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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.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.

Our gracious God and friend, great is Your faithfulness. Guard our Senators. As they wait expectantly for Your salvation, may they not stumble in the darkness.

Lord, protect their minds with Your instructions so that they will not deviate from the path of integrity. May they follow Your directions and embrace Your counsel so that America can be like a shining city on a hill.

Give their petitions Your personal care so that no weapon formed against them will prosper. Let praises cascade from their lips and Your promises ring from their tongues, O God of our salvation.

We pray in Your merciful 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. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will proceed to executive session, with the time until 10 a.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 10 a.m. the Senate will proceed to five rollcall votes on confirmation of the Burrows and Lopez nominations and on cloture on the Hale, Kearney, and Pappert nominations.

There will be another series of up to five rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m. this afternoon.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2970

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2970 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2970) to reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

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

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL CHADWICK A. GILLIAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning, I rise to share with my colleagues the story of one brave marine from Kentucky who lost his life while wearing our country's uniform.

LCpl Chadwick A. Gilliam of Mayking, KY, passed away on January 3, 2009, of an apparent cardiac arrest at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. He was 29 years old.

For his service in uniform, Lance Corporal Gilliam received several medals, awards, and decorations, including the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Chris Damron, Chad's brother-in-law, recalls how Chad was happy to enlist. "He'd said that it was just something he wanted to do," Chris says. "All his life he wanted to be a Marine."

Before entering the U.S. Marine Corps, Chad graduated from Whitesburg High School in the mid-1990s. After earning his bachelor's degree, he also graduated from Lindsay

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



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Wilson College with a master's degree in counseling and human development.

One of his former high school teachers, Scottie Billiter, said Gilliam was an inspiration to other students. Billiter remembers that Chad had a wide array of interests, from the football team to the Spanish club. "I have nothing but great, fond memories of him," Billiter says. "He was a big part of who we were."

As a marine, Chad continued to be a natural inspiration to others. "All the Marines seemed to really look up to Chad," says brother-in-law Chris Damron. "He was a leader in the Marine Corps."

Chad was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, Second Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of Camp Lejeune, NC. He was an infantryman and joined the unit in June 2007. He was promoted to lance corporal in 2008 and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We are thinking of Chad's family as I share his story with my Senate colleagues, particularly his parents Paul Gilliam and Mary Ellen Cook Gilliam, his wife Corinne Marie Stewart Gilliam, his sister Paula Regina Damron, his brother Michael Wayne Gilliam, his brother-in-law Chris Damron, along with many other beloved family members and friends. Chad was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Willard and Belvia Holbrook Gilliam and his maternal grandparents Arlie and Edna Sergeant Cook.

I know my Senate colleagues join me in expressing gratitude and sympathy to the family of LCpl Chadwick A. Gilliam—gratitude for his life of service and sympathy for his ultimate sacrifice. Without brave men and women such as Lance Corporal Gilliam to defend our country, we would not be free. Those of us who cherish our freedoms must never ever forget that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I support the nomination of Charlotte Burrows to be a commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or EEOC, and David Lopez to continue to serve as the agency's general counsel.

These are two eminently qualified nominees. Mr. Lopez is a dedicated public servant who has spent over two decades protecting people from workplace discrimination. He did an admirable job during his first term, and was responsible for marked improvements in both the agency's litigation program and in its outreach to stakeholders.

Ms. Burrows has also had a distinguished career in public service. She is currently Associate Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice, and previously served as general counsel for Civil and Constitutional Rights for Senator Kennedy and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. She is a leading expert in the field of discrimination law, and she has proven herself committed to public service.

Both of these nominees deserve to be confirmed by the Senate. And our Nation needs public servants of their caliber and experience at the EEOC, which has the critical mission of protecting working Americans from workplace discrimination.

Throughout my career I have been guided by the vision of an America that is compassionate, just, and inclusive—a society where the government provides a ladder, or sometimes a ramp—of opportunity that gives every American a fair shot at the American dream. However, that ladder cannot function properly if there are barriers of discrimination that unfairly limit opportunities for some Americans to fully participate in the social, political, and economic life of this Nation.

Over the last 50 years, we have made great strides towards eliminating discrimination in the workplace. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin and religion. The Age Discrimination in Employment Act, in 1967, prohibited discrimination on the basis of age. The Americans with Disabilities Act, in 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act, in 2008, prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability.

These important guarantees, however, are not self-enforcing. They are only as strong as the agency charged with enforcing them, the EEOC. The EEOC's mission is simple and profoundly important—to promote equality of opportunity in the workplace and enforce Federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination.

While much progress has been made in recent decades, discrimination in the workplace continues to be all too common. Too many employment decisions are based on insidious stereotypes and prejudices rather than an employee's talent, ability, and qualifications. Too many hardworking Americans face the harsh reality of getting a pink slip or not being hired at all because of race, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability or some other irrelevant factor.

The realities are especially harsh for individuals with disabilities. Less than 30 percent of working-age Americans with disabilities participate in the workforce, and households with an adult member with a disability earn 38.4 percent less than households without an adult member who has a disability. These facts make it clear that people with disabilities are still encountering roadblocks, and that the

ADA's goal of economic self-sufficiency is far from achieved.

The EEOC has an important role to play in combating discrimination and supporting employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and for all Americans.

Unfortunately, today's EEOC faces enormous challenges. The agency has a substantial backlog of almost 71,000 cases. And it takes an average of 267 days to process a discrimination claim. The truth is that the EEOC suffers from chronic underfunding, and this underfunding has resulted in a significant reduction in full-time employees. Under this administration, the agency has made real progress moving investigations forward in a timely manner, but all too often justice delayed is justice denied.

American workers deserve better, especially in these times of economic turmoil, when discrimination often increases and workers who are victims of discrimination face even greater challenges. Now more than ever, we need strong leadership at the EEOC. The nominees are both extremely well-qualified and have a deep commitment to public service. They possess the extraordinary skills and experience that will help them advance the EEOC's mission and ensure proper enforcement of critically important laws.

Some of my friends on the other side of the aisle have raised concerns that EEOC is too quick to bring lawsuits. That is just not the case. Litigation is a last resort for the agency, and represents less than 0.5 percent of all charges filed and only around 5 percent of charges where the commission has issued a cause finding.

The EEOC under this administration has made enormous strides in improving the conciliation process. In the last 3 years, the EEOC improved its conciliation results significantly with successful conciliations now at a rate of 41 percent of all cases that are conciliated, up from 31 percent in fiscal year 2011. It is important to remember that EEOC v. CRST, the case so often cited as evidence that the agency isn't doing enough in the conciliation process, was a case brought by a Bush administration-appointed general counsel.

My Republican colleagues also criticize the Commission for delegating the prosecution of routine cases to the general counsel. There is absolutely nothing inappropriate about that practice, and it should not be a controversial issue. It is a practical measure to make sure the Commissioners are focusing on the most important issues and have ample opportunity to deliberate on broader policy issues. That is why the EEOC's delegation policy has been carried forward across multiple administrations and has bipartisan support from both Republican and Democratic Commissioners.

Now, I think we can all agree that there have been some unacceptable instances where courts have required the EEOC to pay attorney's fees for a defendant. But those cases are rare and

need to be viewed in perspective. Out of the 1,045 lawsuits filed from fiscal year 2009 through fiscal year 2013, there have only been seven in which fees have been assessed, and two of those are pending an appeal. Generally, the EEOC is prudent and successful in litigation, and the agency has won 11 out of 16 trials from fiscal year 2013 to the present.

I want to comment on another issue that came up at the HELP Committee hearing on these nominees—the EEOC’s work with regard to wellness programs. I am a strong supporter of wellness programs, and I was intimately involved in drafting the section of the Affordable Care Act that encourages such programs. Recently, the EEOC has been involved in litigation involving wellness programs, and I think a lot of people are trying to cloud the issue here. The EEOC has never—never—taken the position that wellness programs are illegal. They are, however, investigating extreme cases where employers have allegedly forced their employees to participate in programs that require medical testing. That raises Americans with Disabilities Act issues, and the EEOC is right to look carefully at the issue. Plus, the agency has indicated that it intends to issue guidance next year to help employers and employees navigate the tricky legal issues.

One final point, none of the manufactured concerns coming from the other side of the aisle have anything to do with the ability of these two nominees to do the job for which they were nominated. No one has questioned their qualifications. Both Ms. Burrows and Mr. Lopez are eminently qualified. Some of my Republican colleagues just do not like the fact that the EEOC is doing its job and enforcing our Nation’s civil rights laws. That is a shame because civil rights should not be a partisan issue. We should all be coming together to support the agency and the important role it plays in making fairer, more equal workplaces.

I urge my colleagues to support both of these distinguished nominees and confirm them quickly so they can get to work ensuring fairness and equal opportunity for every American worker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all cloture time has expired.

Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Burrows nomination.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I don’t know of anybody seeking recognition. I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

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

All time having been yielded back, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission?

Mr. ENZI. 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 Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

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

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 301 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Gillibrand	Moran
Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Grassley	Murphy
Barrasso	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Paul
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Blunt	Heitkamp	Pryor
Booker	Heller	Reed
Boozman	Hirono	Reid
Brown	Hoeven	Risch
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cantwell	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johanns	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Chambliss	Kaine	Sessions
Coats	King	Shaheen
Collins	Kirk	Stabenow
Coons	Klobuchar	Tester
Corker	Leahy	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cruz	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Vitter
Durbin	McCain	Walsh
Enzi	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	McConnell	Warren
Fischer	Menendez	Whitehouse
Flake	Merkley	Wicker
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—2

Roberts Shelby

NOT VOTING—5

Boxer	Cochran	Rockefeller
Coburn	Landrieu	

The nomination was agreed to.

NOMINATION OF P. DAVID LOPEZ TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Lopez nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today we are voting on the nomination of P. David Lopez to serve as general counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The EEOC is an important agency with a critical task.

In August 1963, I stood in the crowd on the National Mall and listened to Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech when he called for our Nation to “make real the promises of democracy.”

The next year, the historic Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed, establishing the EEOC as an important, independent agency to put an end to workplace discrimination, particularly in hiring, firing, and promoting.

Today, employees are protected by law if they are discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information.

The EEOC is charged with investigating complaints of discrimination to determine whether or not they have merit, and then attempting to resolve them informally, through conciliation and mediation.

The general counsel at the EEOC has a great deal of responsibility—he or she is in charge of conducting litigation at this important agency.

Mr. Lopez is being re-nominated for the general counsel position. I do not believe he has fulfilled his charge over the last four and one-half years and will not support extending his time at the agency. I would strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this nomination as well.

It is critical that the general counsel make wise decisions about which cases to litigate and how. Unfortunately, Mr. Lopez, often has failed to meet this standard.

I have three primary concerns about the EEOC.

First, EEOC has placed too much emphasis on litigating high profile lawsuits, some of which have been rebuked by the courts, rather than resolving its backlog of discrimination charges filed by individuals.

Second, EEOC has not been fully transparent in how it issues guidance to the public and in the information it shares with the public about its activities.

And third, EEOC is suing employers for following the President’s very own health care law.

On the first concern, a judicious general counsel should view costly and time-consuming litigation as a last resort. However, this EEOC has placed too great an emphasis on litigating high-profile cases, some of which have been rebuked by the courts, rather than resolving its backlog of discrimination charges filed by individuals.

In fiscal year 2014, more than 88,000 charges of discrimination were filed with the EEOC and at the end of November 2014, EEOC reported it had 75,935 unresolved discrimination charges pending.

A backlog of charges pending is nothing new for EEOC, but given this backlog, I am disappointed that this EEOC has placed such a strong emphasis on actions and lawsuits—predicated upon not a single complaint—that do not address actual charges of discrimination brought to the Agency by employees.

Under this administration, the EEOC has focused too heavily on headline-making lawsuits at the expense of fair and swift resolution of claims for those alleging workplace discrimination.

The desire to win big lawsuits has backfired. Numerous Federal courts have criticized EEOC's litigation practices, failure to attempt to resolve cases and avoid court, misuse of authority, and reliance on faulty expert analysis, among other complaints.

Example No. 1—EEOC's case against Kaplan Higher Education Corporation received such a sharp rejection by a unanimous three-judge panel on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2014 that *The Wall Street Journal* named it the "Opinion of the Year."

EEOC sued Kaplan for alleged race discrimination due to the use of credit background checks. The court wrote, "EEOC brought this case on the basis of a homemade methodology, crafted by a witness with no particular expertise to craft it, administered by persons with no particular expertise to administer it, tested by no one, and accepted only by the witness himself." The court also criticized EEOC for bringing a case against Kaplan for "using the same type of background check that the EEOC itself uses."

Example No. 2—Another Federal court reprimanded EEOC for being "negligent in its discovery obligations, dilatory in cooperating with defense counsel, and somewhat cavalier in its responsibility to the United States District Court."

Example No. 3—EEOC caused a small employer to spend \$100,000 attempting to comply with requests for information that, according to a Federal judge, "EEOC had no authority to obtain."

Since 2011, EEOC has been ordered to pay attorney's fees in 10 different cases. In six cases, fees were awarded under a rare step allowed by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which according to the U.S. Supreme Court is reserved for cases that are "frivolous, unreasonable, or without foundation" or "continued to [be] litigate[d]" after those circumstances became present.

In the four other cases, the court awarded fees for failing to prevent the destruction of evidence, for discovery abuses and for pursuing a case that lacked substantial justification.

Not all of these cases where EEOC was ordered to pay attorney's fees were initiated on this general counsel's watch, but he did initiate five of them and it appears he continued to pursue four of them. These court losses cost taxpayers and hurt the victims of workplace discrimination whose charges are backlogged at EEOC.

EEOC's credibility is at risk. As one commissioner described, EEOC's "reputation and credibility has . . . suffered from several recent lawsuits where [EEOC was] not only sanctioned, but openly chastised by the courts."

EEOC should immediately reconsider the strong emphasis on lawsuits that are not based on any complaint and do not even have a victim plaintiff.

In recent years, EEOC has pursued a number of cases without complaints, such as age discrimination cases against large accounting firms—PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte, and KPMG—whose partners have voluntarily adopted a mandatory retirement age.

Age discrimination is certainly a significant problem that EEOC should work to address. But they should go about it by assisting the more than 21,000 people who complained to EEOC of age discrimination in 2013, rather than directing investigations at an industry they find suspect.

The five-member Commission has exercised too little restraint over the general counsel. In 1995, the EEOC's then Commissioners gave the general counsel far more authority to bring whatever cases he wanted, with no check from the Commission. By 2012, this practice led to only 3 of the 122 lawsuits filed that year coming before the Commission for approval. Although EEOC has taken some steps to increase the Commission's role in approving litigation, more should be done. The Commission has the authority and duty to reverse this imprudent decision and return to performing its statutorily obligated responsibilities.

On my second concern, I believe the Commission has not been transparent in its issuance of guidance and the information it shares with the public about its activities. The EEOC sets national workplace discrimination policy by issuing formal regulations as well as guidance, which are meant to help employers and employees understand how the law applies to them. EEOC does not allow the public to review or comment upon its draft guidance, even in cases of novel, significant or controversial guidance.

This is especially concerning because in two cases last year, the Supreme Court rejected substantive positions found in EEOC guidance. EEOC's issuance of guidance is not in compliance with the administration's own best practices recommendations or the recommendations of three of the current Commissioners.

I am concerned about this because agencies expect people to follow guidance. At a hearing in June, I asked the head of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Education whether she expected higher education institutions to comply with the Office for Civil Rights guidance and she said yes.

Senator ENZI also urged greater transparency on significant guidance when he was ranking member of the HELP Committee, and I share his view.

So what harm would come from allowing the public to comment on draft guidance prior to issuing it?

Finally, my third concern about EEOC and its general counsel, Mr. Lopez, is this. Employer wellness plans with premium discounts were specifically authorized in the health care law and I worked on it with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—it was one of

the few provisions of Obamacare with Republican and Democrat buy in.

I am concerned that EEOC has pursued litigation against employers who have followed the health care law and implemented voluntary employer wellness plans to encourage healthy lifestyle choices.

These wellness plan lawsuits are sending a confusing message to employers—reliance on the health care law's authorization of wellness plans does not mean you would not be sued by the EEOC.

This is why I intend to introduce legislation to prevent EEOC from suing employers who are following the law in offering wellness programs. Employers who are acting in good faith, relying on a law should not face uncertainty of litigation due to an agency's misguided priorities.

EEOC is tasked with an important mission—to ensure workplaces are free from discrimination. EEOC's misdirected focus and high-profile litigation failures are coming at significant cost to taxpayers and victims of workplace discrimination.

Unfortunately, when questioned about these missteps and the Agency's focus on litigation without a single complaint, Mr. Lopez was not forthcoming with his answers. Therefore, I cannot support Mr. Lopez's nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back the time.

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

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission?

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

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

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 302 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Carper	Harkin
Begich	Casey	Heinrich
Bennet	Coons	Heitkamp
Blumenthal	Donnelly	Hirono
Booker	Durbin	Johnson (SD)
Boxer	Feinstein	Kaine
Brown	Franken	King
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Klobuchar
Cardin	Hagan	Leahy

Levin	Nelson	Tester
Manchin	Pryor	Udall (CO)
Markey	Reed	Udall (NM)
McCaskill	Reid	Walsh
Menendez	Sanders	Warner
Merkley	Schatz	Warren
Mikulski	Schumer	Whitehouse
Murphy	Shaheen	Wyden
Murray	Stabenow	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Ayotte	Graham	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Chambliss	Inhofe	Scott
Coats	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johanns	Shelby
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cornyn	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn	Landrieu
Cochran	Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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 David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jeanne Shaheen, Claire McCaskill, Christopher A. Coons, Mark Begich, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Hale nomination.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent all time be yielded back on both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, 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 Louisiana (Ms. LAN-

DRIEU) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 65, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 303 Ex.]

YEAS—65

Ayotte	Hagan	Nelson
Baldwin	Harkin	Paul
Begich	Heinrich	Portman
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Isakson	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Levin	Stabenow
Chambliss	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McConnell	Vitter
Durbin	Menendez	Walsh
Feinstein	Merkley	Warner
Flake	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Graham	Murray	

NAYS—31

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hatch	Roberts
Boozman	Heller	Scott
Burr	Hoeven	Sessions
Coats	Inhofe	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Wicker
Cruz	Lee	
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn	Landrieu
Cochran	Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 65, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF DAVID J. HALE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate on the motion to invoke cloture on the Kearney nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam 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 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 A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Bill Nelson, Barbara A. Mikulski, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, 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 Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 304 Ex.]

YEAS—60

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

NAYS—36

Alexander	Fischer	McCain
Barrasso	Flake	McConnell
Blunt	Grassley	Moran
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Isakson	Sessions
Cornyn	Johanns	Shelby
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cruz	Kirk	Vitter
Enzi	Lee	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn	Landrieu
Cochran	Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 36.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF MARK A. KEARNEY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

Who yields time?

Mr. REID. I yield back the 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 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 Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Barbara Boxer, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jon Tester, Jack Reed, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Benjamin L. Cardin, Charles E. Schumer, Christopher A. Coons, Christopher Murphy.

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 Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 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 Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 305 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Alexander	Baldwin	Bennet
Ayotte	Begich	Blumenthal

Blunt	Heitkamp	Portman
Booker	Hirono	Pryor
Boxer	Isakson	Reed
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Cantwell	Kaine	Rubio
Cardin	King	Sanders
Carper	Klobuchar	Schatz
Casey	Leahy	Schumer
Coats	Levin	Shaheen
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Toomey
Donnelly	McCain	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Menendez	Vitter
Flake	Merkeley	Walsh
Franken	Mikulski	Warner
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Warren
Graham	Murphy	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murray	Wyden
Harkin	Nelson	
Heinrich	Paul	

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Grassley	Moran
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeven	Scott
Corker	Inhofe	Sessions
Cornyn	Johanns	Shelby
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cruz	Kirk	Wicker
Enzi	Lee	
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—5

Coburn	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cochran	Rockefeller	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 28.

The motion is agreed to.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I was unable to attend today's cloture vote on the nomination of Gerald Pappert to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Had I been present, I would have supported this cloture motion.●

NOMINATION OF GERALD J. PAPPERT TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Virginia.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, next Monday will mark 4 months since the President commenced military action in Syria and Iraq against ISIL. As of December 2, Operation Inherent Resolve, which the administration calls a war on ISIL, has involved more than 1,100 coalition airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, the vast majority carried out by American air men and women. The President has authorized currently 1,400 U.S. ground troops who are deployed in Iraq to train and advise regional forces. The President has authorized an additional 1,500 U.S. troops to serve in that train-and-advise capac-

ity. This past Monday, 250 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC, were sent to Iraq. The total cost of the operation thus far to U.S. taxpayers is in excess of \$1 billion.

There have been three deaths of Americans serving in Operation Inherent Resolve. On October 1, Marine Cpl Jordan Spears of Memphis, TN, was lost at sea while conducting flight operations over the Persian Gulf. On October 23, Marine LCpl Sean Neal of Riverside, CA, died in Iraq. On December 1, Air Force Capt. William Dubois of Newcastle, CO, died in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Senator KING and I visited Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in October to see the Combined Air Operations Center in action, and I saw many Virginians there working with colleagues from all service branches and many other coalition nations in directing the air strike campaign.

Let's not make any mistake about this—America is at war. The number of air and ground troops deployed is steadily creeping upwards every day. Our troops are dying. And the fiscal cost to American taxpayers is growing every day.

But this is a most unusual war. While all the activities of war are occurring, there is a strange conspiracy of silence about it in the White House and in the Halls of Congress.

The President has not offered any proposed authorization for the war, despite his suggestions that one is needed. Congress has not debated on, taken committee action on, or voted on the ongoing war. The House is contemplating adjourning for the holidays on December 11, without saying anything about an ongoing war. And because neither the President nor Congress has undertaken the necessary public debate over the war, the American public has not had the chance to be fully educated about what is at stake and why it is in our international interest to ask our troops to risk their lives thousands of miles away.

We owe it to our troops serving abroad—troops who are engaged in war even as we think about recessing and leaving Washington on December 11 for the holidays—to do our job and to have a debate and vote about the war that our Constitution demands.

Let me make an earnest request to our President and to my colleagues in Congress.

To the President: I have previously taken the floor to strongly argue that the President needs new legal authority to conduct the war on ISIL.

When the President spoke to the Nation on September 10, he said that he would "welcome" a congressional authorization. And on November 5, he affirmatively asserted that a new congressional authorization was needed and that he would "engage" Congress

in passing one. But to this date, 4 months after the initiation of war, the administration has not even been willing to present a draft authorization of the mission to Congress.

In testimony yesterday at the Armed Services Committee, no DOD witness could recall a single other instance in which a President told Congress of the need for a war but failed to present a proposed authorization spelling out the dimensions of the military mission.

