from 1989 to 2013 and the current Village President, Honorable Angelo ''Skip'' Saviano, elected in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Centennial of the Village of Elmwood Park. I am truly honored to have such an outstanding community in my district.

CONGRATULATING PATRICE WALKER POWELL UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a dedicated public servant, Patrice Walker Powell of the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA). Over her 23 years of service at the NEA, Ms. Powell has worked to broaden and deepen the NEA's reach with diverse and underserved communities across the nation.

At the outset of Ms. Powell's career at the NEA, she was charged with leading their Education and Access Department at the same time that the institution experienced significant cuts to its operational budget, forcing the agency to run with reduced resources. Ms. Powell successfully engaged the philanthropic community to develop bridge funding and protect multidisciplinary art centers that were cultural anchors in communities across the nation.

Ms. Powell developed the Arts REACH program, designed to work with each state arts agency to hold staff-led public seminars on NEA funding opportunities and work with state partners to determine potential applicants for grants. Over a three-year commitment to this program, Ms. Powell's efforts resulted in an overall 350% increase in NEA-supported projects in states that previously received direct NEA grants.

During her tenure at the NEA, Ms. Powell has been the point person for the agency's response to natural disasters across the country. Appointed to the National Coalition on Disaster Planning and Preparedness, an association of public and private funders and national cultural services organizations, Ms. Powell led agency efforts to work with state, regional, and local arts agencies decimated by natural disasters—most notably Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Powell worked to get necessary funding to areas stricken by disaster, and to ensure that Federal grant funding was properly utilized to preserve cultural treasures.

Ms. Powell's leadership at the NEA demonstrates her commitment to public service and dedication to advancing the arts to people and communities across the country. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Ms. Powell for her service and wishing her a happy, healthy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO JOEL AND KIT McNALLY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to congratulate Joel and Kit McNally, recipients of the 2014 James Howard Baker Award, established by the Milwaukee Community Brainstorming Conference. Joel and Kit McNally, having been married for more than 45 years, met while attending Indiana University where they both wrote for the college paper.

Kit McNally retired after providing 23 years of distinguished service as Chief Executive Officer of the Benedict Center, a non-profit, interfaith criminal justice agency that advocates for positive change in the criminal justice system. The Center initiated many programs under her watch, including the gender-responsive Women's Harm Reduction Program, utilized by both the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office and Milwaukee County judges as a diversion from prison program. Further, under her direction, the Benedict Center was a statewide leader in drafting a model Community Justice Act for Wisconsin designed to return money to local communities that reduced state incarceration costs through implementation of effective treatment and diversion programs. She has served on various national and local boards, committees and commissions and continues to serve as the citizen representative on the Executive Committee of the Milwaukee Community Justice Council which is comprised of top leaders on criminal justice issues in Milwaukee County.

Joel McNally is a national-award-winning Wisconsin journalist based in Milwaukee. Joel worked as a reporter, feature writer and satirical columnist at the Milwaukee Journal for 27 years. While at the Milwaukee Journal, his column was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and he won a National Headliners Award for best local column. Joel is currently teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and as a syndicated columnist, writes for the Capital Times, the Shepherd Express and other newspapers where he provides commentary on issues including racial and class inequities. He is also a television commentator on the weekly INTERchange Program providing the liberal point of view. Joel has served as a panelist at our local Community Brainstorming Forums Community Brainstorming has met monthly as a breakfast forum to discuss and advance the interests of African Americans in particular and Milwaukee in general since 1986. Joel and Kit McNally are regular attendees at Community Brainstorming Forums.

Mister Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Joel and Kit McNally who both continue to fight for the rights of the poor, disenfranchised and African Americans without the expectation of monetary benefit or public accolades. I value their service and am proud to call them friends. They have contributed greatly to the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN H. KREBS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of my good friend and former Member of Congress, John H. Krebs. John passed away on November 10, 2014 at the age of 87.

John Krebs was an honorable man, and a community leader whose unwavering service will be greatly missed. In addition to his two terms in the U.S. Congress from 1975–1979, Mr. Krebs was a civic and Democratic Party leader in Fresno, an attorney in private practice for over 30 years, an apprentice diamond cutter during his youth in Tel Aviv, and served in the U.S. Army.