Instead, the President has persisted in a war that is not within the scope of his Article II powers, that is not authorized by any treaty obligation, that is not justified under either of the congressional authorizations passed in 2001 or 2002. The President's unilateral action has even extended beyond the 60- and 90-day timing requirements created by the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

The President's willingness to push a war without engaging Congress has even violated his own solemn and wise pronouncement of just 1 year ago:

I believe our democracy is stronger when the President acts with the support of Congress. This is especially true after a decade that put more and more war-making powers in the hands of the President—while sidelining the people's representatives from the critical decisions about when we use force.

So I request our President: Make good on your promise to engage Congress. Do what other Presidents have done—demand that we debate and vote on an authorization, and that we do it now.

The votes are here in this body to support the President. I am a supporter of the need for military action against ISIL, and I know that is a position held by a strong majority of the Senate and a strong majority of the House. There is no reason for the President to not demand that we actually have that debate and have that vote.

To my congressional colleagues, I have a similar request. Let's not leave this Capitol without a debate and a vote on this war on ISIL. We have gone 4 months without any meaningful action about this war.

First, we were told that Congress would get to it after the midterm elections, and so we recessed for 7 weeks in the middle of a war without saying one thing—shirking our constitutional duties. Now many are saying we need to delay until after New Year's before having any meaningful discussion of this war. So the unilateral war would extend to at least 5 months—and, in all likelihood, longer—before Congress gets around to any meaningful discussion of the ISIL threat and what we should do to counter it.

Giving this President—giving any President—a green light to wage unilateral war for 5 or 6 months without any meaningful debate or authorization would be deeply destructive of the legitimacy of the legislative branch of our government; it would be deeply disrespectful of our citizens; and it would be especially disrespectful of the troops

who are risking their lives every day while we do nothing.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

POWER TO DECLARE WAR

Mr. KING. Madam President, Senator KAINE has spoken eloquently about events of today. I wish to speak for a few moments about events of 200-plus years ago.

On Tuesday, August 17, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, the delegates debated the question of war. They debated it passionately and with a sense of history and human nature. They understood the propensity of the Executive—any Executive throughout history, a prince, a king, a potentate, a sultan—to lead their country into war for good reasons or no good reasons. They understood that this was a basic question before the body—before the Constitutional Convention, and I would assert that the Framers knew what they were doing.

Interestingly, in the first draft of the Constitution, the clause in article I, section 8 that says the Congress shall have the power to declare war, said: The Congress shall have the power to make war. That was the first draft.

The debate was about whether Congress could effectively make and execute war. They wisely, I believe, realized that was impractical, given the nature of Congress and the large number of representatives, and the exigencies of war. So they left the power to the Commander in Chief, to the Chief Executive. They also recognized the Chief Executive's inherent power to repel an attack on this country. But in all other cases what the Constitution says is very clear. Article 1, section 8, says the Congress shall declare war. There was some discussion about this. Some people said, well, we don't want to tie the hands of the Executive, but others made it more clear.

Madison's notes are a fascinating source of information about the history of the Constitution. The notes were taken the day of the debate on Tuesday, August 17, 1787. Mr. Ellsworth of Connecticut stated that "it should be more easy to get out of war than into it." He understood this principle.

Pierce Butler of South Carolina said the Executive should have the power to repel sudden attacks. That is common sense. But then Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, I think, put it most succinctly. He said, "I never expected to hear in a Republic a motion to empower the Executive alone to declare war." That is the fundamental issue that is before us today.

Then George Mason of Virginia later in the debate used a wonderful phrase that I think aptly captures what the Framers were after. He said: "I am for flogging rather than facilitating war." That is what we are supposed to do, is to debate, discuss, and have the people engaged in the discussion before this country is committed to war.

The Constitution in the Preamble makes it very clear that one of the fun-

damental purposes of this government or any government is to provide for the common defense. Nobody questions that. Neither Senator KAINE nor myself nor anyone else who is talking about this issue questions, A, whether we should be debating it and, B, that it is our solemn responsibility to provide for the common defense. I happen to think, as Senator KAINE does, that the fight against ISIL is worthy of national attention, worthy of national effort, and should be debated and circumscribed through some form of authorization in this body. There has not been a declaration of war by the Congress since 1942.

I will conclude with the observation that power doesn't spring from one branch of our government to the other overnight or in some flash of inspiration or change. I would argue more aptly it oozes from one branch to the other, not necessarily through Executive usurpation as through congressional application. For us to go home, to take a recess, to say: We don't really want to be talking about this, we don't want to be responsible for this, I think is unfair to the American people. It is unfair to the people who are being put into harm's way. It is unfair and not responsive to the basic principles of the Constitution.

We owe it to our country to have this debate, and it is one that I believe is important and is constitutionally based. We are very good in Congress about not making decisions and then criticizing the Executive for what they do. This is an opportunity where we have the power, the constitutional power and the constitutional responsibility to discuss, debate, and authorize the Executive's actions against this terrible foe. I believe it is our responsibility to do so. To not do so is simply one more sliding away, one more giving away of our constitutional authority to the Executive that I think is in detriment not only to the Constitution itself, clearly, but also to the interests of the American people.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill 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.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, ever since November 4—this last election, some 3 or so weeks ago—a number of people have speculated as to what a new Republican majority in the Senate will mean for the country. We will be working together with our Republican colleagues in the House and with the President, who has hopefully heard the message the American people sent him on November 4. He was the one who said it was his policies that were on the

ballot. I believe the vote by the American people came through pretty loud and clear as to what they thought of those policies. It was pretty clear that they want a new direction.

When people ask me what my constituents expect—my 26.5 million constituents in Texas—I tell them they want us to demonstrate that we can govern. They want us to demonstrate that we can actually solve some of the problems confronting our country. Those problems primarily deal with how we unleash the American economy, get it growing again to create jobs and opportunity so people can find work, provide for their families, and pursue their dreams.

I believe that is what Senator SCHUMER was saying the other day at the National Press Club. We need to focus on the needs of the middle class and the wage earners. They are seeing stagnant wages. While health care, energy, and other costs go up, their paychecks are shrinking. As a result, they are having to live on less, which is not the American dream most people have bargained for.

The truth is no political party or branch of government can govern on its own. The fact is that even though we have a Republican majority in the House and Senate, we still have a divided government, with President Obama in the White House—and he is not constitutionally irrelevant. In fact, he is critical in terms of actually getting things done.

My hope is that we can find issues we can work on together. I believe Republicans and Democrats can vote to put legislation on the President's desk, but then he has a choice to make—either to sign that legislation into law or veto it. We then have a decision to make as to whether we want to try—and whether we can—override his veto.

The truth is none of us can govern on our own. What has been troubling to me—since the election—is that President Obama seems to think he can govern on his own without regard for the Congress. Now, part of the consequences are the debates going on in the House and here in the Senate about the appropriate response to what has been widely seen as an overreach by the President—particularly when it comes to his Executive action on immigration, which circumvented the Congress. He acted as though he could do this alone without any consequence.

We know one thing for sure, and that is the President cannot appropriate money, which is why we are now having this discussion. But there will be other ramifications and consequences as well. I hope one of those consequences is not that we fall back into the dysfunction we have experienced over the last few years where we find ourselves incapable of working together and getting things done. All we can do is all we can do. As a Senate—as a Congress—we can't make the President do anything he is bound and determined not to do, but we can do our job.

I and others have said: Well, with a new majority in the Senate, we have to show we can govern. The truth is we can't govern by ourselves. The President can't govern by himself, and we can't govern by ourselves. That is the constitutional separation of powers and the division of responsibility that we must embrace together.

I don't know where the President has gotten this idea that he thinks he can govern on his own. For 225 years our constitutional norms have said otherwise, and experience has shown otherwise. If we want to make real progress on improving our broken immigration system—we actually saw a bill passed out of the Senate. The President said he is frustrated with the timetable in the House. But there continues to be a bipartisan desire, I believe, to fix our broken immigration system.

If we want to reform our Tax Code, I think that is something we ought to be getting to work on. The fact of the matter is we have the highest tax rate in the world. That is making America less competitive in terms of attracting investment and jobs. It discourages multinational corporations headquartered in the United States from bringing back the money they have earned overseas because they don't want to have to pay taxes twice—for what they have earned on their income overseas and then pay double again when they bring that money back home. We ought to look at what kind of Tax Code makes sense for us and incentivizes investment and job creation in the United States and not be content with a system that discourages that.

I believe there is bipartisan support for doing what we can to shore up Medicare and Social Security. We have all seen the numbers—the aging baby boomers and more and more people retiring. Unfortunately, these young people are being left holding the bag. We are going to be OK—people my age and my generation—but future generations will not be OK unless we do our job now to deal with Medicare and Social Security and make them sustainable into the future.

What I feel has been most discouraging is health care. Whether you supported the Affordable Care Act or were a skeptic, such as I was, I think by and large the evidence is that it didn't work the way the people who were the biggest cheerleaders thought it would work.

One little factoid that jumped out at me yesterday in the Wall Street Journal is that between 2007 and 2013 the average cost for middle-class families for their health care went up 24 percent. That is part of what has made this wage stagnation even worse because people are actually paying more for items such as health care. If there is one thing we ought to all be able to agree on is that what makes health care more available and accessible to more people is when it is more affordable. Unfortunately, the Affordable Care Act did not do that.

Well, I mentioned my disappointment with some of the President's actions—including his Executive action on immigration, which I think has made our job harder—not easier. More recently there were stories of a pending negotiation on the tax bill that the President said he would veto if it got to him. Why didn't the President say: Mr. Majority Leader, if this isn't in it, I am going to consider vetoing it? In other words, why didn't he use the bully pulpit and the leverage the President has to change the package if he didn't like it and make it more acceptable? That is the kind of compromise and negotiation that needs to occur.

What happens when you say I want everything my way or I want nothing? More often than not, you are going to get nothing. Unfortunately, that is what the taxpayers got—a temporary reprieve from the retroactive taxes and no real long-term solution which creates an opportunity to plan and make investments. That is what encourages job creation and job growth and grows the economy. All of this churning and uncertainty is the antithesis of what we need when it comes to growing our economy, creating jobs, and creating more predictability.

I know back in 2008 when President Obama was elected, millions of Americans thought President Obama would be the kind of President that would bring the country together on a number of levels—whether it was a matter of race or just getting the government to be responsive to the needs of the middle class. Unfortunately, he seems to have developed this disdain for the very job he was elected to do. This stuff doesn't happen by accident. It happens as a result of hard work. A lot of that hard work happens behind closed doors where Members of both parties sit around the table and say how can we work this out. When we are doing our best work, it does work out, and although it is not perfect, it is a vast improvement over the status quo. That is the sort of thing the President, unfortunately, seems unwilling or unable to do.

The Executive action on immigration is perhaps the freshest demonstration of the President's contempt for the role of Congress and the normal legislative process. What I find hard to understand and believe is that for the weeks and months leading up to the announcement, the President was repeatedly warned that such a decision would provoke a constitutional crisis. And he was repeatedly warned that what he was getting ready to do was something he did not have the power under the Constitution to do. And not coincidentally, the President—I think on 22 different occasions—admitted publicly that he didn't have the authority to do what he ultimately decided to do with this Executive order, but he did it anyway.

I can't think of many things he could have done that would be more damaging to public confidence and Congress and the Presidency and our ideal

of self-government. If the President says “I don’t have the authority to do this without Congress” but then he proceeds to do it anyway, what are we supposed to think?

As a result of the President’s ill-advised action, the coming weeks and months threaten to be dominated by a political fight that was completely unnecessary. Meanwhile, the bipartisan prospects for compromise on everything from immigration to tax reform have been significantly reduced.

The tragedy is that once we get beyond the daily partisan rhetoric, there are more areas of bipartisan agreement in this Senate than people might think.

For example, Members of both parties want to vote on the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Members of both parties want to pass commonsense regulatory reform that will reduce the burdens on families and businesses.

Members of both parties want to improve our patent system in order to discourage the abuse of costly litigation.

Members of both parties want to address America’s counterproductive business tax rate to help boost investment and create jobs here at home.

Members of both parties want to take action to restore the 40-hour workweek that was penalized by ObamaCare to get people back on full-time work and off of part-time work. People would like to work full time. And there are Members from both parties who want to repeal the law’s medical device tax, falling as it does on the gross receipts of medical device innovators here in America, causing some of my constituents, for example, from Dallas to move their operations to Costa Rica and places where this tax won’t be collected. Those are the sorts of incentives and disincentives that tax policy can have—and in this case, very damaging.

Both parties want an immigration system that puts more emphasis on skills and on education. We are a very compassionate country when it comes to immigration. We naturalize almost 1 million people a year in this country. It is part of what makes our country great. But we ought to recognize that we need to use both our heads and our hearts on a lot of these issues. It makes sense to me and I think to a lot of other people to say: What do these immigrants bring to America that will make us better, and not just operate strictly on the basis of compassion, as in, what do they need? This seems to be a system that helps us to continue to attract the best and the brightest people from around the world through a legal immigration system.

Finally, Members of both parties believe we need a permanent solution to our transportation needs in this country. I come from the fast-growing State of Texas, where we simply don’t have enough resources to build the mass transits and the highways and deal

with the transportation needs we have in order to continue to grow our economy and create jobs. What we have done, sadly—and both parties are complicit in this—is one temporary bandaid after another, making it very hard to plan. We have just put patches on it, and then we come back and—sort of like the movie “Groundhog Day” we do it all over again 6 months or a year later.

None of this is going to be easy. Nobody told us it would be easy, but we need to do it anyway. We need to vote, and we need to come up with solutions.

This is only a partial list of some of the bipartisan, smart ideas that could become law pretty quickly with the right leadership. I am hopeful that after the first of the year in the new Congress, we will look for opportunities—and I am confident we will—to work together to put legislation on the President’s desk to show we can actually function and hopefully regain some of the public’s lost confidence in their government and in self-government itself.

So the question is, What do we do if the President continues to give very little indication that he is going to be a partner in this effort? We need to do our job anyway. His initial reaction in 2014 has been to flout the will of Congress and the will of the American people. I know the temptation is to say we are going to retaliate for the President’s action which we consider unlawful. I think we need to make a measured and prudent and appropriate response. There needs to be consequences when one branch usurps its power under the Constitution. But we don’t need to fall back into the same sort of dysfunction we were in previously that got us to where we are today.

So governing is not about having the executive branch or the legislative branch see how much they can get away with on their own. That is not our Constitution. That is not our form of government. It is about having the two branches working together to try to find common ground and proposing and negotiating policies that serve the national interests—not the interests of one political party or the other but the interests of the country as a whole.

In January I hope to demonstrate that the newfound confidence voters have in Republicans is well-founded, not in the sense that we receive any mandate—believe me, I don’t believe that for a minute, but I do believe people are looking for responsible alternatives to the status quo, and I believe sincerely that, working together, Republicans and Democrats, the Senate and the House and the President can demonstrate that we can actually do our jobs and govern. None of us can do it alone. We can and we must demonstrate that we are able to do our job and function. But, again, in order to move the country forward, in order to find solutions to the problems we have on so many fronts, we are going to have to do this together. I only hope

the President reconsiders his record and his attitude about trying to go it alone because we know that is not going to end very well.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TAX EXTENDERS

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about the tax extenders package the House is likely to vote on today.

Unfortunately and sadly, it looks as though we have reached another low point in the world of dysfunctional Washington politics. The House will vote on what is being called a 1-year retroactive extension of dozens of expired tax laws. This bill contains everything from the research and development tax credit, to the wind production tax credit, to the new markets tax credit, and they have let us know that this is the best bill they could cobble together. But in reality this is not a 1-year extension; it is a 3-week extension of expired tax laws until the end of this year—3 weeks until the end of this year. On January 1 all of our tax laws will expire again. No one in the real world would ever run an enterprise in this manner.

It is bad enough that we do extenders for 2 years without making them permanent, but to say the best we can do is a 1-year extension and to know that really it is only a 3-week extension makes no sense at all. If the purpose of this bill is to encourage investments in business or our communities, how does a 1-year retroactive bill make any sense at all? If the purpose of the bill is to provide greater certainty for families and for businesses, how does a 1-year retroactive bill accomplish that? Only in the land of flickering lights—in Washington, DC—where we are barely keeping the government running, does it make sense.

I thought we had reached a new low 2 years ago when we voted on the so-called fiscal cliff deal—when the Bush tax cuts were expiring and there was a bipartisan deal that was meant to, among other things, avoid the sequester. That bill passed at 2:30 in the morning; then, 90 days later, the sequester went into effect—the very thing we were supposed to be protecting against. That deal is sometimes touted as a great act of bipartisanship. The only thing bipartisan about it was the confession that the two parties couldn’t figure out how to actually get our fiscal house in order. Had we known that night that the sequester was going to go into effect 90 days later—had we known that that night—there is no way there would have been 92 “yes” votes for that deal. There is

no way it would have passed. And we are still living with it today.

Coincidentally, the last time we passed tax extenders, it was part of that deal. The fiscal cliff deal at least provided a 2-year extension to these temporary tax laws. Here, it turns out we will be lucky if we provide 3 weeks of certainty.

Many of the people I represent say this bill is only marginally better than no bill at all, and they reasonably wonder why in the world we wouldn't just do another 2-year extension. They prefer more certainty than that to plan for their businesses and for their communities. Instead of doing the short-term House bill, the Senate should instead take up the bipartisan bill the Senate Finance Committee reported over 6 months ago. I always hear people in this body lament the lack of regular order, and I lament the lack of regular order. This bill represented a great attempt at regular order and it got the votes of Republicans and Democrats on the Finance Committee. We had a markup, and we voted on amendments. Some passed, some didn't. And then we voted the bill out to the Senate floor 6 months ago.

The Ways and Means Committee in the House didn't hold a markup on the House bill they are considering today. It is my understanding the House will be allowing few, if any, amendments. So why is that bill in any way preferable to the Senate bill, where we did the work of legislating? Our 2-year bill deserves a vote here on this floor.

Among dozens of provisions that are important to families and businesses in Colorado and across the country, I wanted to highlight two today. The first is the credit for wind energy. The wind PTC and ITC—the production tax credit and the investment tax credit—have always enjoyed broad support from both sides of the aisle, ranging from its original cosponsor, Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa, to my friend and colleague from Colorado, MARK UDALL. And I should say that nobody has been a greater champion for wind or more relentless over the years in support of the wind industry in Colorado and those high-paying jobs in our State than MARK UDALL.

If enacted into law, the Senate version of the PTC and ITC for wind will continue to drive job growth in Colorado. We are not talking about some fly-by-night experiment here. This isn't some Bolshevik takeover of the United States. These are jobs—manufacturing jobs and other high-paying jobs—right here in the United States.

In Colorado, we have 5,000 people working in this industry. In Colorado, Vestas, which manufactures wind turbines, employs over 1,400 workers across 4 factories—from Pueblo all the way up I-25 to Brighton and Windsor. These are not just manufacturing and design jobs in urban centers, but construction and operations jobs at the actual wind farms.

I visited one of these turbine farms in Peetz, CO, a couple of years ago. It was a little scary because we climbed up—I climbed up—to the very top of the wind turbine. I thought we were done climbing, but then they opened a hatch in the top of this thing and they said: Senator, it is time to go out and see what this looks like, which I did, standing on the top of this wind turbine housing in the shoes I wear on the floor of the Senate. Even though I was hooked up, it was a little scary.

The guy who took me there was telling me he had been able to come back to his home community—a rural community in Colorado—and work in this high-paying job because the wind industry was there. This was something he never would have imagined as a kid, but now he has real opportunity, and there are thousands of people just like him all over my State who are concerned the political conversation here has decoupled once again from their concerns and has become about the internal politics of Washington, DC, and not what is actually going on in places such as rural Colorado or in rural places all across the United States.

This industry drives economic growth across our State—from the conference rooms of tech startups in Boulder and Denver all the way to the 6,000-acre Kit Carson wind power generating site just west of the Kansas State line.

The production tax credit has driven \$105 billion in private investment. This is actually amazing when you think about it, given the fact there has been so much uncertainty associated with it—\$105 billion. It has opened up 550 industrial facilities and provided \$180 million in lease payments to rural farmers, to ranchers, and to landowners who host wind farms.

The mention of those rural farmers and ranchers brings me to the second provision of the EXPIRE Act that I would like to highlight: the tax incentive for conservation easements.

Private land conservation is critical in States such as Colorado. Healthy grasslands, open landscapes, and abundant wildlife are a fundamental part of what is to be in the West and in Colorado. In the 2014 farm bill, we worked really hard to build a strong conservation title.

The easement incentive in the Senate finance bill is an important complement to the work in the farm bill. This incentive accounts for the true value of conserved land, which allows family farmers, ranchers, and moderate-income landowners to preserve land for our kids and for our grandkids to enjoy.

In Colorado, we have landowners lined up to take advantage of this very well-designed program. It opens up conservation opportunities to people who might be land rich but cash poor—producers who feed this country. This is land we have to keep in production. But when you are living in a place where the value isn't calculated properly, and there is a high value associ-

ated with it and you don't have the money to be able to put it into easement, this program can help you do that.

If we do that, we get to hold on to our farms and ranches in our States. But here we are again considering a bill that extends these benefits for only 3 weeks. If it is good policy for 3 weeks, why isn't it good policy for 2 years? If we pass the House bill, we are telling the farmers and ranchers across States such as Colorado that we don't value long-term conservation, that we don't take it seriously.

The loss of this tax incentive would mean less land across the West would be protected—again, a voluntary program. This isn't telling anybody they have to do anything with their farms and ranches; it is an option for them if they want to use it. More wildlife habitat will be lost, water quality will suffer, and Colorado's scenic beauty, which is critical to our way of life and our economy, will be threatened.

If we pass the House bill, people's jobs across Colorado will be placed at risk. And this is all due to Congress's failure to do its job. We can do better than that. We should, at this late hour, reconsider this and pass the Senate bill—pass the EXPIRE Act. We should pass a bipartisan piece of legislation that came out of the Finance Committee through regular order 6 months ago. We have had plenty of time to consider that. Then we should come back and we should do comprehensive tax reform and give our country a Tax Code that is actually worthy of the entrepreneurs who are out there working every day to invent our future. The last time the Tax Code—this might be of interest to the pages here today—the last time the Tax Code was updated in this country, I was in college. I was in college. What are the chances that today's Tax Code reflects the American economy as it actually is, to say nothing of the global economy as it actually is? The chances are zero. This is the work we have been sent here to do. It is hard, but that is what we are supposed to be doing here.

I hope in the new year there is going to be a big change around this place, and I hope all of us use that change to the advantage of the American people by putting ourselves back to work. They are working hard. The least we can do is work together to actually align our legislation and our regulation to the world as it actually exists rather than one that existed 50 or 100 years ago.

Madam President, I appreciate the chance to speak today on these important issues to Colorado.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR DAVID WILSON

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this is a bittersweet moment for me, because Maj. David Wilson, who has served in my office in an exemplary way in the Air Force Fellowship Program, will be leaving my office this week. He has been there for the past year. He has been an incredibly valuable member of my staff.

I would like to encourage my colleagues to join me in thanking my military fellow for his exemplary service to the Senate and to wish him well in his next endeavor at the Pentagon. Maj. David Wilson has dedicated his life to serving our Nation. David was commissioned by the U.S. Air Force in 2002 as a graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Texas Tech University.

David has served in Texas, Montana, and Germany and has been deployed to Kuwait, Cuba, and Liberia. He has served the Air Force in a wide range of missions, from personnel and readiness to executive officer and deployed squadron commander. While on Active Duty, David has earned a master's degree in international relations.

Major Wilson joined my office as part of the Air Force Legislative Fellowship Program. I know my colleagues familiar with that program know how valuable it is. It is a year-long program that offers those in the military an opportunity to learn about the legislative process firsthand. But for me he has been an additional valuable member of my staff who has advised me on defense issues. He has been very helpful on so many issues.

My staff and I will truly miss Major Wilson. David hit the ground running. When he joined the office, he started contributing immediately. He is personable, hard-working, and enthusiastic. He has been a key member of the staff, providing me with concise, straightforward guidance on some of our most sensitive defense-related legislative issues. He has advised me on issues ranging from how to best address claims backlogs and other problems at the Veterans' Administration to military strategies against Islamic State terrorists.

I know the Presiding Officer joins me in knowing the complications and concerns we get from our veterans community, particularly on delays in getting claims heard. I thank Major Wilson for helping us to understand how we could better serve our veterans in this country.

David has drafted innovative legislation to improve the recruitment of our Guard and Reserve Forces, which I hope to introduce soon. David has worked extremely hard to ensure that Maryland veterans have adequate and timely access to the services they need.

I think our Nation's greatest resource is its young people, especially those who have joined our All-Volun-

teer Force to defend our country and our way of life. Many times we take the opportunity to thank those who wear the uniform of our Nation for defending our principles. We think about what is happening around the world and recognize that in the United States we can pray to the God we want without fear of intimidation. In other parts of the world they would cut your head off for that.

We can express our opposition to government peacefully. We can have an election where the outcomes are in the hands of the voters, and we celebrate that. In other countries they lock up people for dreaming that. Our military makes sure we preserve those freedoms.

The Air Force should be proud of the extraordinary talent they have in Maj. David Wilson. My staff and I still refer to David as "Major," but in fact he has been selected to the rank of lieutenant colonel 2 years below the promotion zone, which is quite an accomplishment. Fewer than 1 percent of the officers up for promotion get promoted 2 years early. So this is a rare accomplishment. It is not surprising in this instance, given David's drive, ambition, and talent.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Major Wilson on his graduation and thanking him for his service to our country. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank David's wife Susan and daughter Ella for sharing him with the Senate. We have been enriched by his presence. I know of the late hours he has worked and the sacrifices he has made to his family.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Mr. President, I was pleased to be appointed by the President to be one of the two Senate representatives to the United Nations for the 69th United Nations General Assembly Session. Senator RON JOHNSON of Wisconsin is the other member. The two of us have visited New York together. We have talked about how we can best represent the legislative branch of government at the U.S. Mission in New York to further the objectives the United States has within the United Nations.

Just recently I visited New York. I had a chance to meet with Helen Clark, who is the U.N. Development Program Director, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, a person who is instrumentally involved in dealing with the development programs within the United Nations.

I mention that because we are now at the conclusion of the 2000 Millennium Development Goals. I want to mention that for a moment because our goals were to reduce poverty, increase the stability of governments. As the Presiding Officer knows, yes, these are core U.S. principles. The Presiding Officer has been very active in Africa, has done an incredible job in Africa in pointing out the need for reducing poverty and increasing stability.

These are our core principles. That is why we do it, our humanitarian goals—

yes, absolutely, our participation. But it is also important for our national security goals. Because if we have nations that are prosperous, that include their people in the prosperity of their nation, have good governance, it is going to be a more stable government and it will help us have partners whom we can rely on to help us deal with world stability, rather than have to call upon our military to restore order.

This helps us reduce our need for conflicts around the world. So the U.N. programs dealing with the Millennium Development Goals were well received when they were conceived a decade ago. There are eight specific goals. What is interesting about the eight specific goals is they had specific, achievable objectives to achieve by 2015.

It was basically to reduce poverty and disease by next year, cutting in half the number of undernourished individuals on this planet to deal with child mortality and maternal health. It was interesting that we recognized last decade that we could deal with some simple issues, such as dealing with infection at birth, dealing with nutrition, dealing with how we deal with an infant being able to breathe properly through simple devices and that we could significantly reduce infant mortality and we could significantly improve maternal health.

So we set those goals. We set the goals of improving primary education because we knew education was an opportunity for children to be able to succeed. Gender equity and equality was a huge issue. Secretary Clinton, when she was Secretary of State, was our leader on this issue globally.

Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases. The United States took a leadership role in the PEPFAR Program that made a consequential difference in dealing with the spread of HIV/AIDS. Environmental sustainability was one of our Millennium Development Goals because we recognized that to be perhaps the greatest challenge on how we are going to deal with the sustainability of our environment with the challenges of global climate change.

We also recognized that we needed global partners for development. These are all part of the Millennium Development Goals. We recognized these are not just goals of each nation working together within the United Nations to achieve, but it also involves private foundations. It involves international organizations, NGOs, all working together in order to achieve these objectives.

Guess what. Now that we are reaching that plateau in 2015, we can look back and say we accomplished a great deal for this planet, a 15-percent reduction in extreme poverty since the Millennium Development Goals were established. That is an incredible accomplishment. We now have safe drinking water in so many parts of the world that did not have safe drinking water when these goals were developed.

Gender disparity in education has been dramatically reduced. It has been estimated that since the Millennium Development Goals were established, we have saved—100 million babies have survived who would otherwise not survive. That is an incredible accomplishment we have been able to achieve since the development of these goals.

Yes, there is much more that needs to be done. Every year about 6 million babies die needlessly at birth. We can do much better and save more children. The Ebola crisis in West Africa teaches us that we still need to deal with basic health services. In so many countries in the world the spread of Ebola was because they were not prepared to deal with basic health care needs. They could have dramatically reduced the spread of the Ebola virus.

We still have, unfortunately, widespread corruption affecting our Millennium Development Goals in countries around the world. Quite frankly, we cannot accomplish what we want in a country—that is, get their agriculture sustainable, develop the health clinics they need, deal with the gender equity—if they have corrupt government.

So dealing with the issue of good governance is clearly an area we need to improve. We are now talking about the post-2015 development goals, Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations is working on that. Helen Clark, whom I talked to, is working on that. They have some working documents in which they are prepared to come together, as they did for the original Millennium Development Goals, which offer again additional opportunities.

We need to build on what we have done and make sure we have achievable goals. I want to mention a couple of areas that I hope will be included in the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals. First, we need to deal with the realities of the current threats we have. The Ebola crisis points that out.

It is interesting that Nigeria had a few cases of Ebola, but they were able to eradicate it. One of the reasons they were able to eradicate it is because they had a health clinic set up from the PEPFAR money that was made available through what we did with HIV/AIDS. The point is this: Let's use this opportunity, this crisis of Ebola, to make sure we have basic health care services in all our countries so we do not have another Ebola-type crisis in the future. That should be clearly one of our development goals.

Let's deal with good governance by having anticorruption guidelines. In my work as Chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, we have workable ways we can deal with corruption in countries and how we can fight corruption. Our trade negotiators right now are dealing with countries that are developing countries in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and are looking at how we can improve good governance in countries through trade legislation. We can be the leader in dealing with good gov-

ernance and anticorruption issues. It should be a Millennium Development Goal post-2015.

We need to have specific targets in educating boys and girls on health access and food security, climate change, good governance. The United States can be a leader. I do want to point out—and the Presiding Officer is very much aware of this—we have taken steps, this administration and this Congress, to pave the way for the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals. For example, we have the Feed the Future Initiative, where we help small farmers, particularly women, in dealing with sustainable agricultural products.

We do not just give food to the poor, we are looking at changing the economics within the country so they can have sustainable agriculture. The Global Development Lab that Administrator Shaw has proposed, again the Presiding Officer is one of the leaders on that. But here what we are doing is we are taking the USAID development assistance dollars and we are leveraging it with work already being done by our academic centers in America that are active internationally.

I am proud of the work Johns Hopkins does globally. I am sure many Members of the Senate know of the great work done by their academic centers with private companies. Why private companies? Because they get markets. They are interested in working with us to help sustainable economic progress in other countries, which helps us and allows our development assistance to be leveraged and to go further.

We need to be a leader in the post-2015 goals for millennium development within the United Nations.

I wish to underscore this last point. We need to do this because that is who we are—our values. Our values are humanitarian. We believe we have a responsibility to help, and that includes globally. But we do it because our national security also depends upon it.

We really understand that our national security is more than our soldiers and our weapons. It is very important to those who serve in our military. But our diplomacy, development assistance, and having stable governments globally help us become a more stable society and help us with our own national security.

I urge my colleagues to be involved with us. I look forward to working with Senator JOHNSON at the United Nations as we pursue many different missions. I hope one that we will pursue is the continuation of Millennium Development Goals post-2015 to continue to make progress in reducing world poverty and hunger.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time in quorum calls be equally divided between the Democrats and the Republicans.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

RELEASE OF GUANTANAMO DETAINEES

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleague from New Hampshire, to discuss an issue that has been spoken about on this floor over the last several years many times, but it continues to be a problem. The Senator from New Hampshire has been very focused, as have I, on this issue, which is the release of detainees from Guantanamo and the fact that we know that not only are there dangerous individuals there who should not be released, but we also know these individuals are returning to the fight, and they are scheming and planning and intending to do harm to America and Americans. So we wish to visit this issue again.

I wish to start off by saying that it is well-founded in our Nation's history that the United States has the authority to hold enemy combatants until the end of hostilities in order to prevent their return to the battlefield. For the past several years, each National Defense Authorization Act that has been signed into law by the President has recognized this principle and made clear that any Al Qaeda-affiliated terrorists, whether foreign or American, who takes up arms against the United States can be held under the law of war.

Because Congress authorized the use of military force against these terrorists shortly after they attacked us on September 11, 2001, detention within a military framework is often the best means of collecting valuable intelligence to prevent further terrorist attacks, while ensuring they remain on the sidelines for the duration of the conflict.

There are fundamental failures of the administration in the war against terrorism.

First, when the President announced the closing of the detention facility at Guantanamo in January of 2009, he left our Nation without a clear policy for detaining and interrogating suspected terrorists. Without such a policy, including one that identifies a facility for holding terrorists who are captured outside of Afghanistan, the intelligence community's ability to conduct ongoing intelligence operations has been severely limited.

Second and even more alarming is the ill-advised release of these Gitmo detainees back to the battlefields from which they came. I would suggest to

the Senator from New Hampshire that we are doing material harm to our national security efforts by purging the Guantanamo facility, particularly without a long-term plan for guaranteed monitoring, and I know she is going to address this issue. In fact, those who remain at Guantanamo Bay today are not low-level fighters who were in the wrong place at the wrong time; they are some of the most hardened, determined extremists we have encountered and remain singularly focused on bringing violence to the United States and our allies.

Shockingly, many of the detainees who are being transferred were determined to be too dangerous to transfer by the administration's own Guantanamo Review Task Force. Yet many of them are still being transferred. I have been to Guantanamo on several different occasions, the most recent time being about 3 months ago. I can attest once again that these truly are the most hardened and the most dangerous terrorists who exist today, particularly who are, obviously, in captivity. As we see these individuals on the screen, in their cells, we can see in their eyes that criminal activity is occupying 100 percent of their thoughts and that they truly are determined that they are going to, one of these days, get out of that facility and return to the battlefield.

There was one particular anecdote where the leadership at the facility and I were engaging in a conversation, and it was close to the cell of one of the individuals. All of a sudden we realized that individual was telling other cell mates that he was trying to hear what was going on in our conversation. It has gotten that sophisticated on their part when it comes to trying to figure out ways to communicate with the outside the ideas they have about killing and harming Americans and planning and scheming to one day, as I said earlier, leave that place and reengage in the fight.

Instead of working with Congress to develop commonsense policies to enable our national security personnel to detain and interrogate terrorists, this administration is releasing them back with little thought to their future actions. In this haphazard fashion, there is no uniform procedure for the continued monitoring of these individuals—individuals, I might add, who have already demonstrated a propensity for violence. Each country accepts them on their own terms with varying commitments and cooperation, making further monitoring by the intelligence community and our partners nearly impossible.

This is neither a safe nor a sustainable way of ensuring the national security of the United States, yet it has become an all too common practice in this administration. We know for a fact that a number of these former detainees are returning to the battlefield with renewed zeal to wage war against our American way of life.

According to the Director of National Intelligence, an additional four former Guantanamo detainees were confirmed to have rejoined the fight between July of 2013 and January of 2014, raising the combined suspected and confirmed recidivism rate to 29 percent. In addition, although the next report has not been released, we know this number will increase.

We constantly face new plots and operatives looking for ways to murder Americans, such as the foiled May 2012 AQAP plot that put another IED on a United States-bound aircraft. Thankfully, this plot and others did not materialize. But we are not going to always be that fortunate, especially in the absence of meaningful interrogation of terrorists and their imminent return to the battlefield.

We know that Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, today represents one of the biggest threats to the United States homeland, as well as personnel serving overseas. They are continually plotting against our interests and seeking new recruits, especially among our own citizens as well as former Guantanamo detainees.

Explosives experts, such as Ibrahim al-Asiri, continue to roam free, posing a tremendous threat to the safety and security of U.S. citizens. It is Mr. al-Asiri who is the bomb-making expert who has attempted to devise bombs that cannot be detected by the equipment in airports, so that they can hopefully place a bomb either inside an individual or on an individual who can secure a seat on an airplane without that bomb being detected as they go through the various checkpoints at airports around the world.

Additionally, as the Senator from New Hampshire again will allude to, this proposed closure of Guantanamo Bay presents significant risks for the United States as well as Yemeni efforts to counter AQAP inside of Yemen.

A substantial portion of the detainees remaining in Guantanamo Bay are, in fact, Yemeni citizens. Transferring these individuals to a country plagued by prison breaks, assassinations, and open warfare at this point could prove catastrophic. These detainees would likely rejoin several other former Gitmo detainees who have returned to the fight in Yemen, further destabilizing the country, and worsening an already tenuous security situation.

The most recent example of a totally failed and dangerous policy on the part of this administration is the exchange of the Taliban Five back in May. That decision, to release five individuals who now wake up every morning thinking of ways to kill and harm Americans, was wrong. This administration clearly and callously failed in its obligations of notifying Congress. It appears they did not comply with this requirement because they knew there would be objections to the release of those five individuals from both sides of the aisle here in the Senate, as well as across the Capitol on the House side.

This administration clearly decided they wanted to intentionally release these individuals in spite of the fact that we had included language in the previous Defense authorization bills requiring specific notification to Congress in advance of them doing so.

In addition to simply violating that notification requirement, the administration violated the Antideficiency Act by obligating funds that were not legally available. While the President has a habit of ignoring laws relating to domestic policies such as health care and immigration, this overreach will likely directly threaten the lives of our citizens and servicemembers in Afghanistan.

In the wake of the President's bold defiance of congressional oversight, I wrote the White House requesting the declassification of the 2009 Guantanamo Bay review task force assessments for the Taliban Five. I also requested, on the floor of the Senate, that the administration release these files so the American people can know what I know, and what the Presiding Officer knows, and decide for themselves if that was the right decision.

Today I renew that request and I call on this administration to fulfill its failed promises of transparency and show to the American people the very real stakes they are gambling with in their attempts to empty Guantanamo.

Nevertheless, this dangerous trend continues unabated, even amidst bipartisan calls for greater oversight after the Taliban Five release.

In November alone, seven detainees were transferred, three to the country of Georgia, two to Slovakia, one to Saudi Arabia, and another to Kuwait. Some of these countries have previously had detainees sent to them. We have mixed reaction as to the reengagement or the oversight that is provided in those countries. Some of those countries have never had a detainee they have taken possession of. We have no idea what kind of supervision they are going to exercise over these individuals.

Whether it is in Iraq, Afghanistan, or in other parts of the Middle East, Americans have fought and died in the war against Al Qaeda. Our Nation may be weary of war, but threatening elements still remain. Those five individuals, the Taliban Five to whom I alluded, are clearly threats to the United States. I urge President Obama as well as my congressional colleagues and the American people not to abandon the gains we have made in this fight against terrorism since 9/11. We must remain steadfast in our resolve to defeat extremists who oppose freedom, democracy, and our American way of life.

I look forward in my remaining days here in the Senate to working with colleagues such as my friend from New Hampshire and other Members of this body as we continue to face this growing threat.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

Ms. AYOTTE. I thank my colleague from Georgia, Senator CHAMBLISS, for his incredible leadership on the Intelligence Committee, on the Armed Services Committee, and his deep commitment to ensuring that our country remains safe, that our freedoms are protected. I daresay from the time I have been in the Senate, Senator CHAMBLISS is one of the most knowledgeable people in this body about the threats we face, how we address those threats, and how we ensure that America remains safe. I thank Senator CHAMBLISS for his incredible leadership in this body, not only on the issue of how do we address ensuring that the detainees who are held—who are very dangerous—at Guantanamo Bay do not present additional threats to our country and to our allies, but on so many issues, ensuring that our intelligence officials have strong information and oversight to ensure that America remains protected.

I rise in support of what my colleague from Georgia has just talked about. If we look at what is happening around the world, the recent developments with ISIS, combined with the continuing threats we face here at home from Al Qaeda and its affiliates, it underscores the continuing need we have for a military detention facility that is outside the United States of America, that prevents enemy combatants who are at war with us from returning to the battle, and allows us a secure location to gather intelligence, to ensure that when we capture a member of Al Qaeda, or when we capture one of its affiliates that is in a position where the organization is threatening the United States of America that we take the opportunity to ensure there is a full and complete interrogation of those terrorists to make sure we know everything they know, to ensure we can prevent future attacks, and that the United States of America is protected.

So I would argue, as we look at what is happening around the world, the need for this detention facility actually has become more apparent. Yet what we have seen with the administration, as Senator CHAMBLISS has so eloquently outlined, is there has been a push—there was a political promise made in the President's campaign to close Guantanamo Bay. Despite having a policy as to how we are going to handle the capture of these enemy combatants, one that he worked with Congress on, and how we will ensure the full interrogation of those combatants to ensure information we need to protect our country, we have seen a rush to release people from Guantanamo Bay that has been accelerated recently, as my colleague from Georgia talked

about, where the Department of Defense has announced the transfer of seven detainees fairly recently.

Some of those detainees were reportedly assessed to be high risk. There are also questions about what are the conditions the countries that are taking these detainees are going to ensure so they do not return to the fight, where we have direct evidence of a 29-percent reentry rate with those who have been released from Guantanamo Bay, not just under this administration but under prior administrations, who are confirmed or suspected of having re-engaged in terrorism.

There is nothing that must appall our troops more than to be on the battlefield, or our intelligence officials or our allies, to reencounter a terrorist we had safely detained at a detention facility, at Guantanamo Bay, and to see that person again and to know they continue to be a threat to the United States of America and to our interests.

I would urge, I hope, my colleagues, now more than ever, that it is important we have that detention facility there that is safe, secure, and we can ensure that those who are captured, who want to do us harm, members of Al Qaeda terrorist groups—that we can ensure they cannot get back in this battle against us.

I specifically want to talk about the country of Yemen, because as a member of the Armed Services Committee—and Senator CHAMBLISS supported this effort—we passed an amendment in the Senate Armed Services Committee that would have prohibited the transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the country of Yemen until December 31 of 2015. That provision was removed during the conference committee. I am being told we will not have a chance to debate that issue on the Senate floor or to amend the Defense authorization as it comes to the floor because—this is something that I cannot understand, why this provision was removed and why the administration would want the ability to transfer Guantanamo Bay detainees to Yemen.

Let's talk about what is happening in Yemen. Last May, President Obama, in my view unwisely, lifted the moratorium on detainee transfers to Yemen. Since that decision was made, between the date of the President's and the administration's order that we could potentially release detainees to Yemen—let me outline what has happened in Yemen since then.

That country has continued to be a place where there is instability, lack of government control, and, in fact, between November 24 and December 2 of 2014, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula reportedly claimed responsibility for 17 attacks in 8 Yemeni provinces.

I have a laundry list of very dangerous attacks that have occurred in Yemen. One of the most troubling things that has occurred—as we think about those who are present at Guantanamo who are very dangerous individuals, a number of them are Yemeni. If

they were to be transferred back to the country of Yemen—for example, in February of 2014, militants attacked Yemen's main prison, killing 7 and enabling 29 inmates to escape, including 19 members who were convicted members of Al Qaeda.

So I don't know why the administration would seek to transfer Guantanamo detainees to this country, where there have been prison breaks and where there have been multiple incidences of violent attacks by Al Qaeda. Yet this provision got dropped from the Defense authorization even though it had the support of the Senate committee. I am very troubled by that.

I am very troubled we will not have an opportunity to debate that on the floor. I would hope the administration would look very closely at the record of what has occurred in Yemen since the President has made the decision to end the moratorium on transfers to Yemen because it is an incredible list of dangerous activities and prison breaks by members of Al Qaeda.

So there is no way if we transfer someone from Gitmo to Yemen there, we can guarantee that those individuals will not get back in the fight, that they will not escape from any prison we put them in because that country cannot secure their security.

I want to talk about a very important issue as we look at this issue of the administration's rush to close Guantanamo; that is, the issue of ISIS.

There have been reports that a certain number of former Guantanamo detainees may be fighting with ISIS. We all saw—with horror—the acts of ISIS, how brutal they are, and the brutality that they have taken out on Americans, including one of my constituents. We all know ISIS is a group the President himself has said we need to defeat.

I have written the President and asked him about these reports. In fact, I wrote a letter to President Obama and requested that all international transfers be suspended until we could know more about potential Guantanamo detainees whom we released who may be getting in the fight in support of ISIS. It was recently reported that one former Guantanamo detainee has pledged his allegiance to the leader of ISIS and is recruiting fighters for ISIS in northern Pakistan.

If that is true we need to revisit not only ensuring that we aren't transferring dangerous detainees from Guantanamo to countries such as Yemen—and allowing them to be in a position to get back in the fight—but that we are also ensuring that we have a moratorium on transfers until we understand how many of these detainees may actually be joining ISIS and present a threat to us.

This issue—as we look at the national security challenges we face now—we have to reevaluate. I would hope the President would reevaluate the campaign promise he made in light of the national security threats we face. Now is not the time to be closing

the facility of Guantanamo when we are presented with so many threats around the world—not only from Al Qaeda but from ISIS—and we need a secure facility to ensure that those who are there now, who are tremendously dangerous individuals, don't get back in the fight to continue to harm us and our allies. Also, we need to ensure that if future enemy combatants are captured who are members of Al Qaeda or its affiliates, that they have a secure place where they can be held and fully interrogated.