While in Congress, he was best known for his authorship and enactment of legislation incorporating the Mineral King Valley into Sequoia National Park, thwarting Disney developers who wanted to turn the wilderness area into a major ski resort. To recognize his accomplishment, in 2009, President Obama signed legislation establishing the John Krebs Wilderness Area, covering 40,000 acres within the Mineral King Valley.

John Krebs was born December 17, 1926, in Berlin. His parents fled Germany only a few months after Hitler came to power, and be was raised in Tel Aviv. In his teens, he embarked on a career as a diamond cutter and joined the Haganah, a Jewish underground organization opposing the British rule, while also preparing to attend college.

Mr. Krebs moved to the U.S. in 1946 to attend the University of California, Berkeley. He graduated in 1950 and became a U.S. citizen in 1952. Following his two years in the Army, he attended the University of California Hastings College of Law and passed the California Bar in 1957. For the next three decades, he practiced law with the Parichan law firm, specializing in civil defense litigation.

Politics beckoned, and Mr. Krebs became an activist and leader in Democratic politics, playing a key role in local and statewide campaigns. In March 1970, he was elected to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, a post he held until his election to Congress in November, 1974. He was the first foreign-born congressman from California. In a 1978 interview, Mr. Krebs said: "It's a tremendous credit to our system. Here I can come to a community as an immigrant, really not knowing a soul, and 27 years later, I am elected to Congress."

He returned to Fresno after his tenure in Congress, and practiced law until his retirement. Mr. Krebs served on numerous boards and commissions, and was foreman of the Fresno County Grand Jury for two years. He and his wife enjoyed traveling, and relished visiting their grandchildren during the past 23 years. During his life, Mr. Krebs' high values, strong work ethic and caring for others have been an inspiration for his family and friends. His loving guidance as a husband, father and grandfather will be forever cherished.

Mr. Krebs is survived by his wife of 58 years, Hanna Krebs; his son Daniel Krebs of San Anselmo, California, daughter-in-law Susan and grandsons Clay and Peter; his daughter Karen Krebs Wood of New Canaan, Connecticut, son-in-law John and grandchildren Elizabeth, Caroline and Jack; and his 90 year old brother, Shlomo Krebs of Tel Aviv, his sons and extended family.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me paying tribute to the life of John H. Krebs. It has been a privilege to have known John. His children, relatives, and friends have an extraordinary role model that they will hold in their hearts forever. His presence will be greatly missed but his legacy will surely live through those who knew him.

RECOGNIZING BRAD GOLDBERG

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Brad Goldberg, who is being honored by the Humane Society of the United States for his dedication to the animal protection movement.

After a 35-year career in investment management in which Mr. Goldberg became senior vice president of Jennison Associates, a subsidiary of Prudential Financial, he retired to pursue his passion—animal welfare. Since 2001, Mr. Goldberg has run Animal Welfare Trust, an organization he founded, which works to increase grant-making and capacity building for animal welfare groups. He has devoted himself to this organization, which has been involved in numerous animal welfare related initiatives, including support for a Florida ballot measure outlawing gestation crates, as well as the New York Coalition for Healthy School Food, which advocates for a plant-based diet in schools.

Mr. Goldberg is also the Chair of HEART, a charity sponsored by Animal Welfare Trust that educates children to be compassionate and considerate of all living beings. As Chair of HEART, he has also given major gifts to support animal studies and animal law, and has funded fellowships for lawyers to work at nonprofits like the Humane Society. It is for this work in particular that Mr. Goldberg is being awarded the Compassion in Action Award by the Humane Society of the United States.

In his personal life, Mr. Goldberg is a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. Activism and volunteerism are priorities for Mr. Goldberg and his wife Sunny, and animal welfare is one of many causes to benefit from their devotion to community and the common good. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Brad Goldberg for his hard work and devotion to the animal protection movement and congratulate him for receiving the Compassion in Action Award.

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Each year, observers use the day as a time to remember those who have lost their lives as a result of a road crash. It is also a time to recommit ourselves to the goal of changing behaviors that lead to driver accidents.

The theme of this year's observance is ''Speed Kills.'' Each day around the world, more than 500 children are killed on the way to and from school because of the actions of unsafe drivers. Indeed, road crashes are the leading cause of death for people from ages 15 to 29. This annual World Day of Remembrance provides road traffic victims and their families with an opportunity to remind the world of these troubling statistics and to have their voices heard.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in remembering those who have lost their lives or were injured as a result of a road crash, to console the families of those affected, and to commit ourselves to the goal of making roads safe for everyone around the world.