I again thank my colleague from Georgia for his leadership on this issue and on so many national security issues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to be joined with my distinguished friend and extraordinary colleague Senator HARKIN of Iowa to support continued funding of the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

He has been a leader in this area, so I am particularly privileged to stand with him on behalf of a fund that is absolutely necessary to address prevention of serious and chronic diseases. It is fiscally and morally and absolutely essential that we approach health care in this way.

I am going to ask for permission to continue to speak. I am not sure what the allotted time is. If there is no objection, I ask unanimous consent for the time through 5 o'clock for myself, Senator HARKIN, and others who may join us in this colloquy.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Our Nation currently spends 75 cents of every \$1 on health care for the treatment of preventable conditions.

These diseases can be stopped and prevented in people through simple, commonsense measures. Yet a meager 3 cents of every \$1 goes toward those treatments, therapies, and practices that can help prevent the diseases that are so wasteful to our economy, to individuals, and their livelihoods.

Our young people are on track to be the first generation of Americans to live a shorter, unhealthier life than their parents. The responsibility to change the course of this history is in our hands.

One step this body—led by Senator HARKIN—has taken is to establish the Prevention and Public Health Fund. It is the only dedicated Federal fund for the prevention and improvement of our Nation's public health. Prevention is the most effective way to improve the health of Americans while reducing health care costs in the United States. This funding supports efforts to reduce our Nation's rate of infant death, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and tobacco use. They are the killers and they kill unnecessarily and avoidably.

Sadly, many Connecticut residents suffer from those very same chronic

diseases I mentioned. Thirty percent of Connecticut residents have high blood pressure, 9 percent have diabetes, 21,000 residents of Connecticut are diagnosed with cancer annually, and 16 percent still use tobacco.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund invests in a broad range of evidence-based activities—not speculative, not abstract, conceptual, theoretical—including community and clinical prevention initiatives that can help stop all Americans from developing debilitating and chronic disease in the future.

So far grants from this fund were awarded to support four Connecticut projects, including mental health and addiction, diabetes management in older and disabled adults, and the establishment of an electronic birth registration system to improve the ability to track the health and well-being of infants. It sounds pretty rudimentary—and it is—using technology to track the health and well-being of infants.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a hard-hitting anti-tobacco media campaign—funded from this fund—focused on the destructive health effects of smoking. It is not only effective, but it is supported by the efforts that we have advocated on prevention in health management.

Over the next 3 years this campaign is expected to save the country \$170 million in nonincurred health costs and lowered productivity that results from smoking. The CDC has estimated that this campaign will assist 50,000 tobacco users to quit smoking.

I know from my own work in suing the tobacco companies and establishing the fund to support exactly these kinds of efforts, that millions of Americans across the United States want to quit. They have tried repeatedly. Ninety-nine percent of all smokers want to quit and also try to quit, but quitting is hard because nicotine is one of the most powerfully addictive drugs known to man and cigarettes are a powerfully effective nicotine delivery tool.

These 50,000 tobacco users who quit smoking are better off, not only in their health but their pocketbooks. They save countless dollars that they would otherwise squander on unhealthy tobacco products. They are healthier, their families are happier, and they save themselves from a lifetime of addiction and disease. The preventive efforts of the CDC as a result of this fund are preventive in stopping young people from beginning to smoke as well.

It is monumental, it is historic, and it is a fund that should be fully supported by Congress. The fund accorded the CDC the ability to run another tobacco education campaign called "Tips from Former Smokers."

According to a recent study, this campaign led 1.64 million Americans to attempt to quit smoking. Those who have completely quit smoking as a result of the campaign added half a mil-

lion quality-adjusted life years to the population of the United States.

I know these numbers sound abstract and obtuse. They are real lives, and they have been saved from the evils of tobacco addiction and smoking, which in turn could cause cancer, heart disease, and all kinds of preventive diseases.

This funding is essential to running the local departments of health in many areas of our Nation. Workers at those departments of public health are in the forefront of preventing infectious diseases, an issue that most recently came into focus as part of the domestic Ebola response.

Without adequate funding for these departments, the people most closely tasked and most immediately responsible for providing services and information to people in the time of a crisis may be unable to respond when communities are most in need.

We must change the focus of our health care from sickness and disease to wellness and prevention.

We grew up, many of us, with our mothers telling us that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That is not only an adage that is commonly repeated, it is commonly proved in everyday life.

I strongly encourage my fellow Members to support the Prevention and Public Health Fund to help ensure the future well-being of our fellow citizens.

I yield to my colleague Senator HARKIN, one of the leaders in this effort.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

I thank my friend and colleague from Connecticut for his very excellent, profound statement and for taking a leadership position on this very crucial issue.

It is obviously well known I am retiring in 3 weeks. The Prevention and Public Health Fund of which the Senator spoke so eloquently just now is going to continue, and it is going to need people such as the Senator from the State of Connecticut to take that kind of leadership position.

I believe people are catching on to it around the country, but there are still those who say: People get high blood pressure, they get borderline diabetes, they have high cholesterol. These things just sort of happen—sort of like they are preordained.

Chronic diseases are not preordained. As the Senator said, 75 percent of the money we spent was accountable for preventable chronic diseases and conditions. As the Senator so rightly said, what we need to focus on is keeping people healthy, not paying for it later on when they are in the hospital. That is something that this Prevention and Public Health Fund is making strides on.

People have perhaps a mistaken idea that health care only occurs in the doctor's office or in the exchange between doctor and patient or health care provider and patient. But we know that it

takes place in all aspects of life—in the workplace, in the communities in which we live, in our schools, in our homes. It has to be something that is sort of pervasive in our society.

I say to my friend from Connecticut that I have often said in America it is easy to be unhealthy and hard to be healthy. It seems to me that ought to be turned around. It ought to be easy to be healthy and harder to be unhealthy. That means the simple things in life, such as kids walking to school. If they have a school in their neighborhood, they should be able to walk to school and back. I often talk about when my kids went to school here in Virginia when we moved here from Iowa many years ago. We had a high school 1 mile from our house, but the kids couldn't walk to school. Why? There was no sidewalk. It was a busy street, but there was no sidewalk. Simple things like that.

Things such as the Senator mentioned, making sure people get their checkups every year. The prevention fund does that. It makes sure of that. The money we put in the Affordable Care Act provides for annual checkups and vaccinations for people with no copays and no deductibles. I am told that now over 100 million people have taken advantage of that in this country—no copays, no deductibles. They can go in for a free check and get their cholesterol checked, a blood pressure screening, and all that done on an annual basis.

We also have to be cognizant that our kids need to have better physical opportunities at school and better food at school. With the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 we started to change the way we provide foods for our kids—healthy foods, free and fresh fruits and vegetables in schools all over America. These are the things that make it easier to be healthy—easier to be healthy.

There are the quitlines the Senator spoke about, which have been enormously successful, and the “Tips from Former Smokers.” We have the data on that from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. So we know they are working.

So again, I wish to thank the Senator for his focus on this and wish him well in the future in being sort of the champion on this because there are a lot of pulls around this place. I think everyone here would say: Yes, I am for health care; I am for keeping people healthy. We all get that. But there are so many pulls around here on how to appropriate money and what we do that sometimes this gets lost in the shuffle. So I am encouraged and pleased the distinguished Senator from Connecticut will be focused on this Prevention and Public Health Fund. It is making changes all over this country in profound ways—in profound ways—and in our communities.

Our communities are now getting together. I say to the Presiding Officer, the communities in Maine are now getting together and thinking about what

they can do as a community to provide for more healthy activities and encouragement for people in their communities, and they are getting grants from the Prevention and Public Health Fund to do just that. Communities all over America are beginning to think about this and taking action.

It is simple things sometimes. A small community in Iowa—a very small town—had a retirement home for the elderly, but they didn't have any place for the elderly to exercise. So they built a walking path. They put park benches along the way and a couple of little shelters so they could come right out the door and walk. I don't know how far it is—maybe a mile or two. So it is just simple things like that. Before they had no place to go at all to get that kind of exercise.

So again, this Prevention and Public Health Fund, I hope, will remain a priority, and I hope the Senator from Connecticut will continue his great leadership in this area. I thank him for that and for his excellent statement. If on the outside I can ever be of help in any way, let me know. But I know it is in good hands with the Senator from Connecticut.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I want, again, to thank my great friend, Senator HARKIN, for the legacy of public health advocacy that he will leave for all of us. I pledge to him that I will carry on, among many others, I am sure, that legacy and advocacy.

The Senator mentioned that it is easy to be unhealthy and harder to be healthy. Part of the reason is lack of awareness and education, and perhaps, in some instances, even a lack of income and wherewithal. Just let me pose the question to him of whether that impression is true.

Mr. HARKIN. If my friend will yield, I think that is absolutely true. First of all, it is true that a lot of times low-income people don't have access to a more healthy environment. The food deserts we call them in our inner cities, where they do not get the fresh fruits and vegetables and items like that. That has to be addressed also, making it easier for them to be healthy. Again, it is an awareness.

I would say to my friend one other thing, and I hope my friend will take a look at what is now undergoing a trial period. It is something that was put in the last farm bill as a trial period for food stamp recipients—people who are on what they call food stamps, which are not food stamps anymore, as the Senator knows—to provide incentives for low-income people, people who use food stamps, to purchase more fruits and vegetables rather than just starches, fats, and sugars. That project is ongoing now. So I would say to the Senator that perhaps next year he might want to take a look at that with the Secretary of Agriculture and see how that project is doing.

Again, this is just a trial, an experiment, to see what we can do to incentivize people who are on food stamps to use them more for more healthy foods. But it is that lack of awareness. The Senator is absolutely correct.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. My impression also is—and perhaps the Senator has some views on this—that, in a way, we have a responsibility in this body to create that awareness and to spend the money on what should be regarded as an investment. It is spending, and it involves funding. But really the way to look at it is as an investment in education, in the clinics and the doctors and the services that can make Americans healthier and save us dollars over the long term—not only in the money spent on truly preventable diseases but also avoiding the suffering and the pain that is involved in many of those diseases, whether it is cancer or heart disease or diabetes, which are connected to so many preventable conditions.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank my friend. I remember Dr. Andrew Weil, who is very well known in this country and a good friend of mine, once made the statement sometime ago in a hearing that the default state of the human body is to be healthy. The body wants to be healthy. After all these millennia of changes, the body wants to be healthy. The problem is we put all these obstacles in the way.

I think that is true of people. People want to be healthy. They may not know that some of their lifestyle choices, some of what they do is provoking their illnesses. So I think it is our job to make people more aware of that and to help to provide some assistance, to provide some incentives for them to have a more healthy lifestyle.

I say to my friend from Connecticut, people will be here, I hope, for the next highway bill. We haven't been able to get one for a long time. I was here for the last one. I had an amendment I thought was going to pass. It was simply this: Any time Federal funds are involved in communities for streets or roads or highways or bridges or whatever, there must be incorporated in the plan provisions for walkways or bike paths along the side. I didn't say they had to build them. I just said they had to be put in the plans.

They are doing that in Europe, by the way. Every road, every street built has a walkway or a bike path—both for walking or biking.

Someone here objected to it, and we didn't get it. But I still think that would be something, again, to make people more aware. If they are incorporated in the plans, they might see it doesn't cost that much more to add it on to a road or bridge or whatever—the streets we are building in this country. Again, it makes it easier for people to be healthy—just a little thing like that. So I hope the Senator would take a look at that the next time the highway bill comes up.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I certainly will pledge to do so and will

think of the Senator from Iowa when we do, hopefully, consider the next such highway bill. But let me just say, in conclusion, for myself, I was not going to mention the “R” word—the retirement word—because it seems almost impossible to imagine this body without the Senator from Iowa not only because of his advocacy of the Prevention and Public Health Fund but also his constant reminding us and his unceasing advocacy for better public health, for championing the interests of ordinary working men and women. So I thank him for that legacy to me and for so many others.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Senator for his kindness.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS DAY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I see my friend from Tennessee here on the floor, but I want to take a few minutes on another subject.

Today, December 3, is International Disability Rights Day—International Disability Rights Day. It is observed around the globe as a day to think about, consider, and support more fully inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of our societies, to provide the support and the accommodations for people with disabilities to get a good education, to get employment, and to be able to enjoy all aspects of life with their families and their friends in all societies around the world.

This date commemorates this fight for equality and opportunity and access for people with disabilities all around the globe. In 150 countries and the European Union, they have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a day to celebrate a future of increased opportunities and inclusion for people with disabilities.

I am proud of the fact that we in America have been the leader in the world on disability rights and inclusion. Beginning with IDEA—the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—and followed up by the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, we helped set the framework for equal opportunity and full participation for individuals with disabilities. Most of the world now shares those principles, and they have shown their support by signing onto this treaty—this convention. But there is a difference between signing on to principles and implementing them.

By ratifying the CRPD, as it is known—the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—we can play an important role in helping other countries actually implement that treaty, that convention, those principles.

Under our system of government, the President of the United States has already signed for the United States on this treaty, but under our system of

government, under our Constitution, that must be ratified by a vote in the Senate, a vote requiring two-thirds of those present and voting—not two-thirds of the Senate, two-thirds of those present and voting. That is what it says in the Constitution.

As we all know, 2 years ago this month we brought this treaty up for a vote in the Senate, and it failed by six votes. I think at that time there was a lot of misinformation about it. But under our system, it had to go back to the White House, it having died that Congress. It came back this Congress under the great leadership of Senator MENENDEZ. We had further hearings on it. The bill was reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee this summer. Yet we cannot bring it to the floor because of some objections by a few on the Republican side—not every Republican, just a few.

I always want to point out that we had courageous Republicans supporting this. Ever since the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Senator MCCAIN has been a stalwart supporter of the rights of people with disabilities. Senator BARRASSO from Wyoming, Senator KIRK from Illinois, Senator AYOTTE from New Hampshire, Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska, and Senator COLLINS from Maine have all been supporters. That is as it should be. Disability policy has never been a partisan issue. In this body, in the 30 years I have served here, it has never been a partisan issue.

I am sorry the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities seems to be caught up in some kind of partisanship, and that shouldn't be. I was hoping we might bring it up for another vote before we left. I asked consent to do so, and it was objected to by the junior Senator from Utah at that time. So this Congress will adjourn once again without ratifying this convention.

Last evening I was privileged to share an honor by the U.S. International Council on Disabilities with Professor Patrick Quinn, a citizen of Ireland, who was very instrumental in drafting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations. He pointed out that much of what they did was based on the Americans with Disabilities Act and that it would send a bad signal around the world if we aren't going to join with the community of nations in helping them implement the principles. As I said, we can sign on to the principles, but implementing them is quite another story. That is where we can be very helpful.

Some people say that we can do that on our own, that we don't need to be a part of this treaty. But we don't have the wherewithal to go to every country and do that. We don't have that many personnel. We have budget constraints too. But if we join with other nations—and there are other nations that are very good at implementing disability policy, both in the European Union—

and I might mention that great nation of Ireland. They have been very good at implementing disability policies. We could work with other countries, and when we go to other countries to help them implement these principles so that people with disabilities can have a fair place in their societies, an equal place in their societies, it is better if we speak a common language—not the United States going in and telling them “Here is what you should do” but go into a country with other nations and say “Here is what we do. Here is what we do together. Here is what we can do to help you implement the principles on which you signed the treaty.” It is a shame we can't ratify it.

Again I point out, as I have many times, that it has broad support in our society. Think about this. We have a measure coming before the Senate—that doesn't go before the House, just the Senate. We have a measure that is supported by the following: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce—Tom Donahue has been a stalwart supporter of this from the very beginning. We have the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Business Roundtable, led by a former Republican Governor of Michigan, John Engler, came out in strong support of this. The veterans groups all support this. We have all of the faith-based groups. In fact, on November 10 of this year, we received a letter from the National Association of Evangelicals supporting this treaty. The high-tech industries. All of the disability groups without exception support this.

I must also mention that one of the strong supporters who has poured his heart into trying to get this adopted is our former majority leader of the Senate, Bob Dole. I would also point out that every former Republican leader of the Senate supports this treaty—Bob Dole, Trent Lott, and Bill Frist. Every former President of the United States, from Jimmy Carter, to George H.W. Bush, to President Clinton, President George W. Bush, and President Obama—all support this. So we would think this would be a slam dunk, but there are a few who have blocked this from coming up. Over 800 disability, civil rights, and faith groups, 20 top veterans organizations, and I mentioned the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable—all support this.

It is sad that on this International Disability Rights Day, I am sad to say, it looks as though the clock is running out and we will not even vote again on it this year, let alone adopt it.

Next year I will not be here. I am retiring next year. My friends on the Republican side will take over the Senate. I hope they will pick up on this and take this treaty—move it through their committee and bring it out on the floor. It should not be a partisan issue. If there are some things that need to be done with the reservations, understandings, and declarations, fine. There were some changes made this last time to accommodate the concerns

of people who were concerned about homeschooling. There is a whole new thing that was put in there on homeschooling.

I am hopeful we will continue our efforts to pass this and to become a part of this international effort.

People wonder: The United States—we are so good on disability policy, we can help people with disabilities all around the globe. I can't say how many times I have had people who have talked to me in the past, young people who are students in universities who got some kind of a grant to go overseas to study but can't do it because of accessibility issues in other countries. They just can't get around. They can't find adequate housing. So it is still part of discrimination globally, and, again, we should be a part of it.

So I take the floor on this International Disability Rights Day to ask that this Senate in the future take up the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratify it, and let's become a part of the international effort to work with every other country in the world to implement the kinds of policies we have in this country that provide equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency to people with disabilities—the four great goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We can do this, we should do it, and we should do it with our friends around the globe.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks, I wish to acknowledge once again my gratitude for Senator HARKIN and his leadership for these past 2 years that I have had the privilege of working with him as ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and to acknowledge once again that there has been no one in this body on either side of the aisle who has been a greater champion for Americans with disabilities.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, will the Senator from Tennessee yield?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Senator for those kind remarks. Let me say again what a pleasure it has been to work with the Senator from Tennessee for the last few years. In the last couple of years, we brought a lot of meaningful legislation through our committee, signed by the President. In fact, as my friend from Tennessee pointed out, we had 21 bills through our committee signed by the President—the most productive committee I think in the entire Congress; I know in the Senate.

So as I retire, the Senator from Tennessee, I hope, will be taking over the HELP Committee, and it will be in good hands. The Senator is a person of good will and good heart and good mind. After all, he has all the background needed—former president of the University of Tennessee, former Sec-

retary of Education, former Governor, and, of course, U.S. Senator. So the HELP Committee will be in good hands with the Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Iowa.

INLAND WATERWAYS TRUST FUND FEE INCREASE

Mr. President, the House of Representatives is expected to pass tonight legislation that should be very good news to Americans who care about their jobs and Americans who care about the condition of our inland waterway systems.

Inland waterway systems aren't on the front page of the U.S. newspapers until a lock closes or something happens and the cargo can't get down the river, and then it is big trouble. Which is the case in Tennessee with the Chickamauga Lock, an old lock that the Army Corps of Engineers says could close. It is in such bad shape, and if it were to close it would throw 150,000 heavy trucks on I-75 and disrupt the economy in all of eastern Tennessee. That same picture applies in many other parts of our country to these important waterways: The Mississippi, the Missouri, the Tennessee, and the Ohio—rivers that carry so much of the heavy cargo that provides income and jobs for so many American families.

Tonight the House of Representatives is expected to enact the third part of a three-part plan that was envisioned in the American Waterworks Act of 2012, which would provide a permanent, long-term solution to having the kind of inland waterway system that a great country such as the United States deserves. I wish to speak for a moment about the effect that has not just on our country but on my home State of Tennessee.

For our country, it would be hard to imagine how we could carry cars and coal and agricultural equipment from the great Midwest and the South to the rivers to be shipped overseas without the barges that carry that equipment, millions of tons of cargo every year, and it is usually cheaper and faster than many other forms of transportation. That means more jobs and more money in the pockets of Americans who are able to work for industries that are competitive.

The legislation the House is expected to pass will provide \$260 million for inland waterway projects across the country over the next 10 years. It is important to note that this fee is paid entirely by the owners of the big commercial barges that use the locks when they go down the rivers, and that none of it would be paid by the fishing boats and recreation boats which also use the locks. In other words, the big commercial barges are going to pay more to get through the locks faster, to save money and to save time, and that is good for the fishermen as well, without any cost. This is the third step in the American Waterworks Act that was proposed in 2012.

This step would increase by 9 cents the way the fee is calculated that the big barge companies pay to go through the locks. The barge companies have

volunteered to do this. They have been pleading with the U.S. Congress, saying, "Please raise the fee we pay to go through the locks so you can use the Corps of Engineers to replace the locks so we can go through faster and cheaper." So the House is taking steps to do that tonight. The fee will increase from 20 to 29 cents per gallon of fuel used and, as I said, \$260 million of that over the next 10 years will go to help repair these locks.

The first two steps in the plan of the American Waterworks Act were enacted by law earlier this year as part of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. Step 1 was to take the Olmsted lock in Ohio and treat it separately, because it was soaking up all the money that might be available for all the other locks in the country. Step 2 was to create a prioritization of the locks, so we didn't come here every year and say my lock is more important than your lock. And, in fact, with that, the Chickamauga lock in Tennessee became No. 4. And Step 3 is the user fee I talked about earlier.

What difference does this legislation mean for the State of Tennessee and the Chickamauga lock? Well, for years the Chickamauga lock has been subject to year-by-year efforts by those of us in Congress to find a little money to repair it, to keep it from closing, all knowing full well that if we didn't replace it, it would one day soon close. Those days are over. This is a long-term solution that says, No. 1, the Olmsted lock which has been soaking up the money has been reduced, Chickamauga lock is a fourth priority in the government, and now we have money paid by the big barge owners that, when combined with the annual appropriations, should make it possible to begin to replace Chickamauga lock beginning in the year in 2016. That would mean it would still take several years to replace the lock. It would mean it would still cost about half a billion dollars. But it would mean that instead of year-by-year appropriations and guessing games that the Army Corps of Engineers can have a long-term plan and begin to do the job, and those who are making plans to invest in our part of the region—not just in Chattanooga but in eastern Tennessee—can know if they do that, the lock would be there to help provide low-cost transportation for what they manufacture and what they grow.

I want to thank a variety of people who have taken great leadership in this. The Senator from Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, and I have been the joint sponsors of this legislation in the Senate. We are very hopeful that the House will do its work tonight and the Senate will do its work next week and that the bill will go to the President before the end of the year and this will be law by the end of the year. So I thank him for his leadership.

I also want to congratulate Congressman FLEISCHMANN of Chattanooga who

rounded up a group of Republican Members to support this effort, and Congressman DUNCAN from Knoxville. Speaker BOEHNER has been very helpful, and Congressman CAMP has been very helpful.

In the Senate I would like to thank Senator VITTER, who is the ranking member of the Environment & Public Works Committee for his leadership on this effort, and I would like to thank Senator REID, the majority leader, and Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, for their cooperation on this.

Nothing is ever done in the U.S. Congress until it is finally done. So this is passing the House tonight and it is expected to pass the Senate next week, which is very good news for Americans who depend on the inland waterways for their jobs, and in Tennessee where change—instead of a year-by-year appropriation, it is an effort, it is the first chance we have had to have a long-term solution to the replacement over the next several years of Chickamauga lock beginning as early as the year 2016.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

KEARNEY AND PAPPERT NOMINATIONS

Mr. CASEY. Thank you, Mr. President. I rise and ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

Mr. CASEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise this evening to talk about two of our judicial nominations who are before the Senate today. We have gotten through one vote, and we will be having several more on a number of judges. The two I will speak about are Mark Kearney and Jerry Pappert, and I know my colleague Senator TOOMEY is with us and I will make some remarks and I will obviously be here for his remarks as well.

First and foremost, I am grateful to be working with Senator TOOMEY on these nominations as we have on others. It is a long and difficult process for everyone, ever more so if you are a candidate, someone who puts yourself forward to be a U.S. district court judge. We are grateful that individuals are willing to do that, but it does not work unless we work together here in the Senate, and Senator TOOMEY and I have been working together over several years now. We have got one additional nomination after this, we hope, by the end of the year.

I would like to give a little bit of biographical background on both of these nominees. Mark Kearney is currently managing shareholder at Elliot Greenleaf & Siedzikowski, where he has worked since 1990. He has spent almost a quarter of a century in a firm that does a wide variety of legal matters. I know this firm well and I know the work they do on litigation and all kinds of complex litigation. Mark has broad and diverse experience in that

firm. Previously he worked at the Elliot Mannino & Flaherty firm, going back and forth in his days at the Elliot Greenleaf & Siedzikowski firm.

After law school he clerked in the Delaware Court of Chancery following his legal training. Of course that is a court that has a high degree of specialization. A lot of business matters and obviously corporate matters come before that very well-known court in Delaware.

Mark Kearney is also obviously very active in his community and I have known him for a couple of decades now. He serves on various charitable and civic organizations including director for Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute as well, and the Montgomery County Bar Foundation.

Finally, in that vein of service to his community, he has worked as a volunteer child advocate of the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project since 2007 and served as director of that organization from 2009 to 2012. Montgomery County is one of our largest counties by way of population, just bordering Philadelphia. It is a big county that has challenges as any county of its size, and to have a judge—or nominee whom we hope will become a judge after our voting—to have spent that time with children in an advocacy position is a great testament to Mark's commitment.

So whether you focus on his academic credentials as someone who had a wide variety of matters come before him as a lawyer in a big firm, whether it is volunteer work and therefore his commitment to service, Mark is well prepared and I believe one of the best nominees we have put forward for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

I have known him a long time. When I make a decision about whether to support a particular candidate for judge of any court, but especially a district court judge, I look at their academic training and experience and whether it is experience as a lawyer and advocate or in some cases a lawyer as well as a judge. You have to make an assessment of someone's character, their integrity, their judicial temperament, all of those qualities and attributes you would want to find in a judge. On all those, Mark Kearney is someone I know personally who possesses those attributes and qualifications. But I also know him as someone who just by virtue of his record that we can recite here is well prepared to serve as a district court judge.

I would ask my colleagues to give him on this vote all the consideration that is warranted.

Jerry Pappert, more formally Gerald Pappert—I think I am allowed to call him Jerry until he becomes a judge—is someone I met in State government. I was in an elected position—it is now 18 years ago I was elected, and early in my term I was having a meeting with the attorney general, Mike Fisher, who is now on the Third Circuit Court of

Appeals. Attorney General Fisher brought his chief of staff, his first deputy, as they called it in that department, to a meeting with my chief of staff and we sat down at a restaurant to have pizza one night to talk about how our offices could work together, even though they don't have an overlapping jurisdiction. But it was one of those meetings you never forget. It was the first time I met Jerry Pappert. I knew then of his commitment to service, because he was serving in the top position in the State attorney general's office. Years later he became an attorney general when there was a vacancy. He served as the attorney general of Pennsylvania.

He currently serves as the chairman of the Pennsylvania Banking and Securities Commission in Harrisburg. Previously he was a legislative appointee to the Commonwealth Financing Authority and Department of Community and Economic Development, a very important authority which makes determinations about where to invest tax dollars—economic development dollars—across Pennsylvania and how to make those difficult decisions about where dollars should go and how to grow the economy.

From December of 2003 to January of 2005, as I mentioned, he was the attorney general of the State, and prior to that serving as first deputy. As attorney general he was in the National Association of Attorneys General, dealing with issues that relate to Pennsylvania and law enforcement and prosecution, but also on national issues that are common to all the States. So I know Jerry well and I know him to be someone of the highest caliber and integrity and commitment to service and commitment to justice. His long and significant history of service to our Commonwealth prepares him well to serve his Commonwealth, but also a Federal district court position as a U.S. district court judge.

I can say the same of Jerry that I said of Mark Kearney, in terms of his qualifications, experience, but also his character and his integrity. I am grateful to have the opportunity to speak about both of these candidates and certainly am grateful to have a chance to work with Senator TOOMEY on moving these nominations forward and we hope tonight bringing them to a conclusion upon confirmation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to offer my support as well to the two nominees to serve as judges for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Jerry Pappert and Mark Kearney, whom we are scheduled to confirm in a short time.

Let me start by thanking Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member GRASSLEY for facilitating this process and handling this at the committee level, and

I want to thank Leader REID and Leader MCCONNELL for bringing these nominees to the Senate floor. I also want to take a moment to thank my colleague from the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, for all the work he and I have been able to do together. The collaboration we have had has been very constructive and it has been a pleasure to work with Senator CASEY. In the 4 years I have been in the Senate, we have confirmed 11 district court judges. We have been able to place a judge in the Reading courthouse in Berks County which had been vacant for 3 years. We were able to place a judge in Easton courthouse in Northampton County which had been vacant for 10 years. With the confirmations that I am certainly hopeful about tonight, Mr. Pappert and Mr. Kearney, that number will rise to 13 members of the Federal bench from Pennsylvania in just the past 4 years.

We have one additional district court nominee, Joseph Leeson, awaiting a vote from the full Senate, and I am looking at a speedy confirmation of his candidacy as well.

Before I speak on the two nominees before us this evening, I want to briefly note how pleased I was that on November 20 the Senate confirmed Wendy Beetlestone to serve on the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She was confirmed unanimously by voice vote and I think that was a testament to her strong qualifications. I am delighted that Senator CASEY and I were able to see that to completion.

Let me say a couple of words about Jerry Pappert.

Senator CASEY spoke about Mr. Pappert. Jerry Pappert is eminently qualified for this post. He is a graduate of Notre Dame Law School and has an extensive and diverse legal background. He is currently a partner at Cozen O'Connor, which is a practice that has an emphasis on commercial litigation.

Prior to that he was the general counsel at Cephalon, where he oversaw all of the company's litigation, financial transactions, and intellectual property issues.

Not only has he handled a very wide range of issues in the private sector, but Mr. Pappert has also demonstrated his dedication to public service. As Senator CASEY pointed out, he was a very successful attorney general for Pennsylvania for 6 years. He has successfully argued cases before the U.S. and Pennsylvania Supreme Courts. He won a landmark case before the U.S. Supreme Court, *Booth v. Churner*, which set forth the administrative exhaustion requirement for a prisoner seeking to sue in Federal court.

Mr. Pappert has also enjoyed bipartisan support in the Senate. The Senate Judiciary Committee successfully voted him out of committee on a voice vote back in September.

Mark Kearney is the other gentleman we will be voting on in a short time. He

is a graduate of Villanova University School of Law and a very successful attorney. As Senator CASEY pointed out, he is a managing shareholder at Elliott Greenleaf & Siedzikowski, where he has been for 24 years and practices commercial litigation.

Mr. Kearney is highly respected by his colleagues. He received the AV peer review rating in the Martindale-Hubbell system—the highest rating. He has also taken time to give back to his community. He put a lot of time and energy into an issue that is very important to me; that is, protecting children from dangerous predators. Mr. Kearney has worked with the Montgomery County Child Advocacy Project, representing abused children, and I commend him for that service.

Mr. Kearney has also enjoyed bipartisan support in the Senate. He was voice voted out by the Senate Judiciary Committee, reflecting unanimous support for his candidacy.

It is clear, and I believe strongly, that both Mr. Pappert and Mr. Kearney have the experience, acumen, and commitment to public service that will make them excellent additions to the Federal bench. I am pleased to speak on their behalf, and I am grateful to Senator CASEY for the cooperative effort that has gotten us to this point.

I urge my colleagues to support the confirmation of these two outstanding individuals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

NOMINATION OF DAVID J. HALE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky?

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF MARK A. KEARNEY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mark A. Kearney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania?

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF GERALD J. PAPPERT TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will

the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Gerald J. Pappert, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania?

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Orr nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield back our time.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I yield back our 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 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 Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

Harry Reid, Mary Landrieu, Jon Tester, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, John D. Rockefeller IV, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Ron Wyden, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall.

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 Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 71, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 306 Ex.]

YEAS—71

Alexander	Blumenthal	Cardin
Ayotte	Booker	Carper
Baldwin	Boxer	Casey
Barrasso	Brown	Chambliss
Begich	Burr	Coats
Bennet	Cantwell	Collins

Coons	King	Reed
Cornyn	Kirk	Reid
Donnelly	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Durbin	Leahy	Sanders
Feinstein	Levin	Schatz
Flake	Manchin	Schumer
Franken	Markey	Shaheen
Gillibrand	McCaskill	Stabenow
Graham	Menendez	Tester
Hagan	Merkley	Toomey
Harkin	Mikulski	Udall (NM)
Hatch	Murkowski	Vitter
Heinrich	Murphy	Walsh
Heitkamp	Murray	Warner
Hirono	Nelson	Warren
Isakson	Paul	Whitehouse
Johnson (SD)	Portman	Wyden
Kaine	Pryor	

NAYS—25

Blunt	Hoeven	Roberts
Boozman	Inhofe	Rubio
Corker	Johanns	Scott
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Cruz	Lee	Shelby
Enzi	McCain	Thune
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker
Grassley	Moran	
Heller	Risch	

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn	Landrieu
Cochran	Udall (CO)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 71, the nays are 25. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF FRANKLIN M. ORR, JR., TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Hezir nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent all time be yielded back.

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

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

The 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 Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

Harry Reid, Mary Landrieu, Patrick J. Leahy, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Barbara Mikulski, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Carl Levin, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Thomas Carper, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin Cardin.

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 Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Energy, 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 Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 307 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Begich	Hagan	Nelson
Bennet	Harkin	Paul
Blumenthal	Hatch	Pryor
Blunt	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Heitkamp	Reid
Boxer	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Inhofe	Sanders
Cantwell	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Sessions
Casey	King	Shaheen
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coats	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Toomey
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Flake	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murkowski	

NAYS—27

Alexander	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Heller	Portman
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Burr	Johanns	Roberts
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Crapo	Kirk	Shelby
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Enzi	McCain	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—5

Coburn	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Rockefeller	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 27.

The motion is agreed to.

JOSEPH S. HEZIR TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, with respect to the confirmation votes on the Hale, Kearney, and Pappert nominations, the

motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

Mr. HOEVEN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Orr and Hezir nominations be considered expired and the votes on confirmation of these nominations occur at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF GREGORY N. STIVERS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1039.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gregory N. Stivers, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk, and I ask for it to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Gregory N. Stivers, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher Murphy, Christopher A. Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F.

Bennet, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Barbara Boxer, Edward J. Markey, Al Franken, Tom Harkin, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH F. LEESON, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1040.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to have reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Joseph F. Leeson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey, Al Franken, Tom Harkin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Angus S. King, Jr.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LYDIA KAY GRIGGSBY TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 835.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Tom Udall, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JEFFERY MARTIN BARAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1082.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk, and I ask the Chair to order it reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LAUREN MCGARITY MCFERRAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1083.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk that I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ELLEN DUDLEY WILLIAMS TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY-ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 552.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk I ask to be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy.

Harry Reid, Christopher Murphy, Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Ron Wyden, Tom Harkin, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Charles E. Schumer, Mazie Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, Barbara Boxer, Tammy Baldwin, Bernard Sanders, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF VIRGINIA TYLER LODGE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1080.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Virginia Tyler Lodge, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Virginia Tyler Lodge, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RONALD ANDERSON WALTER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1081.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald Anderson Walter, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. The cloture motion has been filed, and I ask that the Chair have it reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Ronald Anderson Walter, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Brian Schatz, Charles E. Schumer, Barbara Boxer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 4, 2014, all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of Calendar Nos. 555 and 660; further, that following these votes, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 1039, 1040, and 835; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations, that the time until 1:45 p.m. be in morning business, for debate only, equally divided in the usual form, and that at 1:45 p.m. all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that following these votes, the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 1082, 1083, and 552; further, that if cloture is invoked on any of these nominations,

that on Monday, December 8, 2014, following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, the time until 5:30 p.m. be in morning business, for debate only, equally divided in the usual form; and that at 5:30 p.m. all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that following those votes, the Senate be in a period of morning business, for debate only; further, that on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, the Senate be in a period of morning business, for debate only, with the time equally divided in the usual form; that at 10:30 a.m. the Senate proceed to vote on cloture on Calendar Nos. 1080 and 1081; further, that if cloture is invoked, the time until 6 p.m. be in morning business, for debate only, equally divided in the usual form; that at 6 p.m. all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on the nominations in the order listed; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote and all rollcall votes after the first vote in each sequence be 10 minutes in length; further, with respect to the nominations in this agreement, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. 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 SAM HEMINGWAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of Vermont's longest-serving journalists, Sam Hemingway, recently retired after a distinguished 37-year career with the Burlington Free Press. His career at the paper spans a period of our State's history filled with interesting stories, and Sam covered so many of them.

During the course of those many years Sam captured the pulse of Vermont, whether through his personalized columns or his probing reports. Sam's institutional memory was a rich and vital resource for the newspaper and for his readers. His writing talents,

his reporting skills and his ability to make personal connections will be sorely missed.

Marcelle and I join all Vermonters in extending all best wishes to Sam and his family as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

I ask that this Burlington Free Press article sketching Sam's tenure and retirement plans be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Burlington Free Press, Oct. 7, 2014]

HEMINGWAY TO RETIRE AFTER 37 YEARS
(By Adam Silverman, Free Press Staff Writer)

Sam Hemingway, a reporter, editor and columnist who is among Vermont's most well-known journalists, will retire from the Burlington Free Press after a career of more than 37 years.

"You don't know how much this place means to me," he told the staff in announcing his departure Tuesday afternoon, "and I will miss you, and I will miss this work, so much."

A self-described "generalist," Hemingway's award-winning coverage stretched from the rejection of a controversial shopping mall development in Williston in 1977, through the illegal shipping of arms from a Vermont business to South Africa in violation of the apartheid-era embargo, to a weeks-long trip to embed with the Vermont National Guard in Afghanistan in 2010, among numerous examples across portions of five decades.

"There's a great thrill, if you're into journalism, if it's in your blood, to be present in moments of great importance and to write stories that actually make a difference," Hemingway said Tuesday in an interview before addressing his colleagues.

"When you work for a paper like this, in a state like Vermont, if you do a story and do it well, with the idea that this is going to turn the rock over and show something that people need to know about, there will be results," he continued. "You can help make something happen. That's a great feeling."

Free Press Executive Editor Michael Townsend praised Hemingway as a colleague and a journalist.

"With his breadth of experience, Sam knew where to find the information," Townsend said. "He had a great eye for a hard news story. He was dependable, productive and engaged. We will miss his unique style."

Hemingway, 66, wanted to be a newspaper reporter since boyhood in New Haven, Conn. With the help of a ditto machine, he produced a newspaper for his neighborhood. Coverage included missing dogs, families' vacations plans and who might have been suffering from the measles.

He edited his high-school newspaper and then studied journalism at Syracuse University in New York before moving to Vermont in 1971. He helped start the Lamoille County Weekly in Johnson, spent a year teaching journalism at Johnson State College, and then began freelancing for the Burlington Free Press.

He joined the staff in 1977, when he was assigned to provide full-time coverage of the debate over the Pyramid Mall proposal percolating in Williston. Hemingway attended 54 night meetings regarding the Act 250 development-control law over two years before the project was rejected.

Then came the story Space Research Corp., a North Troy weapons manufacturer that

was breaking an international embargo to sell millions of dollars of artillery and shells to South Africa—possibly with the backing of the CIA. Hemingway recalled sneaking onto the military base at Camp Lejune, N.C., with a colleague and knocking on the door of a suspected CIA agent said to be involved—and then departing in a hurry when the agent called base security. Eventually, two company officials were convicted of related crimes.

As with his more recent coverage, including of teen girls from the Burlington area lured into working as prostitutes in New York, of the priest sex abuse claims against the Roman Catholic Church, of the heroin epidemic sweeping Vermont, Hemingway's reporting exposed a rarely seen underbelly of Vermont.

"If you didn't shine a light on it, the cases might or might not have reached a point where people went to jail," Hemingway said. "But there's more assurance that justice is going to be meted out."

Hemingway is perhaps best known for his column, which he wrote from 1989 to 2005 (with a yearlong hiatus to cover the presidential campaign of former Gov. Howard Dean).

"It was wonderful to have a voice," Hemingway said. "The great thing about that column was it wasn't just a political column, it wasn't just a crime column, it wasn't a slice of life, it wasn't a feature—it was all of those things. And it would change. Sometimes it was first-person. Sometimes it was personal. Sometimes it was investigative. I broke stories in the column. And it was very well-read."

The column aimed to give a voice to the powerless, Hemingway said.

"It was average folks," he said, "and that was the whole point of the column: to be an outlet for people who weren't newsmakers who maybe had trouble with government or a problem or a personal issue, somebody who lost a kid in a traffic accident."

Hemingway's work earned him 11 Best of Gannett awards from the Burlington Free Press' parent company, along with citations for excellence from the New England Newspaper and Press Association, the Vermont Press Association and others.

The time is right to step away, Hemingway said. He has been thinking of stepping away for some time, and he's ready for a change. He plans to write, travel and spend time with family: his wife, Lee, his four adult children and his two grandchildren—and a third on the way.

His announcement came as the Burlington Free Press shared plans for a newsroom reorganization, a process other Gannett properties also are undergoing. Hemingway said his departure is unrelated.

"It's very hard to walk away from this," Hemingway said. "I need to go. It's time for me to go."

He has yet to decide on the timing of his last day.

"I'll miss my colleagues in the newsroom," he said. "I'll miss the camaraderie of the journalism community at large in Vermont, which, even though we sometimes compete, we all for the most part respect each other."

Hemingway ended with advice for his colleagues:

"Don't just do the stories that you have to do. Try to keep looking for the stories that need to be done. . . . You have to push the limits, go after stories that are out there but aren't waiting to be written, that you've got to go and dig out."

"That's what I've tried to do."

CONGRATULATING CELLARS AT
JASPER HILL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont is a farming State: dairy, livestock, vegetables or fruit, farms across Vermont are known for their innovative and sustainable approaches to farming and food production.

The dairy industry in particular is known throughout Vermont, and far beyond. Dairy cows are a familiar sight for those who live in or visit our State, and Vermont farms have been recognized both domestically and internationally for their dairy-based products. The cheese-making tradition in Vermont dates back to the early 1900s, when Vermont dairy farmers sought uses for their surplus milk. Since those early days, many farms have developed methods for artisanal cheese production.

Recently, Jasper Hill—a celebrated farm in Greensboro Bend, VT—won international recognition at the World Cheese Awards in London, when its Bayley Hazen Blue cheese won the award for the “World’s Best Unpasteurized Cheese.” Besting more than 2,600 submissions, Jasper Hill’s award-winning blue cheese also took home a Super Gold award. Six other cheeses produced by Jasper Hill also won awards. And two other Vermont cheese makers—Grafton Village Cheese and the Vermont Creamery—were also recognized.

Some might skip over a story about the World Cheese Awards. But in Vermont, we take pride in the products we produce from the livestock nurtured and raised on Vermont’s rich land. Farming remains a fabric of our American story, and in Vermont, it is a tradition that has spanned generations.

Congratulations to the Cellars at Jasper Hill, to Grafton Village Cheese, and to the Vermont Creamery for their recent recognitions. They represent the quality and high standards that are a hallmark of the Vermont brand.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of a story recently featured about these dairies on Vermont Public Radio be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Vermont Public Radio, Nov. 17, 2014]

CELLARS AT JASPER HILL WINS “WORLD’S
BEST UNPASTEURIZED CHEESE”

(By Angela Evancie)

Before a recent batch of the Cellars at Jasper Hill’s Bayley Hazen Blue cheese was finished aging, before it was ready to sell, and before it would be crowned—or rinded?—“World’s Best Unpasteurized Cheese” at the World Cheese Awards in London, its makers knew they had something special.

“I’m not lying when I say we were excited about it at a young age,” Vince Razonale, sales and inventory manager for Jasper Hill, said by phone Monday. “We tasted it on day 50, and this particular batch was one that we thought was really on point.” (So on point, they thought, that it merited an Instagram post.)

The more than 250 international cheese experts who judged the 26th annual World

Cheese Awards this weekend agreed. Bayley Hazen Blue was selected from more than 2,600 cheeses, first winning a Super Gold award and then its “World’s Best” award.

It isn’t the only superlative Vermont can add to its list of aged-milk achievements; Grafton Village Cheese also earned two Super Golds, for its Shepsog and Bismark cheeses, while Vermont Creamery took home one gold for its Bijou goat’s milk cheese, and seven bronzes. Six other cheeses by Jasper Hill also won awards, including gold medals for its Cabot Clothbound and Moses Sleeper. “Ten years ago, American cheese was something to be laughed at in England. Now, collectively, we’re a force to be reckoned with.”—Vince Razonale, Jasper Hill Farm

Vermont cheese has certainly made a notable debut on the domestic stage. Vermont’s Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Ross recently noted that cheeses made here have been named “Best In Show” at the American Cheese Society Conference for the past two years: Jasper Hill’s Winnimere in 2013, and the Farms for City Kids Foundation’s Tarentaise Reserve this year.

But Razonale says the international acclaim shows how far cheese making, in the U.S. in general and Vermont in particular, has come.

“Ten years ago, American cheese was something to be laughed at in England. Now, collectively, we’re a force to be reckoned with.”

ALAN GROSS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the fifth anniversary of the unfair arrest and imprisonment of an American citizen in Cuba from Maryland, Mr. Alan Gross. I stand with his wife Judy, and their two daughters in calling for the immediate release of Mr. Gross by the Cuban government.

In 2009, Mr. Gross went to Cuba as a contractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development. On this visit to Cuba, he wanted to assist Cuba’s Jewish community by improving their access to the internet. With a background in social work, he dedicated his career to helping others around the world.