AT 100, SADIE STRAWN STILL HAS SPUNK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week will not just be a typical Thursday. For 100 years ago this day Mrs. Sadie Strawn was born.

Born and raised in Byhalia, Mississippi, Mrs. Strawn has appreciated the beauty of God's country from day one. She attributes her health to the good food of the South and The good Lord who provides it, never taking for granted all that she has been given.

After high school, Mrs. Strawn left the comfort of her family and moved to Memphis in pursuit of a nursing degree.

This was not her first courageous move, as she is known to have been a bit of a daredevil throughout her early years—riding cows, jumping out of haylofts, and swimming down rivers.

It was in college that she met her husband, Malcolm Strawn, and decided to devote her life to raising a loving family.

Nashville was lucky to have the Strawns for 45 years, after which Mr. and Mrs. Strawn packed up and moved to Houston in order to be closer to their grandchildren.

Upon arrival, Mrs. Strawn became immediately involved in the Republican Party as a delegate at the Texas State Convention. She was the oldest person to vote in this year's Midterm Elections!

Mrs. Strawn is the proud mother of Jim, Bill, and Dave Strawn. She has eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, all of whom hope to be just like her when they grow up.

According to her sons, her barbecue meatballs are world famous. She would feed them to anyone that asked to be fed after church on Sundays, and still found time to be active in her boy's scouting.

After 100 years, Mrs. Strawn's is still as active as ever. She walks nearly a mile every day without any assistance. She is an active member of her Church at Paradise Springs Independent Living and plans to be for years to come.

The Strawn boys are continuously thankful for the values that their mother instilled in them: responsibility, commitment, and faithfulness.

At 100 years old, Sadie Strawn still has spunk.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING RODERICK M. HILLS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to recognize Roderick M. Hills who passed away on October 29 of this year. Rod served our country through his efforts to strengthen relations between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Thirty years ago, in partnership with Caltex (now Chevron) and IBM, Rod founded what is today the US-ASEAN Business Council, aided by a grant from the U.S. Department of State that was matched two to one by the private sector to establish an organization that would promote and support ASEAN. In 1985, as Chairman of the Council, Rod established its first office. He has played a critical role in supporting the Council ever since, whether providing guidance to subsequent chairmen or advising government officials of the United States and the ASEAN countries or leaders in the private sector.

Today, the Council's members include more than 140 of the leading U.S. companies doing business in Southeast Asia, together representing over $6 trillion in annual revenue and more than 13 million employees.

ASEAN has become America's fourth largest export market, supporting some 560,000 U.S. jobs through nearly $100 billion in goods and services exports to ASEAN. U.S. investment in ASEAN is greater than U.S. investment in Brazil, Russia, India and China combined. Investment by ASEAN in the United States has grown over 1,440 percent since 2001, creating new jobs across the country and on track to create even more.

The past 30 years have seen a significant strengthening of ties between the United States and ASEAN. And Rod was there for every one of those years.

Rod served the United States in many capacities throughout his life, including as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission in the Ford Administration, and he had an exemplary career in the legal profession. But his dedication and passion for Southeast Asia and his appreciation for the potential that ASEAN creates is a testament to the difference one person can make.

Significantly, he founded and became chairman of the Hills Program on Governance that established Centers for the Study of Governance in academic institutions around the globe, including at the Asian Institute of Management in the Philippines and the University of Indonesia. This initiative aims to identify serious governance problems in both the public and private spheres, and it works to develop a better understanding of the corrupting influences that create such problems and organize efforts to reduce those influences.

Ideas like this help change societies. They build the foundation on which security and opportunity can prosper. They pave the way for growth and resiliency. And Rod Hills created a lasting impact on the way in which the countries all over the world, and in Southeast Asia in particular, are embracing the realities of the 21st century and looking to the future.

Again, I want to recognize Rod Hills for his service to the United States and in particular for his vision for and steadfast support to the US-ASEAN Business Council and the important work they have done for the last 30 years to advance business relations between ASEAN and America.