The Cuban government arrested Mr. Gross on December 3, 2009. He was held for 14 months without being charged with a crime. He was eventually charged as a spy and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

At 65 years old, Mr. Gross’ physical and mental health has suffered severely over the past 5 years. He has lost a significant amount of weight and developed several painful medical conditions. His contact with his family is extremely limited, compounding his anxiety. On his birthday, May 2, 2014, Mr. Gross made several statements that demonstrated the mental strain and anguish that he feels daily. Following the death of his mother in June, he was visited by his wife Judy and said his goodbyes to her. Mr. Gross’ current physical and mental state is at a critical point. The Cuban government must allow him to come home to the United States.

Judy Gross has never given up. She continues to put pressure on the Cuban government, speaking out against the poor treatment of her husband. She is

a true inspiration, continuing her fight despite the health and financial challenges that her family has felt.

Every day I think of and pray for the Gross family. I pray that they are reunited soon. If Cuba wants to improve relations with the United States, they need to release Mr. Gross now. I thank my colleagues for standing with me and calling for the release of Alan Gross. I look forward to the day that we welcome him home to Maryland, and most importantly, to his family.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, last week I released a staff report that found litigation missteps at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission are costing taxpayers millions, while at the same time EEOC faces a deep backlog of discrimination complaints.

The report finds that the EEOC has had a recent pattern of pursuing questionable cases through sometimes overly aggressive means and as a result has suffered significant court losses that are embarrassing to the agency and costly to taxpayers.

Courts have found EEOC’s litigation tactics to be so egregious they have ordered EEOC to pay defendants’ attorney’s fees in 10 cases since 2011. The courts have criticized EEOC for misuse of its authority, poor expert analysis, and pursuit of novel cases unsupported by law.

While the agency has pursued high-profile lawsuits without a complainant, in March 2014 EEOC reported almost 71,000 unresolved complaints of discrimination from individuals who filed charges. The agency’s litigation has recovered almost \$200 million less for victims than under the previous administration over the same timeframe.

The report finds that EEOC also has suffered from a troubling lack of transparency. In the past 2½ years, EEOC has ignored calls from current Commissioners and Congress to allow public review of significant and controversial guidance prior to its adoption. Also, the Office of General Counsel has, since 2010, failed to issue its standard annual report, and the agency is being sued for violating the Freedom of Information Act.

Certainly, the EEOC of today has had successful enforcement efforts and court victories for victims of discrimination, but this report finds the agency is increasingly demonstrating poor judgment and using questionable tactics in pursuit of cases that are not fulfilling the EEOC’s objective of protecting employees from workplace discrimination.

The full report, “EEOC: An Agency on the Wrong Track? Litigation Failures, Misfocused Priorities and Lack of Transparency Raise Concerns about Important Anti-Discrimination Agency,” may be viewed on the HELP Committee’s website, <http://www.help.senate.gov/>.

I ask unanimous consent to have the report's executive summary and key findings printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions—Ranking Member Lamar Alexander (R-TN) Minority Staff Report, Nov. 24, 2014]

EEOC: AN AGENCY ON THE WRONG TRACK? LITIGATION FAILURES, MISFOCUSED PRIORITIES, AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT IMPORTANT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AGENCY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) serves an important role in our nation's workplaces. Under the leadership of five commissioners and a general counsel, EEOC is charged with protecting employees from discrimination at work through enforcement of equal opportunity employment laws. The commission investigates allegations of discrimination and seeks to mediate cases, allowing lawsuits to go forward if settlements are unsuccessful. The general counsel pursues allegations of discrimination in court and has been deputized by the commission to initiate litigation in many instances. The commission also issues guidance to inform the public about how it believes employers should interpret and apply the laws.

Today's EEOC, however, is pursuing many questionable cases through sometimes overly aggressive means—and, as a result, has suffered significant court losses that are embarrassing to the agency and costly to taxpayers. Courts have found EEOC's litigation tactics to be so egregious they have ordered EEOC to pay defendants' attorney's fees in ten cases since 2011. The courts have criticized EEOC for misuse of its authority, poor expert analysis, and pursuit of novel cases unsupported by law. Several courts have openly criticized EEOC for its failure to satisfy pre-litigation requirements, such as attempting to resolve discrimination disputes out of court; yet, the general counsel is leading an effort to prevent court review of such requirements.

These court losses also have come at a significant cost to victims of workplace discrimination. While EEOC's monetary recoveries for victims through settlements are up, EEOC's litigation has recovered almost \$200 million less for victims than under the previous administration over the same time frame. In March 2014, EEOC reported almost 71,000 unresolved complaints of discrimination from individuals who filed charges with EEOC.

EEOC also has suffered from a troubling lack of transparency. In the past two and a half years, EEOC has ignored calls from current commissioners and Congress to allow public review of significant and controversial guidance prior to its adoption. Also, the Office of General Counsel has, since 2010, failed to issue its standard annual report, and the agency is being sued for violating the Freedom of Information Act.

This staff report will first explain the background and operation of EEOC. Next, the report will explore costly rebukes of EEOC's recent litigation practices. The report will also discuss the ways in which EEOC has shown a lack of transparency.

Today's EEOC has had successful enforcement efforts and court victories for victims of discrimination, but this report finds the agency is increasingly demonstrating poor judgment and using questionable tactics in pursuit of cases that are not fulfilling the EEOC's objective of protecting employees from workplace discrimination.

KEY FINDINGS

EEOC's Office of General Counsel frequently initiates litigation without the benefit of a commission vote. In FY 2012, only three of 122 lawsuits filed by EEOC were brought to the commission for a vote. According to a former EEOC general counsel who served from 2003 to 2005, this represents a significant departure from the previous commission.

EEOC has been sanctioned by courts and ordered to pay attorney's fees ten times since 2011 for untenable litigation and litigation strategies. (See Appendix 1.)

Monetary awards pursued in litigation for victims of discrimination are down from previous years. In FY 2012 and 2013, EEOC recovered \$44.2 million and \$38.6 million, respectively—the lowest recovery amounts in the past 16 years.

As of March 2014, EEOC had 70,781 unresolved discrimination charges pending.

EEOC's credibility is at risk. As one commissioner described, EEOC's "reputation and credibility has . . . suffered from several recent lawsuits where [EEOC was] not only sanctioned, but openly chastised by the courts."

A federal court reprimanded EEOC for being "negligent in its discovery obligations, dilatory in cooperating with defense counsel, and somewhat cavalier in its responsibility to the United States District Court."

EEOC caused a small employer to spend \$100,000 attempting to comply with requests for information that, according to a federal judge, "EEOC had no authority to obtain."

A unanimous three judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit found "[t]he EEOC continued to litigate . . . claims after it became clear there were no grounds upon which to proceed."

EEOC is not consistently meeting its statutory mandate to attempt to resolve discrimination disputes out of court. One court found EEOC "blatantly contravened[d] Title VII's emphasis on resolving disputes without resort to litigation," and another found EEOC ignored its obligation to conciliate. EEOC's general counsel is leading the fight to prevent court review of such efforts, and the U.S. Supreme Court is reviewing the issue this term.

Successful conciliations (i.e. resolution of a case outside of court) have decreased from 8,273 during the first five years of the previous administration to 6,967 during the same time period in the current administration.

Despite Office of Management and Budget best practices found in an agency bulletin and support from a majority of commissioners, EEOC does not allow the public to review or comment upon its draft guidance, even in cases of novel, significant or controversial guidance. This is especially concerning because in two cases last year, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected substantive positions found in EEOC guidance.

Unlike prior years, EEOC's Office of General Counsel has only published one annual report since 2010. These reports summarize the activities and litigation record of the Office of General Counsel.

EEOC is being sued for failing to meet statutory deadlines imposed by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and EEOC's own FOIA regulations.

REMEMBERING COLONEL ELIOT NATHANIEL PEARL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I wish to express our Nation's deepest thanks and to honor the life of Col. Eliot N. Pearl, U.S. Air Force (Ret.).

On July 12, 2014, Colonel Pearl died at the age of 95 peacefully at his home in Silver Spring, MD.

Today, Colonel Pearl's family will lay him to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors in recognition of his 36 years of service to our Nation. In 1939, Eliot graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Instead of becoming a doctor, Eliot chose to serve his Nation during World War II, much to the chagrin of his father. He was commissioned into the Army Air Corps and served as a cryptographic message center officer. Colonel Pearl served two active duty tours in World War II and the Korean war including a deployment to Panama. Colonel Pearl was also one of the founding instructors of the Department of Defense's cryptology schoolhouse.

After Colonel Pearl separated from active duty service, he continued to serve our Nation in the Air Force Reserve for another 25 years concurrently working as a cryptologist at the National Security Agency, Fort Meade, MD.

On August 16, 1978, Colonel Pearl retired from the Air Force. He was awarded the American Theater Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and National Defense Service Medal.

We continue to live safe and free because of individuals like Colonel Pearl. He committed his life to serving our Nation while in uniform and as a civilian. Eliot defended our Nation and led the way for the next generation that will secure our future.

Colonel Pearl's beloved son David and his beloved second wife Joyce, preceded him in death. He is survived by his sons, Mark A. Pearl (Pamela), Scott M. Pearl (Renee) and Geoffrey B. Anthony Pearl; five loving grandchildren: David, Vincent, Samuel, Anthony and Daniel; his devoted sister Eva Erony; his first wife Thelma Pearl; his loving niece Susan Erony (Jay Jaroslav); and his nephew Alan Erony.

As we say goodbye, we also say thank you for your service that keeps our Nation strong and free. May God bless Colonel Pearl and his family, and welcome him with open arms.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING EMILY KATH

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Emily Kath for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Emily is a native of Powell, WY, and a graduate of Powell High School. She currently attends the University of Wyoming, where she is studying communications and prelaw. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is

reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Emily for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING MAEGAN MURPHY

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Maegan Murphy for her hard work as an intern in my Casper, WY, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Maegan is a native of Casper, WY, and a graduate of Natrona County High School. She currently attends Casper College, where she is studying preoccupational therapy and Spanish. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Maegan for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING CHELSEA RODEKUHR

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Chelsea Rodekuhr for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne, WY, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Chelsea is a native of Cheyenne, WY, and a graduate of Cheyenne Central High School. She currently attends the University of Wyoming, where she is studying physiology and business. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Chelsea for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING GRANT ROGERS

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Grant Rogers for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Grant is a native of Jackson, WY, and a graduate of Jackson Hole High School. He currently attends the University of Wyoming, where he is studying political science and economics. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Grant for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

RECOGNIZING IAN WORTHINGTON

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ian Worthington for his hard work as an intern in my Republican policy committee office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office.

Ian is from Charleston, SC, and a graduate of Porter-Gaud School. He currently attends Georgetown University where he is studying towards a bachelor of science in foreign service, majoring in science, technology and international affairs. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Ian for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

RECOGNIZING BUTCH MORRIS

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Sheriff Randall "Butch" Morris who will retire after over three decades of honorable service to the people of Howard County, AR.

A lifelong resident of Howard County, Sheriff Morris was born and raised in Umpire, AR. He began working as a deputy sheriff in Howard County and was later named the office's chief deputy and investigator, a position he held for over 16 years before being elected sheriff.

For over 18 years, Butch Morris served as the Howard County sheriff and collector, winning nine straight elections, including eight of them in which he ran unopposed. During the course of that time, Sheriff Morris also worked to advance law enforcement best practices as a member of Arkansas Sheriffs' Association board of directors and the Commission on Arkansas Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

On a personal note, I am grateful for the professionalism that Sheriff Morris's office always exhibited throughout my tenure in the Senate. My staff and I always had pleasant

interactions with the sheriff's office and that is a testament to the exceptional leadership of Butch Morris.

I thank Butch Morris for his dedication, commitment, and eagerness to serve his community. We are all grateful for his years of service and leadership to Howard County and Arkansas. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors and many years of good health to enjoy with his grandchildren, Brooklyn and Brantley.●

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHELBI

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to speak about a New Jersey company, Louis Berger, and to draw the Senate's attention to the 30th anniversary of CHELBI, Louis Berger's successful engineering, design and infrastructure partnership in the People's Republic of China.

Louis Berger was established in 1953 and has in the years since developed into a multidisciplinary global consulting firm founded on its dedication to engineering excellence.

Today it has partnerships in major infrastructure projects spanning the globe, including in North America, Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East.

More than just undertaking projects, though, one of Louis Berger's founding principles is to transfer knowledge to people in the local countries and communities in which it operates to ensure the long-term sustainability of its projects.

For example, in 1984, Louis Berger undertook a groundbreaking partnership known as CHELBI—a joint venture between Louis Berger International and China Highway Planning and Design Institute, HPDI, Consultants.

This partnership created a new pathway for knowledge sharing in engineering design between the United States and China, and to millions of dollars for the U.S.—and New Jersey—economy.

Over the past 30 years, CHELBI has provided international and domestic consulting services for more than 600 highways, bridges, and other projects in over 30 provinces and cities in China, totaling more than 10,000 kilometers, including the 36 kilometer long Hangzhou Bridge, one of the longest ocean-crossing bridges in the world.

CHELBI also fosters international communications and cooperation between the Chinese consulting engineering field and counterparts in Western countries and projects beyond China.

In fact, it is my understanding that the partners in CHELBI have agreed to extend their historic venture for another 10 years beginning in 2014.

So today I would like to recognize the cooperation in engineering design between the United States and China since 1984, as encompassed by CHELBI's work, including its partners at Louis Berger and China Highway Planning and Design Institute, HPDI, Consultants.

The continued exchange of knowledge and coordination of work in large scale infrastructure projects in China and around the globe help to better connect people within and between countries and is of tremendous benefit, both for the countries where these infrastructure projects take place but also for U.S. global leadership in engineering consultation and design.

CHELBI is to be commended for 30 years of productive work—and I would like to express my continued support for initiatives undertaken by the venture and the benefits that such cooperation and coordination provides to both the United States and China.●

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2040. An act to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2366. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of World War I.

H.R. 2790. An act to authorize private nonprofit organizations to administer permanent housing rental assistance provided through the Continuum of Care Program under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3240. An act to instruct the Comptroller General of the United States to study the impact of Regulation D, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3572. An act to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units.

H.R. 4200. An act to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to prevent duplicative regulation of advisers of small business investment companies.

H.R. 4329. An act to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4569. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to make certain improvements to form 10-K and regulation S-K, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5050. An act to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5471. An act to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5629. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to strengthen the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5714. An act to permit commercial applicators of pesticides to create, retain, submit, and convey pesticide application-related records, reports, data, and other information in electronic form.

H.R. 5739. An act to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2203. An act 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.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2790. An act to authorize private nonprofit organizations to administer permanent housing rental assistance provided through the Continuum of Care Program under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3240. An act to instruct the Comptroller General of the United States to study the impact of Regulation D, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4200. An act to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to prevent duplicative regulation of advisers of small business investment companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4329. An act to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 4569. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to make certain improvements to form 10-K and regulation S-K, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5471. An act to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5629. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to strengthen the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5714. An act to permit commercial applicators of pesticides to create, retain, submit, and convey pesticide application-related records, reports, data, and other information in electronic form; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2970. A bill to reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7966. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7967. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7968. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of a national emergency declared in Executive Order 13222 with respect to the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7969. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation Systems Compliance and Integrity" (RIN3235-AL43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7970. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-426, "Wage Theft Prevention Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7971. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Requests" (5 CFR Part 1630 and 5 CFR Part 1631) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7972. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Student Loan Repayment Program Calendar Year 2013"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7973. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Chairman's Semiannual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports, Inspection Reports, and Evaluation Reports for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7974. A communication from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting,

pursuant to law, the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7975. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-78; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7976. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments" (FAC 2005-78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7977. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Year Format" ((RIN9000-AM53) (FAC 2005-78)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7978. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation: Streamlining Claims Processing" ((RIN9000-AM83) (FAC 2005-78)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7979. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Incorporating Section K in Contracts" ((RIN9000-AM78) (FAC 2005-78)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7980. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-78; Introduction" (FAC 2005-78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7981. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Higher-Level Contract Quality Requirements" ((RIN9000-AM65) (FAC 2005-78)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7982. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory

Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marine Mammals; Subsistence Taking of Northern Fur Seals; St. George Island, Alaska" (RIN0648-BD12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7983. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia's Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan of the West Virginia Portion of the Martinsburg-Hagerstown, WV-MD Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard" (FRL No. 9919-65-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7984. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rulemaking to Amend Dates in Federal Implementation Plans Addressing Interstate Transport of Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter" ((RIN2060-AS40) (FRL No. 9919-71-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7985. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule: 2014 Revisions and Confidentiality Determinations for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems; Final Rule" ((RIN2060-AR96) (FRL No. 9918-95-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7986. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Texas" (FRL No. 9919-74-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7987. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; 2014 Iowa State Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9919-87-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7988. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Availability of Data on Allocations of Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Allowances to Existing Electricity Generating Units" (FRL No. 9919-91-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7989. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; CFR Update" (FRL No. 9919-83-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7990. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County's Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Four Industry Categories for Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions" (FRL No. 9919-66-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7991. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Waste Management System; Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste; Final Exclusion" (FRL No. 9919-72-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7992. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Balanced System for Measuring Organizational and Employee Performance Within the Internal Revenue Service" ((RIN1545-BL89) (TD 9703)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7993. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—December 2014" (Rev. Rul. 2014-31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7994. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minimum Essential Coverage and Other Rules Regarding the Shared Responsibility Payment for Individuals" ((RIN1545-BL91) (TD 9705)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7995. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure Providing Indexing Under Section 36B and Section 5000A (2016)" (Rev. Proc. 2014-62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7996. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Individual Shared Responsibility Payment Hardship Exemptions that May Be Claimed on a Federal Income Tax Return Without Obtaining a Hardship Exemption Certification from the Marketplace" (Notice 2014-76) received during

adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7997. A communication from the Acting Chief Management Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7998. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7999. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemption From Registration for Persons Authorized Under U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission or Agreement State Medical Use Licenses or Permits and Administering the Drug Product DaTscan" ((RIN1117-AB38) (Docket No. DEA-394)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-8000. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mail or Telephone Order Merchandise Rule" (RIN3084-AB07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8001. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska Management Area" (RIN0648-XD590) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8002. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska Management Area" (RIN0648-XD589) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8003. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders" (RIN0648-XD548) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. SCHUMER for the Committee on Rules and Administration.

*Matthew Vincent Masterson, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2017.

*Christy A. McCormick, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2015.

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

*Sarah R. Saldana, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2971. A bill to promote energy efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2972. A bill to require all equestrian helmets manufactured or sold in the United States to meet a minimum safety standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 46. A joint resolution to declare that a state of war exists between the organization referring to itself as the Islamic State and the Government and the people of the United States, and to make provisions to prosecute the same; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 593. A resolution designating December 13, 2014, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 714

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 714, a bill to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1038

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1038, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1323

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1323, a bill to address the continued threat posed by dangerous synthetic drugs by amending the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues.

S. 1921

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1921, a bill to require a Federal agency to include language in certain educational and advertising materials indicating that such materials are produced and disseminated at taxpayer expense.

S. 2694

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2714

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2714, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of World War I.

S. 2723

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2723, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify homeless youth and veterans who are full-time students for purposes of the low income housing tax credit.

S. 2762

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2762, a bill to prevent future propane shortages, and for other purposes.

S. 2930

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2944

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2944, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2944, supra.

S. 2963

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2963, a bill to remove a limitation on a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to normal operation of vessels.

S. RES. 578

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 578, a resolution supporting the role of the United States in ensuring children in the world's poorest countries have access to vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

AMENDMENT NO. 3421

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3421 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 593—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 13, 2014, AS “WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 593

Whereas 23 years ago, the Wreaths Across America project began an annual tradition of

donating, transporting, and placing Maine balsam fir remembrance wreaths on the graves of our fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery during the month of December;

Whereas more than 1,700,000 wreaths have been sent to locations, including national cemeteries and veterans memorials, in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project to “Remember, Honor, Teach” is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as well as veterans cemeteries and other locations in all 50 States and overseas;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans parade between Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of remembering the fallen heroes of the United States, honoring those who serve, and teaching the people of the United States about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve freedom in the United States;

Whereas in 2013, remembrance wreaths were sent to more than 900 locations across the United States and overseas, 100 more locations than the previous year;

Whereas in December 2014, the Patriot Guard Riders, along with other patriotic groups, will continue the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas the Nation's trucking industry continues to support Wreaths Across America by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths to over 1,000 locations across the country;

Whereas thousands of individuals volunteer each December to lay remembrance wreaths;

Whereas 2014 is the 150th Anniversary of Arlington National Cemetery, where some 230,000 markers stand in honor of those who have served this country;

Whereas this year, it is the aspiration of Wreaths Across America to lay a wreath at the grave of every veteran buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas December 14, 2013, was previously designated by the Senate as “Wreaths Across America Day”; and

Whereas on December 13, 2014, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing remembrance wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery to honor our veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 13, 2014, as “Wreaths Across America Day”;

(2) honors the Wreaths Across America project, the Patriot Guard Riders, the trucking industry, and all of the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes the service and sacrifice that our veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their families have made, and continue to make, for our great Nation.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3971. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 531, honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Louis Zamperini and expressing condolences on his passing.

SA 3972. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for mili-

tary construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3971. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 531, honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Louis Zamperini and expressing condolences on his passing; as follows:

The resolving clause is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking paragraph (3).

SA 3972. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. NOTICE OF STATUS AS AN ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY CONSUMER.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 605, by adding at the end the following:

“(i) NOTICE OF STATUS AS AN ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY CONSUMER.—With respect to an adverse item of information about a consumer, if the action or inaction that gave rise to the item occurred while the consumer was an active duty military consumer, the consumer may provide appropriate proof, including official orders, to a consumer reporting agency that the consumer was an active duty military consumer at the time such action or inaction occurred, and any consumer report provided by the consumer reporting agency that includes the item shall clearly and conspicuously disclose that the consumer was an active duty military consumer when the action or inaction that gave rise to the item occurred.”; and

(2) in section 605A(c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively, and moving such redesignated subparagraphs 2 ems to the right;

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by striking “Upon” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) NEGATIVE INFORMATION ALERT.—If a consumer reporting agency receives an adverse item of information about a consumer who has provided appropriate proof that the consumer is an active duty military consumer, the consumer reporting agency shall promptly notify the consumer—

“(A) that the consumer reporting agency has received the adverse item of information, along with a description of the item; and

“(B) the method by which the consumer may dispute the validity of the item.

“(3) CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY CONSUMERS.—If a consumer who has provided appropriate proof to a consumer reporting agency that the consumer is an active duty military consumer provides the

consumer reporting agency with contact information for the purpose of communicating with the consumer while the consumer is an active military consumer, the consumer reporting agency shall use such contact information for all communications while the consumer is an active military consumer.