RECOGNIZING JAKE BORNSTEIN, CHRIS KIELKOPF, KEELEY MAHANES, AND AARON SCHMIDT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake Bornstein, Chris Kielkopf, Keeley Mahanes, and Aaron Schmidt for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, DC office for the Fall 2014 session of Congress.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these four and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All four of our interns have made plans to continue their work next year with various organizations in both Colorado and Washington. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Jake Bornstein, Chris Kielkopf, Keeley Mahanes, and Aaron Schmidt for their service this fall.

HONORING DAVID BURRELLI

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the career of a distinguished servant of Congress in the area of national defense—David Burrelli, Ph.D. In early January, Dave will retire from the Congressional Research Service after 30 years of faithful service to the legislative branch.

Dave joined CRS in 1985 while a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Chicago. In the years that followed, he's contributed enormously to discussions in the national defense arena, supplying a thoughtful and rational voice on tough issues. One of Dave's many contributions involved helping me write into federal law the definition of gender neutral standards for women in ground combat assignments. His comprehensive knowledge on the issue was impressive and his guidance and steady hand, on something that no doubt was viewed by some as polarizing, produced a bipartisan product that is certain to have a beneficial impact on our military. Most importantly, the provision will ensure we maintain an effective fighting force—which Dave knows something about as a graduate of Marine Officer Candidate School in July 1978.

Dave's time in the Marine Corps was just the start of a long, distinguished record of service. He graduated from the University of Maryland in 1979 and received his Master's degree from Maryland in 1981. In 1986, he received his Ph.D. and his dissertation ''Evaluation of the Program to Recruit College-Bound Youth into the Army'' helped the Army to develop a program which eventually became The New GI Bill. Dave's formal education did not end there. He is a proud 1996 graduate of the National War College where he received a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy.

As a CRS specialist in military manpower policy, Dave worked on military force structure, compensation, health care, and variety of military social issues such HIV/AIDS, and sexual assault to name but a few. Dave also became CRS's resident expert on military medals and awards and provided exemplary support to Congress on this important aspect of military service.

In March 1993, Dave was a leading witness for the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on ''Policy Concerning Homosexuals in the Armed Forces.'' In a letter to the Director of CRS, Senator Sam Nunn, the committee chairman, noted ''During one of the longest hearings we have ever held during my 20 years on the Committee, he consistently provided clear answers to extremely difficult questions about military life and the relationship between the military and civilian society. Dr. Burrelli has assisted the Committee in developing [an] authoritative foundation for the Committee's hearings on this most difficult issue. In doing so, he has performed an important public service.'' In recognition of Dave's recognized ability to handle difficult and sensitive topics, he continued to serve as the service's lead specialist on a variety of highly sensitive and important military social issues until his retirement. Dave also provided distinguished service to CRS as a supervisor of the CRS intern program for five years and as a Library of Congress docent for ten years. In his capacity as a docent, he was often asked to provide library tours to a variety of distinguished visitors.

And if all of this didn't keep Dave busy enough, his friends and colleagues tell me he's also an accomplished musician and has played in over 125 area theater productions as a bassist.

Dr. David Burrelli leaves behind him not only a distinguished public service career but a legacy of leadership and mentorship to colleagues, congressional staff, and defense policy analysts alike. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to him for his 30 years of service to Congress and our nation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 19

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Lourdes Maria Castro Ramirez, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Therese W. McMillan, of California, to be Federal Transit Administrator, Department of Transportation; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Housing Finance Agency, focusing on balancing stability, growth, and affordability in the mortgage market.

SD–538

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 2917, Adding Ebola to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act, H.R. 669, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, and the nominations of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel, and Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member, both of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Adri Davin Jayaratne, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, and Michael Young, of Pennsylvania, both to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and any pending nominations.

SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine preparedness and response to public health threats, focusing on how ready we are.

SD–342

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine combating corruption in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region, focusing on the link between security and good governance, including a need to build effective institutions and the important role played by civil society in combating corruption.

SVC–203–202

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine veterans' mental health and suicide.

SR–418

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the private industry's role in stemming the tide of phone scams.

SD–562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

SD–419

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine protecting our children's mental health, focusing on preventing and addressing childhood trauma in Indian country.

SD–628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gilberto de Jesus, of Maryland, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

SR–428A

NOVEMBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses.

SD–106

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Takata airbag recalls and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) recall process.