“(4) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that any person making use of a consumer report that contains an adverse item of information should, if the action or inaction that gave rise to the item occurred while the consumer was an active duty military consumer, take such fact into account when evaluating the creditworthiness of the consumer.”; and

(D) in section 611(a)(1), by adding at the end the following:

“(D) NOTICE OF DISPUTE RELATED TO ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY CONSUMERS.—With respect to an item of information described under subparagraph (A) that is under dispute, if the consumer to whom the item relates has notified the consumer reporting agency, and has provided appropriate proof, that the consumer was an active duty military consumer at the time the action or inaction that gave rise to the disputed item occurred, the consumer reporting agency shall—

“(i) include such fact in the file of the consumer; and

“(ii) indicate such fact in each consumer report that includes the disputed item.”.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator ORRIN G. HATCH, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Carolyn Watts Colvin, to be Commissioner of Social Security, dated December 3, 2014.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SR-328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Farmers and Fresh Water: Voluntary Conservation to Protect our Land and Waters.”

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 9 a.m. in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, “NRC’s Implementation of the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force Recommendations

and other Actions to Enhance and Maintain Nuclear Safety.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct an East Asian and Pacific Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, “Evaluating the Impact of the ‘Umbrella Movement.’”

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Dismantling Iran’s Nuclear Weapons Program: Next Steps to Achieve a Comprehensive Deal.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in room SD-216 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, in room S-216 immediately following the floor vote at 5:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 11:30 a.m. in room SR-418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure of the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 3, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Natural Gas Vehicles: Fueling American Jobs, Enhancing Energy Security, and Achieving Emissions Benefits.”

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Laura Sher-

man, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this session.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Maj. David Wilson, a U.S. Air Force officer who is currently serving as a defense legislative fellow in my office for the duration of today’s session of the Senate.

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

PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND FOR COOPERATION ON THE USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5681, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5681) to provide for the approval of the Amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 5681) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RELEASING THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR, MISSOURI, FROM ALL RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND LIMITATIONS ON THE USE, ENCUMBRANCE, CONVEYANCE, AND CLOSURE OF THE ST. CLAIR REGIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 609, S. 2759.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2759) to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 2759) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2759

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

SECTION 1. RELEASE OF RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS, AND LIMITATIONS ON THE USE, ENCUMBRANCE, CONVEYANCE, AND CLOSURE OF THE ST. CLAIR REGIONAL AIRPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport, as described in the most recent airport layout plan approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, to the extent such restrictions, conditions, and limitations are enforceable by the Administrator.

(b) LIMITATION.—The release under subsection (a) shall not be executed before the City of St. Clair, or its designee, transfers to the Department of Transportation of the State of Missouri—

(1) the amounts described in subsection (c), to be used for capital improvements within the meaning of airport development (as defined in section 47102(3) of title 49, United States Code) and consistent with the obligations of the Department of Transportation of the State of Missouri under the State block grant program of the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(2) for no consideration, all airport and aviation-related equipment of the St. Clair Regional Airport owned by the City of St. Clair and determined by the Department of Transportation of the State of Missouri to be salvageable for use.

(c) AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—The amounts described in this subsection are the following:

(1) An amount equal to the fair market value for the highest and best use of the St. Clair Regional Airport property determined in good faith by an independent and qualified real estate appraiser on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) An amount equal to the unamortized portion of any Federal development grants other than land paid to the City of St. Clair for use at the St. Clair Regional Airport, which may be paid with, and shall be an allowable use of, airport revenue notwithstanding section 47107 or 47133 of title 49, United States Code.

(3) An amount equal to the airport revenues remaining in the airport account for the St. Clair Regional Airport as of the date of the enactment of this Act and otherwise due to or received by the City of St. Clair after such date of enactment pursuant to sections 47107(b) and 47133 of title 49, United States Code.

(d) REQUIREMENT TO REMOVE RUNWAY LIGHTING SYSTEM.—The Federal Aviation Administration shall remove the runway end indicator lighting system at St. Clair Regional Airport.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the applicability of—

(1) the requirements and processes under section 46319 of title 49, United States Code;

(2) the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(3) the requirements and processes under part 157 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(4) the public notice requirements under section 47107(h)(2) of title 49, United States Code.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans Affairs' Committee be discharged from the consideration of and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following measures, which are VA facility-naming bills, en bloc: H.R. 3682, H.R. 3375, S. 2921, and S. 229.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed, en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

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

LYLE C. PEARSON COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

The bill (H.R. 3682) to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1961 Premier Drive in Mankato, Minnesota, as the "Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PFC FLOYD K. LINDSTROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

The bill (H.R. 3375) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LANE A. EVANS VA COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

The bill (S. 2921) 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," was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2921

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

SECTION 1. LANE A. EVANS VA COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Vet-

erans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

CORPORAL MICHAEL J. CRESCENZ DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

The bill (S. 229) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 3900 Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center," was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 229

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 "Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. CORPORAL MICHAEL J. CRESCENZ DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 3900 Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following measures, which are post-office-naming bills, en bloc: Calendar No. 585, H.R. 43; Calendar No. 586, H.R. 451; Calendar No. 587, H.R. 1391; Calendar No. 589, H.R. 3085; Calendar No. 590, H.R. 3957; Calendar No. 591, H.R. 4189; Calendar No. 592, H.R. 4443; Calendar No. 593, H.R. 4919; Calendar No. 595, H.R. 5106; and Calendar No. 584, S. 2523.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed, en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

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

OFFICER TOMMY DECKER MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 43) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Red River Avenue

North in Cold Spring, Minnesota, as the "Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RICHARD K. SALICK POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 451) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the "Richard K. Salick Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**LONDON FALLEN VETERANS
MEMORIAL POST OFFICE**

The bill (H.R. 1391) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the "London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**CAPTAIN HERBERT JOHNSON ME-
MORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 3085) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**CYNTHIA JENKINS POST OFFICE
BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 3957) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218-10 Merrick Boulevard in Springfield Gardens, New York, as the "Cynthia Jenkins Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**MASTER SERGEANT SHAWN T.
HANNON, MASTER SERGEANT
JEFFREY J. RIECK AND VET-
ERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE
BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 4189) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4000 Leap Road in Hilliard, Ohio, as the "Master Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon, Master Sergeant Jeffrey J. Rieck and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**CORPORAL JUAN MARIEL
ALCANTARA POST OFFICE
BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 4443) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Vermilyea Avenue in New York, New York, as the "Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building," was ordered to a third

reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**LANCE CORPORAL WESLEY G. DA-
VIDS AND CAPTAIN NICHOLAS J.
ROZANSKI MEMORIAL POST OF-
FICE**

The bill (H.R. 4919) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 715 Shawan Falls Drive in Dublin, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids and Captain Nicholas J. Rozanski Memorial Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**PHILMORE GRAHAM POST OFFICE
BUILDING**

The bill (H.R. 5106) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Admiral Callaghan Lane in Vallejo, California, as the "Philmore Graham Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL
POST OFFICE BUILDING**

The bill (S. 2523) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building," was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2523

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

**SECTION 1. JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL
POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW., in Chisholm, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building".

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

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
DEMOCRACY**

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 576, S. Res. 540.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 540) recognizing September 15, 2014, as the International Day of Democracy, affirming the role of civil society as a cornerstone of democracy, and encouraging all governments to stand with civil society in the face of mounting restrictions on civil society organizations.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reso-

lution 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. 540) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 540

Whereas in 2007, September 15 of each year was established by the United Nations as the International Day of Democracy, a day set aside to review the state of democracy in the world;

Whereas democracy is a means of government that makes manifest the free exercise of certain inalienable rights, among them being the freedom of assembly, the freedom of association, the freedom of the press, and the freedom of speech;

Whereas democracy allows for participatory governance, mobilizing citizens to strive for their version of the good and instilling hope that the aspirations of the people may one day be realized;

Whereas an analysis of 84 independent studies shows that democracy has a favorable impact on the formation of human capital, the rate of inflation, the level of economic freedom, and the stability of political institutions;

Whereas democracy promotes tolerance and respect by recognizing the human dignity of all people and is necessary to the full realization of the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines "civil society" as associations around which society voluntarily organizes itself and which represent a wide range of interests and ties, including community-based organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations, and non-government organizations (NGOs);

Whereas a vibrant civil society is an essential element of democratic societies and plays a key role in providing transparency, ensuring the legitimacy of elections, advocating for marginalized groups, and making clear the will of the people;

Whereas, since 2012, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law has identified 69 new restrictive measures in over 50 countries hindering the ability of civil society organizations (CSOs) to freely operate;

Whereas of the 98 countries for which data is available, research presented in a 2013 article for the Journal of Democracy explains that 12 prohibit and 39 restrict foreign funding of domestic NGOs;

Whereas in 2000, the Community of Democracies was founded "to bring together governments, civil society, and the private sector in the pursuit of a common goal: supporting democratic rules and strengthening democratic norms and institutions around the world";

Whereas in 2011, the United States joined other like-minded governments to establish the "Lifeline: Embattled Civil Society Organizations Fund" to provide small grants to CSOs for immediate needs and to support short-term advocacy projects;

Whereas, through the Open Government Partnership, 63 countries have committed to protecting the ability of CSOs to operate in a manner that is consistent with the rights to freedom of expression, association, and opinion;

Whereas in September 2013, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, the United States launched a coordinated multilateral effort encouraging countries to stand with civil society and push back against growing restrictions on CSOs;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association stands on the front lines of civil society protection, documenting extensive global threats to civil society and strengthening international norms; and

Whereas the United States remains committed to its stand with civil society by developing new mechanisms to combat restrictions on civil society and bolster civil society's efforts to support democracy around the world; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the International Day of Democracy;

(2) recognizes the importance of civil society to the healthy development of nations;

(3) celebrates the invaluable contributions civil society has made to the creation, strength, and preservation of vibrant democracies and democratic institutions;

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the protection, advancement, health, and sustainability of democracy throughout the world;

(5) condemns the use of restrictions, coercion, threats, or force to impede the activities of civil society organizations;

(6) recognizes the important multilateral work of the Community of Democracies, the "Lifeline: Embattled Civil Society Organizations Fund", the Open Government Partnership, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association to protect global civil society;

(7) recognizes the important role diplomacy plays in defending global civil society and creating new openings for civic space;

(8) emphasizes the value of programs of the United States Government in protecting civil society and defending civic space, including the work by the Senior Advisor for Civil Society and Emerging Democracies and the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the United States Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID);

(9) calls on private sector partners and other governments to develop new tools and leverage existing technologies to support the efforts of civil society; and

(10) encourages the people of the United States and the world to observe the International Day of Democracy, September 15, 2014, with appropriate programs and activities.

HONORING THE LIFE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND LEGACY OF LOUIS ZAMPERINI

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 531 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 531) honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Louis Zamperini and expressing condolences on his passing.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Feinstein amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 3971) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the resolving clause)

The resolving clause is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking paragraph (3).

The resolution (S. Res. 531), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 531

Whereas Louis Silvie "Lou" Zamperini was born on January 26, 1917, to Anthony and Louise Zamperini, in Olean, New York;

Whereas Louis Zamperini represented the United States in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin as a distance runner;

Whereas Louis Zamperini graduated from the University of Southern California in 1940 and enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in 1941, earning the rank of lieutenant;

Whereas in May 1943, Louis Zamperini's B-24 bomber malfunctioned and crashed during a search-and-rescue mission over the Pacific Ocean, leaving him and 2 other individuals stranded;

Whereas Louis Zamperini survived for 47 days adrift in a life raft with Second Lieutenant Russell Phillips before being captured by Japanese forces and placed in a prisoner of war camp;

Whereas for more than 2 years, during his imprisonment, Louis Zamperini endured brutal treatment and forced labor with courage and resilience;

Whereas upon the conclusion of World War II, Louis Zamperini was released from the prisoner of war camp in September 1945;

Whereas Louis Zamperini was promoted to captain and awarded multiple distinguishing military honors, including the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Prisoner of War Medal;

Whereas Louis Zamperini was given the honor of carrying the Olympic flame in 1984, 1996, and 1998;

Whereas in the years after World War II, Louis Zamperini traveled as an inspirational public speaker, using his experiences to inspire a message of forgiveness;

Whereas the airport in Torrance, California, was named "Zamperini Field" in honor of Louis Zamperini; and

Whereas Louis Zamperini leaves a legacy as a national hero and an inspiration to future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Louis Zamperini; and

(2) extends heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the family of Louis Zamperini.

NATIONAL PHENYLKETONURIA AWARENESS DAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from

further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 585.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 585) designating December 3, 2014, as "National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day."

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent 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. 585) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 20, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 593, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 593) designating December 13, 2014, as "Wreaths Across America Day."

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my colleague Senator KING in submitting S. Res. 593 to designate December 13, 2014, as Wreaths Across America Day. Since its inception 23 years ago, the Wreaths Across America project has become an annual tradition of donating, transporting, and placing Maine balsam fir remembrance wreaths on the graves of our fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at veterans' cemeteries and memorials in every State and overseas. In the program's first 23 years, more than 1.7 million wreaths have been placed in honor of those who have served our country.

On this December 13, thousands of volunteers across the river in Arlington, throughout our nation, at such overseas locations as Normandy, and on our Navy ships at sea, will carry out the mission of Wreaths Across America to "Remember, Honor, Teach." This will be the culmination of a week-long procession between Maine and Virginia, with stops along the way to spread a message about the importance

of remembering and honoring those who serve, and teaching the people of the United States about the sacrifices made by Veterans and their families.

This year, as in years past, the Patriot Guard Riders, along with other patriotic groups and Maine's First Lady Ann LePage, will escort the tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery. America's trucking industry will continue to support Wreaths Across America by providing drivers, equipment, fuel, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the country to more than 1,000 locations.

In recent years, Wreaths Across America has provided some 130,000 wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. To mark Arlington's 150th anniversary, the goal this year is to decorate each of the 230,000 Veterans' graves and memorials on that hallowed ground. Thanks to the generosity and gratitude of the American people, this goal will surely be achieved.

The origin of Wreaths Across America is an inspiring example of that generosity and gratitude. During the Christmas season in 1991, Morrill and Karen Worcester took time during their busiest season to donate and deliver 5,000 wreaths from their company in Harrington, ME, to Arlington National Cemetery to honor the heroes who lie at rest there. At first, a small band of volunteers laid the wreaths quietly and with little notice. In recent years, however, the Arlington Wreath Project has grown to become a national phenomenon. The people of Maine are proud that this heartfelt gesture of America's gratitude began in our state.

Wreaths Across America honors our departed heroes, but it does even more. It tells the Veterans still with us that we honor their service. It tells our men and women in uniform today that we are grateful for their courage and devotion to duty. It tells the families of those serving our country that they are in our thoughts and prayers. And it tells the families of the fallen that we share their grief.

Throughout human history, the evergreen wreath has been offered as a tribute to heroes. On December 13, we will again offer this enduring symbol of valor and sacrifice. In this season of giving, we will pay tribute to those who have given us the most precious gift of all, our freedom.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent 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. 593) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its businesses today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 4, 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; and that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume executive session and consideration of the Orr nomination, with the time until 10 a.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be up to five rollcall votes at 10 a.m. on confirmation of the Orr and Hezir nominations and cloture on the Stivers, Leeson, and Griggsby nominations. Another series of up to six rollcall votes will occur at 1:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:44 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 4, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ROBERT B. O. ALLEN
CATHERINE A. BONHOFF
BRAD C. BORDES
JEREMY L. BRASWELL
JEFFREY S. CHAPERON
ANTHONY W. CRANE
BRENT J. CUNNINGHAM
STELLA E. V. GARCIA
MIGUEL A. GUEVARA
ANDREW A. HERMAN
CHARLES S. HUGHES
DAVID HUINKER
NATHAN T. KELLETT
JENNIFER M. LAVERGNE
DONALD E. LOPFON, JR.
SEAN E. MARSHALL
LUZ A. MAYA
ALEXANDER L. MILLMAN
AIMEE L. MORALES
LAURA A. PATZ
JUSTICE M. SAKYI
TRACIE R. TIPPINS
ERNESTINA E. VAN LEER
KEITH M. VOLLENWEIDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RICHARD Y. BAIRD
MICHAEL S. BOGAARD
TIMOTHY J. BONJOUR
BRYAN DAVID BONZO
GOLDIE R. E. BOONE
COLIN M. BURCHFIELD
JACQUELINE E. BVLGARI

ANTHONY J. CAGLE
CATHERINE M. CALLENDER
JENNIFER R. CAREY
JOHN F. CARGIOLI
RICHARD C. T. CASABAR
TROY D. CHINEVERE
JOANNE S. CLARK
JEFFREY S. COLLINS
PAUL M. CONROY
HJALMAR CONTRERAS
KELLY L. CZEISZPERGER
JON K. EHRENFRIED
CARL S. ERICKSON
BRIAN C. EVERITT
RICHARD C. EVORS
STEPHANIE A. FORSYTHE
NICOLE D. GARRIS
DAVID R. GILLIAM, JR.
STEVEN B. GRAVES
ALAN C. HALE
MIRANDA L. HANCOCK
BENJAMIN R. HANDO
JESSICA D. HUGHES
TARA M. JAYNE
CHELSEA D. JOHNSON
JULIE M. JOHNSON
JONELLE J. KNAPP
JAY S. KOST
JEANE M. LAMBRECHT
BRIAN J. LANGFORD
COURTNEY M. LEE
ROGER A. LEE
DENISE M. LENNON
FE LOBOMENENDEZ
HANS J. MEISSNEST
ARTHUR L. MILLER
ERIC J. OGLESBEE
CRYSTAL E. PRICE
BRANDI A. RITTER
KATHRYN B. SHAW
STEPHEN C. SIMPSON
JEREMY SKABELUND
MICHAEL A. SKINNER
SCOTT W. STEIGERWALD
RANDALL L. STEVENS
TIMOTHY W. STOUT
DANIEL D. SWEENEY
JENNIFER A. TAY
JUSTIN L. THEISS
JEROME L. VINLUAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

RICHARD M. BURGON
JOSHUA N. SCOTT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ALLYSON M. YAMAKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

AARON J. AGIRRE
ERIK B. ANDERSON
TANYA P. BERG
BRYAN F. BRAGASSA
JONATHAN R. CARDON
TIMOTHY A. CARLSON
ANTHONY J. CARTER
ALLEN CHAN
WILLIAM R. CONE, JR.
JOSEPH G. CURTIS
AMBER D. DAILEY
J. SEPH ANTHONY DEMEO
FRANCINE A. DRUMMOND
HENRY A. FERSTER
CHRISTOPHER J. FRIES
FRANCISCO F. GALLARDO, JR.
BRETT M. GERMAIN
NATALIE FAITH GERMAIN
CHELSE L. GRITZMACHER
JEFFERY Y. HENDERSON
ALEXANDRA E. HERNANDEZ
ELISE L. HICKERSON
RYAN S. HOLBROOK
MELISSA C. HOLT
SHANE A. JENKS
JASON F. KOBSTERS
JONATHAN P. KRUIZE
KEVIN R. KUNZ
KAREN R. LAPHAM
LISA K. U. LE
DEBBIE R. LEE
JIEUN LEE
KATHERINE MALDONADO ALFANDARI
MARICRUZ S. MARTINEZ
JARED D. MASON
EGYPT RAH Y. MCADOO
ERIN M. MCNAMARA
MANDY M. MILLER
HOON MIN
HELENA M. MINYE
NIKKI L. MOCHKO
JUNHYUNG PARK
CHRISTINA A. PFLIPSEN
KIMBERLY C. QUILAO
KEVIN D. RASMUSSEN
ASHLEY J. REYES
MARY UM ROBINSON

AMBER J. RUSSELL
 JONATHAN J. SCHUBERT
 SCOTT J. SHUMWAY
 WESLEY S. SHUTE
 WILLIAM E. SLACK
 DANIEL J. SMITH
 ROBERT M. SPRIGGEL
 BRANDON C. STANLEY
 PAULA A. STEPP
 MARK R. STEVENSON
 TATIANA P. TOQUICA
 STEPHANIE L. TRAHAN
 DANIEL P. TRUE
 SARAH K. TURBUSH
 ROBERT E. WAKE III
 DANIELLE E. WEHRI
 JESSICA R. WHITE
 TUNGSHU M. YANG
 GREGORY S. ZILINSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ERIKA S. ABRAHAM
 WINFRED B. ABRAMS, JR.
 MICHELLE R. ALDERS
 DANIEL G. ALLEN
 JACOB A. ANDERSON
 MELANIE N. ASBURY
 MARIE C. AUDETT
 HEATHER E. AULTMAN
 EDWIN R. AUSTIN
 MELINDA M. AUXIER
 JASON A. BABCOCK
 LANCE T. BACON
 ALAN S. BAGGETT
 MATTHEW J. BAKER
 GARY A. BARBER, JR.
 ADRIAN R. BARRON
 JONATHAN S. BASSETT
 THOMAS J. BAYUK
 KEITH T. BEAM
 PATRICK C. BEEMAN
 JEREMY M. BERNOT
 DENAE MARGUERITE BEVILLE
 ROBERT D. BOLTON
 HOWARD E. BOWERS
 AARON B. BRADY
 JOSHUA F. BRAUTIGAM
 DANIEL R. BREWSTER
 JOHN R. BREWSTER
 LAURA M. BRIDGE
 STUART K. BRIGHAM
 GABRIEL W. BRISCOE
 ADAM S. BROWN
 KAESSEE L. BROWN
 SHANNON F. BUCK
 WILLIAM E. BYNUM IV
 NICHOLAS R. CARR
 BRADLEY J. CARRA
 JAMES T. CASSELMAN
 DARWIN CASTILLO
 RYAN S. CHO
 JONATHAN K. CHONG
 KERRY L. CHRISTENSEN
 JUN MO N. CHUN
 ROSELYN J. CLEMENTE FUENTES
 JASON B. COOMBS
 EMMANUEL CRUZ CABAN
 JANET CRUZ
 MICHAEL F. DAMORE
 COREY J. DARROW
 JULIE A. DAVENPORT
 TIMOTHY M. DAVIS
 NICOLE F. DE SIMONE
 CAITLIN A. DUFAULT
 ELIZABETH ANNE DUFFY MILMO
 EVAN J. DUNN
 STEVEN J. DURNING
 JOSHUA L. EATON
 JASON M. EDWARDS
 MARY ANNE Q. EISMA
 KATHERINE H. ELLIS
 CHARISMA BAUTISTA EVANGELISTA
 TIMOTHY J. EWALD
 MATTHEW D. FAIN
 SABRINA M. FELTON
 ROSALINDA F. FITTS
 KRISTEN E. FLEMING
 ANDREW D. GALUSHA
 ERICH M. GAUGER
 KARIN SOBY GILKISON
 PATRICK T. GLENN
 RYAN C. GOTTFREDSON
 MICHAEL J. GRAVETT
 ROBERT H. GRAY
 GRANT W. GRIFFITH
 RICHARD D. GRINSTEAD
 JONATHAN T. HANCOCK
 ANNA HANG
 NICOLE M. HANS
 NEEMA R. HARDEMAN
 MISHA O. HARRELL
 DANIEL E. HATZ
 THERESA G. HAYES
 ADAM D. HEBDON
 HUYNH ANH HINSHAW
 DEANN M. HOELSCHER
 MASON C. HUNT
 ALECIA R. HUTSLER
 KOJI S. IIZUKA
 FRANCIS E. JAMES
 BRETT C. JOHNSON
 BRIAN W. JOHNSON
 ELLYN M. JOHNSON