SR–253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 2520, to improve the Freedom of Information Act, H.R. 1447, to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and the nominations of Jorge Luis Alonso, and John Robert Blakey, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Allison Dale Burroughs, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Jeanne E. Davidson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, Haywood Stirling Gilliam, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Amos L. Mazzant, III, and Robert William Schroeder III, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Amit Priyavadan Mehta, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Robert Lee Pitman, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, and Sarah R. Saldana, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD–226

1 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging

To hold hearings to examine the pricing of generic drugs.

SD–430

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SD–562

NOVEMBER 21

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To continue hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses.

SD–106

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine improving financial institution supervision, focusing on addressing regulatory capture.

SD–538

DECEMBER 2

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert M. Scher, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities, David J. Berteau, to be Assistant Secretary for Logistics and Material Readiness, Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, and Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Pacific Command, all of the Department of Defense.

SH–216

POSTPONEMENTS

NOVEMBER 19

11 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine The FANS Act, focusing on if sports blackouts and antitrust exemptions are harming fans, consumers, and the games themselves.

SD–226

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to S. 1086, Child Care and Development Block Grant Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6003–S6026

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2929–2935, and S. Res. 579–580. **Pages S6022–23**

Measures Reported:

S. 1804, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–273)

S. 1893, to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–274)

H.R. 4366, to strengthen the Federal education research system to make research and evaluations more timely and relevant to State and local needs in order to increase student achievement, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–275) **Page S6022**

Measures Passed:

Death of Howard O. Greene, Jr.: Senate agreed to S. Res. 579, relative to the death of Howard O. Greene, Jr., former Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate. **Page S6005**

House Messages:

Child Care and Development Block Grant Act: By 88 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 276), Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, after taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S6012–13**

Withdrawn:

Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill, with Reid Amendment No. 3923 (to the motion to concur in the House amendment), to change the enactment date. **Page S6012**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Reid Amendment No. 3924 (to Amendment No. 3923), of a perfecting nature, fell when Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill, with Reid Amendment No. 3923 (to the motion to concur in the House amendment), was withdrawn. **Page S6012**

Keystone XL Pipeline—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that the proponent debate time for S. 2280, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, be divided as follows: two hours under the control of Senator Hoeven, or designee, and one hour under the control of Senator Landrieu, or designee. **Page S6025**

Abrams Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia. **Page S6014**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 68 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 277), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6014**

Cohen Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. **Page S6014**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 67 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. 278), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6014**

Ross Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. **Pages S6014–15**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 66 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. 279), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6015**

Bassett, Bernicat, Zumwalt, Allen, and Roebuck Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the vote on confirmation of the nomination of Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Leslie Ann Bassett, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay, Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 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, Craig B. Allen, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, and William V. Roebuck, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; that any roll call votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; and that no further motions be in order to the nominations. **Page S6016**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Karen Clark Stanton, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. **Pages S6015, S6026**

Theodore G. Osius III, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. **Pages S6015, S6026**

Erica J. Barks Ruggles, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda. **Pages S6015, S6026**

Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. **Pages S6015, S6026**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
4 Army nominations in the rank of general.
1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.
Routine lists in the Army, and Navy. **Pages S6025–26**

Messages from the House: **Pages S6020–21**

Measures Referred: **Page S6021**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S6021, S6025**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S6021**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S6021–22**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6023–24**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6024–25**

Additional Statements: **Page S6018**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S6025**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6025**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—279) **Pages S6013–15**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Howard O. Greene, Jr., former Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate, in accordance with S. Res. 579, at 7:28 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6025.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 6 public bills, H.R. 5721–5726; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 757, were introduced. **Pages H8032–33**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H8033**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5441, to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States (H. Rept. 113–620);

H.R. 4049, to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–621, Pt. 1);

H.R. 5069, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–622);

H.R. 5040, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Idaho County in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–623);

H.R. 5162, to amend the Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center" to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–624);

H.R. 3608, to amend the Act of October 19, 1973, concerning taxable income to members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (H. Rept. 113–625, Pt. 1); and

H. Res. 756, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1422) to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4012) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4795) to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from November 21, 2014, through November 28, 2014 (H. Rept. 113–626). **Page H8032**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Foxx to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7999**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H8001**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Federal Duck Stamp Act of 2014: H.R. 5069, amended, to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds; **Pages H8002–03**

Allowing a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center: H.R. 5162, to amend the Act entitled "An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center" to remove the use restriction, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 378 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 520; **Pages H8003–04, H8014–15**

Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 5468, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1103 USPS Building 1103 in Camp Pendleton, California, as the "Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office"; **Pages H8004–05**

Colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube, USMC Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 5331, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, as the "Colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube, USMC Post Office Building"; **Pages H8005–06**

Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 5386, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office"; **Pages H8006–07**

Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office Designation Act: S. 1499, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, as the "Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office"; **Pages H8007–08**

First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building Designation Act: S. 1093, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building"; **Pages H8008–09**

Thaddeus Stevens Post Office Designation Act: S. 885, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office"; **Page H8009**

Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office: S. 1512, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office"; **Pages H8009–10**

Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 5142, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Jackson Street in Rich Square, North Carolina, as the "Chief Joseph E. White, Jr. Post Office Building"; **Pages H8010–11**

Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2014: H.R. 5544, amended, to increase the understanding of the health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation; **Pages H8011–12**

Amending the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States: H.R. 5441, to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States; **Pages H8012–14**

Ashland Breakwater Light Transfer Act: H.R. 4049, amended, to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light; **Pages H8015–16**

Idaho County Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act: H.R. 5040, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Idaho County in the State of Idaho; and **Pages H8016–17**

Grand Portage Band Per Capita Adjustment Act: H.R. 3608, to amend the Act of October 19, 1973, concerning taxable income to members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. **Pages H8017–19**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:32 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H8014**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H8027.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H8031. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD REFORM ACT OF 2013; SECRET SCIENCE REFORM ACT OF 2014; PROMOTING NEW MANUFACTURING ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1422, the "EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2013"; H.R. 4012, the "Secret Science Reform Act of 2014"; and H.R. 4795, "Promoting New Manufacturing Act". The committee granted, by record vote of 7–2, a structured rule for H.R. 1422. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only the further amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, if offered by Representative Stewart of Utah or his designee. That amendment shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in part A of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Additionally, the rule granted a structured rule for H.R. 4012. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–57 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Additionally, the rule granted a structured rule for H.R. 4795. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule waives all points of order

against provisions in the bill. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part C of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part C of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 4, the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from November 21, 2014, through November 28, 2014: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. In section 5, the rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 4. Testimony was heard from the following Representatives: Whitfield, McNerney, Schweikert, Bonamici, and Stewart.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider the nominations of Virginia Tyler Lodge, and Ronald Anderson Walter, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight, to hold hearings to examine tax relief after a disaster, focusing on how individuals, small businesses, and communities recover, 2:30 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Earl L. Gay, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Update on the U.S. Public Health Response to the Ebola Outbreak'', 1 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled ''The Impact of International Regulatory Standards on the Competitiveness of U.S. Insurers, Part II'', 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''Fighting Ebola: A Ground-Level View'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing entitled ''Iranian Nuclear Talks: Negotiating a Bad Deal?'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, hearing entitled ''Water Sharing Conflicts and the Threat to International Peace'', 2 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled ''Unaccompanied Alien Children: Pressing the Administration for a Strategy'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, hearing entitled ''Interoperable Communications: Assessing Progress Since 9/11'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, joint hearing entitled ''Abuse of USPTO's Telework Program: Ensuring Oversight, Accountability and Quality'', 1:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''FAA Reauthorization: Issues in Modernizing and Operating the Nation's Airspace'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''VA's Longstanding Information Security Weaknesses Continue to Allow Extensive Data Manipulation'', 1:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of November 18 through November 21, 2014

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will begin consideration of S. 2280, Keystone XL Pipeline. At 6:15 p.m., Senate will vote on passage of the bill.

Following which, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, and Eleanor Louise

Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Also, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2685, USA Freedom Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: November 19, business meeting to consider the nominations of Lourdes Maria Castro Ramirez, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Therese W. McMillan, of California, to be Federal Transit Administrator, Department of Transportation; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Housing Finance Agency, focusing on balancing stability, growth, and affordability in the mortgage market, 10 a.m., SD–538.

November 21, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine improving financial institution supervision, focusing on addressing regulatory capture, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: November 20, to hold hearings to examine the Takata airbag recalls and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) recall process, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: November 18, business meeting to consider the nominations of Virginia Tyler Lodge, and Ronald Anderson Walter, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Finance: November 18, Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight, to hold hearings to examine tax relief after a disaster, focusing on how individuals, small businesses, and communities recover, 2:30 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: November 19, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: November 19, business meeting to consider S. 2917, Adding Ebola to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act, H.R. 669, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, and the nominations of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel, and Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member, both of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Adri Davin Jayaratne, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, and Michael Young, of Pennsylvania, both to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and any pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–430.

November 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, 10 a.m., SD–430.

November 20, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging, to hold hearings to examine the pricing of generic drugs, 1 p.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: November 18, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Earl L. Gay, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

November 19, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine preparedness and response to public health threats, focusing on how ready we are, 10 a.m., SD–342.

November 20, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

November 21, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to continue hearings to examine Wall Street bank involvement with physical commodities, focusing on the extent to which banks and their holding companies own physical commodities like oil, natural gas, aluminum and other industrial metals, as well as own or control businesses like power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and commodity warehouses, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Indian Affairs: November 19, to hold an oversight hearing to examine protecting our children's mental health, focusing on preventing and addressing childhood trauma in Indian country, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: November 20, business meeting to consider S. 2520, to improve the Freedom of Information Act, H.R. 1447, to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and the nominations of Jorge Luis Alonso, and John Robert Blakey, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Allison Dale Burroughs, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Jeanne E. Davidson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, Haywood Stirling Gilliam, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Amos L. Mazzant, III, and Robert William Schroeder III, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Amit Priyavadan Mehta, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Robert Lee Pitman, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, and Sarah R. Saldana, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: November 19, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gilberto de Jesus, of Maryland, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR–428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: November 19, to hold hearings to examine veterans' mental health and suicide, 10:30 a.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: November 18, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

November 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

Special Committee on Aging: November 19, to hold hearings to examine the private industry's role in stemming the tide of phone scams, 2:15 p.m., SD–562.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, November 19, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled ''Religious Accommodations in the Armed Services'', 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, November 19, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Examining Medical Product Development in the Wake of the Ebola Epidemic'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

November 19, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, hearing entitled ''Cyanotoxins in Drinking Water'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, November 19, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled ''Opportunities for a Private and Competitive Sustainable Flood Insurance Market'', 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, November 19, Full Committee, markup on the following legislative measures: H.R. 2901, the ''Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013''; H.R. 5206, to allow Foreign Service and other executive agency employees to designate beneficiaries of their death benefits; and H.R. 5685, the ''Rewards for Justice Congressional Notification Act of 2014'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

November 19, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, markup on H.R. 5648, to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

November 19, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''Next Steps for U.S. Foreign Policy on Syria and Iraq'', 2:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

November 20, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''Examining What a Nuclear Iran Deal Means for Global Security'', 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, November 19, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the United States Secret Service'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn. A portion of this hearing will close.

November 19, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Copyright Issues in Education and for the Visually Impaired'', 3 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, November 19, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''Volcano Hazards: Exploring the National Preparation and Response'', 1 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

November 20, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled ''Is the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge Being Properly Managed?'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, November 19, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and the Census, hearing entitled ''Examining Data Security at the United States Postal Service'', 10:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, November 19, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled ''The Role of the White House Chief Technology Officer in the HealthCare.gov Website Debacle'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, November 19, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled ''The Role of the State Approving Agencies in Ensuring Quality Education Programs for Veterans'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

November 19, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on the following legislative measures: H.R. 4720, the ''Medal of Honor Priority Care Act''; H.R. 4887, the ''Expanding Care for Veterans Act''; H.R. 4977, the ''COVER Act''; H.R. 5059, the ''Clay Hunt SAV Act''; H.R. 5475, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to newborn children; and H.R. 5484, the ''Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2014'', 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

November 20, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled ''Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund: Inquiry into the Adequacy of Process in Verifying Eligibility'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, November 19, Full Committee, business meeting to consider Member access requests, 10 a.m., HVC–304. This meeting may close.

November 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Cybersecurity Threats: The Way Forward'', 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: November 19, to hold hearings to examine combating corruption in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region, focusing on the link between security and good governance, including a need to build effective institutions and the important role played by civil society in combating corruption, 10 a.m., SVC–203–202.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, November 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will begin consideration of S. 2280, Keystone XL Pipeline. At 6:15 p.m., Senate will vote on passage of the bill.

Following which, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, Mark Howard Cohen, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, and Eleanor Louise Ross, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Also, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2685, USA Freedom Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, November 18

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 1422—EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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