JENNIFER L. JOHNSON
 WILLIE K. JONES
 NATHAN R. KELSEY
 MICHAEL A. KOROSCIL
 MATTHEW W. KRAMER
 JOSHUA G. KUBIT
 STEPHANIE M. LAMPKE
 JENNIFER L. LANDUCCI
 JAMES H. LANTREY III
 ADRIENNE M. LAURY
 PETER A. LENNOX
 ANDREW W. LEWIS
 BRIAN J. LEWIS
 YANG LIU
 SUSAN B. LOBRANO
 HAROLD J. LOCHNER III
 JENNIFER D. LORENZ
 MICHAEL T. LOUGHLIN
 REGAN F. LYON
 JOHN P. MAGULICK, JR.
 ERIN M. MAI
 KURIAN T. MALIEL
 KEREEM M. D. MARLOW
 ANNA M. MARUSKA
 JONATHAN A. MAXHAM
 DIXIE ANN MCCLENDON COKER
 SETH B. MCCOORD
 GREGORY K. MCCOY
 EMILY M. MCELVEEN
 SEAN P. MEAGHER
 JASON L. MELLO
 ERIC G. MEYER
 CHRISTOPHER J. MICALLEF
 SHANA M. MILES
 NATHAN R. MOODY
 CAROLYN S. MOORE
 JEFFREY D. MORGAN
 TRENT L. MORGAN
 BETHANY M. MULLA
 HEATHER D. MUNDY
 MICHAEL R. NAY
 BRITTANIE INGRAM NEAVES
 MEAGHAN P. NELLES
 JOANNA M. NELMS
 ALEXIS E. NELSON
 STEVE M. NELSON
 MICHELLE R. NEWKIRK
 MONIQUE R. NOBLE
 DAVID M. NORTHERN
 NATHANIEL S. NYE
 TAMANNA ODEA
 KENNETH L. OFFUTT
 NATHAN W. OLSON
 MARY K. OSBORNE
 NATHAN T. PALMER
 JOSHUA E. PASCOE
 NEHA K. PATEL
 JUSTIN G. PEACOCK
 TROY J. PEARCE
 VANESSA MICHELLE PEARSON
 BRIAN M. PENNINGTON
 ASEEM V. PETERSON
 MARK R. PETERSON
 MAI T. PHAM
 REBEKAH E. PIEGOLS
 ADAM J. POLOZOLA
 LISA MARIE POOLE
 ALICIA C. PRESCOTT
 ANGELA T. PRESCOTT
 LESLIE L. K. PRISTAS
 NAVINDRA RAMDATH
 RACHEL TENNESSEE RAMSOWER
 FREDERIC A. RAWLINS III
 EMERSON M. RAZA
 BRADLEY A. REEL
 MATTHEW T. REYNOLDS
 SARAH M. REYNOLDS
 TALAYA YEH REZZAYAT
 JOHN M. RICHARDSON
 RAMON A. RIOJAS
 JAIME LYNN ROBEY
 SHANA J. ROGERS
 JENNIFER ELIZABETH ROPER
 LINDY M. ROSAL
 MATTHEW J. ROYALL
 FRANK D. RUSSO
 HENRY S. SCHEULLER
 AMY L. SCHIMKE
 ERIKA J. SCHNEBLE
 CHRISTOPHER P. SCHWAN
 DANIELLE M. SCHWARTZ
 WANDER S. SEGURA
 CHARLES S. SHAPPER
 ERWIN T. SHAW
 TIFFANY M. SHELTON
 MICHELLE M. SHIPP
 THOMAS M. SKINNER
 NICOLAS J. SKORDAS
 REBECCA S. SLOGIC
 BENJAMIN P. SMITH
 DEREK M. SMITH
 JOHN R. SMITH
 NATHANIEL E. SMITH
 NATOSHA D. SMITH
 STACY A. SOLHEIM
 JOSEPH S. SONTGERATH
 CHRISTOPHER M. STANLEY
 KOURTNI L. STARKER
 MEGHAN A. STEINOUR
 KELLY N. STINEY
 JOSHUA C. STOREY
 JOHN M. STOWERS
 TIFFANY P. STRATTON
 PHILLIP A. STRAWBRIDGE
 MATTHEW T. STRINGER
 NOAH T. SUTTON
 CHRISTOPHER N. SWEIGART

SOFIA M. SZARI
 CHAUNCEY D. TARRANT
 STEVEN A. TAYLOR
 NATHAN J. TESCHAN
 KELTON M. THOMAS
 SARAH E. Y. THOMAS
 JAMES A. THOMPSON
 MARC D. TOLLEY
 ALFRED F. TRAPPEY III
 WESLEY E. TRUEBLOOD
 MARK R. TRUXILLO
 RENE D. TURNER
 JOHN R. UNTISZ
 MATTHEW D. VANDERHOEK
 ANNE M. VENABLE
 JAMESON D. VOSS
 PAUL D. VU
 JUSTYNA T. WADOLOWSKI
 ALLISON J. WALKER
 HANS R. WATSON
 JOHN D. WATSON
 MATTHEW F. WATTO
 KHANDIE Y. WAUGH
 BRYANT J. WEBBER
 AMANDA M. WEINDL
 JASON P. WELTER
 LAURA B. WHITE
 ELAINA C. WILD
 JON P. WILLIAMS
 JORDAN M. WILLIAMS
 ADAM M. WILLIS
 THOMAS J. WILSON
 CORTNEY C. WILSON
 EMILY J. WINTERTON
 LAURA B. WOLFE
 HALEI K. WONG
 JENNIFER L. WOODWARD
 APRIL LASHEL WOODY
 CHRISTOPHER D. YOUNG
 FEI ZHANG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RHETT B. CASPER
 JAMES K. T. CULLEN
 MICHAEL W. DUERS
 NICHOLAS B. DUVAL
 PAULA K. HOANG
 MATTHEW M. HUFFAKER
 THEODORE M. JACKSON
 JOANNA B. JAMINSKA
 JINYOUNG KIM
 MISUKE KIM
 MARCUS P. KROPP
 BRENDAN M. LANE
 WENDY D. LOBBE
 JAMES M. PIPER II
 CHRISTOPHER L. PODLIN
 ALLEN M. PRATT
 NATHAN T. SCHWAMBERGER
 ERIN M. SPEIER
 BRADSHAW M. STOUT
 BETH L. TOMIC
 MARK A. VANZANT
 BRENT J. WALDMAN
 STERLING J. WHIPPLE
 JAESUK YOO
 JAMES M. YOUNG
 STACEY ELIZABETH ZAIKOSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JOSE C. AGUIRRE
 ANGELA M. ALBRECHT
 MICHAEL R. ALFARN
 DOUGLAS R. ALFAR
 JENNIFER A. ALFAR
 DANIEL A. APPEL
 ALVI A. AZAD
 CHRISTOPHER E. BACKUS
 BRUCE R. BALL
 HEATHER M. BARBIER
 TRAVIS CARLOS BATTIS
 CLAYNE BENSON
 KORY R. BODILY
 CALE WALTER BONDS
 JASON D. BOYD
 ERNEST E. BRAXTON
 RUTH BRENNER
 TYSON C. BROWN
 CHRISTOPHER W. BUNT
 JEFFREY S. BURBIDGE
 DANIELLE J. CERMAK
 WENDY CHAO
 SPENCER C. CHECKETTS
 DAVID S. CHOI
 JARED GLEN CLAY
 ANGELIQUE N. COLLAMER
 MARIA A. CONLEY
 CHANTAL COUSINEAU KRIEGER
 CARLTON J. COVEY
 JOHN R. CUNNINGHAM
 BRANDON J. CUTLER
 DILLARD L. DEHART III
 STEFANI L. DEORICH
 MELISSA J. DOOLEY
 JOSHUA S. DUBOIS
 BRANDEN G. DUFFEY
 JENNIFER E. DUNLAVY
 TODD ALIN EADS
 LANCE D. EDMONDS

NATHAN R. EVANS
CRISTINA L. FRANCHETTI
BRUCE JAY GARDNER II
RYAN F. GIBBONS
THOMAS O. GIFFORD
KRISTEN R. GLASS
BRIAN B. GLOD'T
ARTHUR J. GREENWOOD
IAN D. GREGORY
JOHN THOMAS HARDY
BRANDE M. HARRIS
JAMES C. HARTLEY
JOSHUA A. HARTMAN
KERMIT G. HELO III
ANTONIO J. HERNANDEZ
BERNARD A. HILDEBRAND, JR.
ROBIN A. HOLZER
BORISLAV HRISTOV
MARK W. HUBBELL
BRENT J. HUDDLESTON
JOSEPH A. HUSEMAN II
NICHOLE K. INGALLS
BRENT IZU
CHRISTOPHER E. JONAS
EVAN M. JONES
KEVIN P. JUOZAPAVICIUS
MARTIN P. KASZUBOWSKI
JEFFREY D. KISER
ADAM C. KOERTNER
CHRISTOPHER K. LAWLER
PAMELA R. LECLAIRE
CHRISTOPHER C. LEDFORD
BRETT E. LINCK
JEFFREY M. LODERMEIER
MICHELLE MARINO
SEAN P. MARTIN
LESLIE D. MATESICK
MICHAEL J. MATSUURA
JOHN J. MAXEY
BRADLEY A. MCGREGOR
DAVID C. MILLER
CHRISTINE A. MIRABAL
BENJAMIN J. MITCHELL
BENJAMIN MONSON
STEFANIE M. NANCE
CATHERINE E. NOBLE
CADE M. NYLUND
KATHLEEN M. OLEARY
MICHAEL P. OREJUDOS
REID N. ORTH
CASEY L. PARINI
JASON M. PFLUKE
NECIA M. POPE
DAMIEN C. POWELL
FRANCISCO J. RAMIREZ
JAMIE M. RAND
JOEL ADLAI REYES
RICHARD J. ROBINS
VANCE M. ROTHMEYER
AARON M. RUBIN
MEREDITH A. SARDA
MATTHEW R. SCHMITZ
ROSS A. SCHUMER
FAYE B. SERKIN
JENNIFER A. SEXTON
CYNTHIA S. SHEN
CHRISTINE A. SMETANA
JESSICA K. SMYTH
MARCUS S. SNYDER
RICHARD O. SPEAKMAN
SAMUEL A. SPEAR
DANIEL A. STEIGELMAN
ALLEN I. STERING
TIMOTHY J. STRIGENZ
ANDRE J. SULLIVAN
ROBERT C. SWIFT
BRYAN D. SZALWINSKI
KENJI L. TAKANO
TRAVIS C. TAYLOR
ANDREW A. THORESON
WILLIAM TOTH
VINH Q. TRAN
MARC S. TUBAY
LUCRETIA LYNN VAUGHAN
KENNETH W. VAWTER
RODNEY C. WADLEY, SR.
JASON M. WEBB
LISA M. WEEKS
JACOB M. WESSLER
NED L. WILLIAMS
PETER M. WILLIAMS
TIMOTHY K. WILLIAMS
SCOTT A. WILTZ
EMILY B. WONG
VANESSA W. WONG
CURTIS J. WOZNAK
FI A. YI
SANDY K. YIP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JASON D. EITUTIS
MICHAEL D. FOUTCH
PATRICIA D. FOWLER
SALLY ANN KELLYRANK
RANDALL C. LAMBERT
GREGORY W. PAPKE
ROBERT M. PAZ
SCOT S. SPANN
BRYAN E. WOOLLEY
BRIAN K. WYRICK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

SARAHANN BEAL
RICHARD J. BERT, JR.
JOSEPH COSTANTINO
CRAIG H. FORCUM
PAUL J. HOERNER
SCOTT M. MCKIM
JAMES R. POEL
MARK A. STAAL
KEVIN W. TILLER
RYAN L. TRAVER
JAY A. VIETAS
CAROL C. WALTERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

KEITH L. CLARK
MICHAEL E. CRABTREE
WILLIAM K. LIN
PAUL A. LONGO
VICTOR B. MAGGIO
JAMES R. MOORE
KYLE E. PELKEY
ENRIQUE E. ROSADO
JENNIE LEIGH L. STODDART

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

TALIB Y. ALI
JAY R. ALLEN
JASON G. ARNOLD
ANTHONY S. BANKS
VIKHYAT S. BEBARTA
JAMES E. BERMUDEZ
JOHN N. BERRY
ANTHONY I. BEUTLER
CHRISTOPHER T. BIRD
JEREMY W. CANNON
JERRY M. CLINE
ROBERT W. CRAIGGRAY
PAUL F. CRAWFORD, JR.
SCOTT M. CUMMIS
RONALD S. DAY
ANTONIO J. DELGADO
BRIAN L. DELMONACO
KELLY L. DORENKOTT
DAVID J. DUVAL
KENNETH S. EGERSTROM
MARY T. GUEST
GREGORY J. HAACK
CHAD A. HAMILTON
JASON T. HAYES
RACHEL A. HIGHT
MICHAEL GLENN HODGES
ERIC F. HOLT
BRANDON R. HORNE
CHRISTOPHER M. HUDSON
SEAN L. JERSEY
KEVIN J. KAPS
TONY S. KIM
PAULETTE D. LASSITER
MAXIMILIAN S. LEE
MARK D. LYMAN
ROBERT M. MONBERG
THOMAS O. MOORE
BRENDAN M. NOONE
SAMIA A. OCHIA
SAMUEL T. OLATUNBOSUN
STEVEN D. PEINE
MICHAEL C. PETRO
JENNIFER L. RAVENSCROFT
JOSEPH R. RICHARDS
JAMES B. SAMPSON
ZAIGA KAREN SEARS
PATRICK A. SHEA
DAVID L. STEINHISER II
GALE T. TUPER, JR.
CEASAR A. VALLE
JAMES F. WALROTH
STEVEN R. WARD
DERRICK B. WILLSEY
GABRIEL ZIMMERER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

RAMIDELE A. ADETUNJI
TERESE L. ALLISON
LLAM M. APONTE
JULIE L. AVRAM
BRETT J. BALLARD
SHARON A. BALLINGER
NICHOLAS S. BANCROFT
PAMELA D. BANKS
KATHLEEN V. BELL
NATASHA I. BERT
JUDY L. BLANCHARD
BRIAN T. BOOTH
CASSIDY JO BOYER
TINA S. BRADFORD
MICHAEL J. BRAKEL
LAURIE A. BREZINA
REBECCA A. BRIONES
KELLY ANN CARTER
MARIA C. CASTRO
JENNIE L. CAVAL
MARGARET G. CENTENO
LEWIS G. CHRISTENSEN
DAWN M. CLAUSON

To be colonel

MARION A. COLLINS
JENNIFER L. CONAWAY
JONATHAN C. CRISS
KAREN J. DARGAN
CARMANITA L. DAVIS
MONICA I. DENNING
GUILENE C. DERISMA
RACHELLE R. DIXON
TIFFANI M. DORCH
DEAN P. DORE
DEBBIE J. DORSEY
KATHLEEN M. DRUM
APRIL J. DUNLEVY
CHRISTOPHER D. DUVAL
ABIGAIL J. EASTMAN
LORI E. FLORI
JOAQUINA PONTES LOPES
MOAYAD FOWLER, SR.
JENNIFER L. FRANKS
DENISE M. FREDERIKSEN
ERIC M. FROST
MCKISA P. FRYER
MARY E. GAMBLE
STEPHANIE P. GARCIA
ANGELA C. GOOKIN
KATHERINE R. GRIFFITHS
TWANA A. HADDEN
WENDY H. HEIBEL
KATHERINE M. HITZ
ANGELICA M. HOLLIDAY
JK SHANE HOUSE
HEATHER S. HUBBARD
LAURA A. HUMES
CHENNEL CHRISTIAN JOHNSON
BENJAMIN D. JORGENSEN
SUSAN E. JOSEPH
DIANE J. JUROSKA
KATHERINE S. KASCH
TUESDAY M. KAYONGO
SHARA R. KOCH
VALERIE P. KOSOBUCKI
TAMMY R. KRITZER
MICHELLE A. LEMPKE
JOSEPH C. LEONDIKE
MARCIE A. LEWIS
BETHANY L. LIEBERMAN
BESSA JANE E. LIVICA
LOU A. LYSINGEN
ERIC W. MAGNUSON
ANASTASIA T. MCKOY
SHERRY L. MITCHELL
CYNTHIA G. MONTESI
ROMEATRIUS NICOLE MOSS
RICHARD J. ODOSSO
JAMES C. ONELL
LIBERTY C. ORADA
HEATHER L. ORTIZ
TINA MARIE OUELLETTE
ANNETTE R. PATTON
DOUGLAS S. POGUE
STEPHANIE M. POWERS
JESSICA L. PRICE
STEPHEN G. RAY
RICHARD P. ROGERS
ESMERALDA SALAZAR
DARRELL C. SANDERS
JEANETTE K. SANDERS
SUZANNE E. W. SEE
SHAWNICE LEE SHANKLE
ANTHONY P. SIBILLA
JOHANA SIERRANUNEZ
MICHELLE B. SMITH CLEGGETT
STEFFANIE L. SOLBERG
BRIAN L. SPURLOCK
ANTHONY R. STEPHENS
THEODORE J. SZERSZENSKI III
GRETCHEN E. SZYMANSKI
SCOTT G. THALLEMER
STACY L. TUTTLE
VERONICA B. VALERIO
ELIZABETH L. VATH
JOEL M. VILLAVERT
TOBIE J. WATKINS
BRENDA D. WHITE
ROSEMARIE WIBSONO
BRIAN K. WIENHOFF
TIFFANY D. WILLIAMS
MICHELLE T. WISE
RHYS I. WOODALL
ZOE T. WOOLSTON
JONATHAN R. WURZELBACHER
KERI L. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

TRAVIS M. ALLEN
THOMAS R. BAIZE
KARL N. BLANCAFLOR
ROBERT DALE BOHNSACK
DANIEL S. CALL
STEVEN R. CUNELO
GARY J. DAVIDSON
CRAIG MILTON FORSYTHE
DAVID M. HORTON
KEVIN M. HUDSON
PAUL B. JOYNER, JR.
JASON F. KIM
JASON T. KLONICKI
DAVID R. LEONARD
CHRISTOPHER L. REEDER
DAVID D. REDDY
JONATHAN T. RUNNELS
DAVID Y. SUH
CHRISTOPHER D. UNDERWOOD II

JEREMY JAMES WELLS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DAVID P. ABBOTT
COURTNEY A. ADDY
REGINA R. BEINHAUR
JOHN D. BIGBIE
CHARLES MATTHEW BOYD
KRISTEN E. CARTER
RAMONA S. DAUGHERTY
JOSHUA D. DEAN
LOUIS C. EDWARDS, JR.
STUART D. FILLMORE
MICHELLE A. FRONZAGLIA
RAYMOND W. FUNKE
ERIC C. GARDNER
JOHN D. GILLARD
DANIEL A. GRIFFITH
MARK W. HASSETT
HEATHER C. HAYDEN
CORBY J. HEYNE
AMMON B. HICKMAN
CHRIS A. IANNI
JEREMIAH R. JACOBS
GREGORY A. KIRKWOOD
SARAH V. LINDSAY
VIKKI LORRAINE LOPEZ
MEGAN G. MALCOM
STACEY R. MCCRAW
RYAN J. MCGUIRE
JOSHUA LEE MILLER
DENISE K. MIRANDA
TROY R. A. NOVAK
ELIZABETH K. OSANTOWSKI
PRICE T. PARAMORE
DAMIAN K. PARDUE
ARCHIE R. PHLEGAR
ERIN LEIGH ROBERTS
JASON A. SALASKI
JONATHAN S. SEMPLE
ANDREW F. SEVERT
BRANDON LEONARD SHEALEY
DONNA L. SICKLER
JOY SPILLERS
JENNIFER JEAN TOMLINSON
KEVIN D. UNDERWOOD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MOHAMMED H. ALJALLAD
AMBER M. ALLARDICE
JESSICA M. ALLINGER
DANIEL M. ANDERSON
FUNMILAYO A. ARANMOLATE
MICHAEL A. ARMSTRONG
LATOYA S. ARTIS
ULISES JOB ATILANO
CHRISTOPHER S. BATES
MEGAN M. BATTEN
COREY M. BAYLISS
DOUGLAS J. BIRD
KODI M. BONE
FRANCISCO A. BORAL
DENNIS R. BOURDO II
LAURA M. BOYLAN
TODD D. BRACKETT
DAPHNE E. BREWTON
SHAMIKA PRYOR BROOKS
CRYSTAL C. BROWN
MICHAEL JOHN BRYANT
JENNIFER M. BUCKINGHAM
NATASHA W. BULLOCK
ROBERT L. CARLSEN
COREY CARNES
KAO YENG CHANG
ERIC CHASE
SPENCER P. CLAYTON
BRANDY K. CONWAY
TATANYA L. COOPER
MARGARET M. COPPINI
MAYARA MERCADO COULTER
BENJAMIN F. CRANDALL
MATTHEW S. DAVIS
EMILY G. DIETRICH
PATRICK DITULLIO
JONATHAN F. DOTI
CHRISTOPHER J. DYKES
RONALD I. ELAZEGUI
DANNY R. ELICH
NEYSA M. ETIENNE
ANNA V. FEDOTOVA
ALFRED J. FELIPPI
ARNALDO J. FIGUEROA
KELLY L. FRANKLIN
BERNARDO L. GARCIA
THOMAS S. GARRIDO
JEFFREY D. GEDDES
MELISSA R. GILLINGHAM
MICHAEL S. GITCHEL
SHERRY D. GLENN
EMILY A. GRAZE
EDWARD P. GRIFFIN
ZACKERY A. GROOVER
ALEX H. GUBLER
BRYAN T. HAIL
JOHN M. HAMMILL
AMANDA O. HARDY
BRANDON P. HARRIS
KRISTENE A. HARRIS
JOEL M. HARTONG

RELINDA D. HATCHER
CHRISTINA H. HAYS
QUINTIN A. HECHT
ASPEN C. HEGER
TIFFANY R. HELINE
HEIDI A. HERNANDEZ
KYLE C. HIATT
JOANNA S. HO
KEVIN R. HOOKER
ANDREW C. HOUGHINS
MELINDA HUNT
FELICIA A. JACKSON
KYLE M. JOHNSTON
CHRISTOPHER D. JUDY
RYAN MYUNGHEE JUNG
MICHAEL K. KAN
RYAN L. KASTERN
ROHIN N. KASUDIA
VERONIKA N. KHRAKOVSKAYA
JORDAN W. KIELISZEWSKI
JIN H. KIM

TERRY L. KLEIN
BREANNE M. KORMENDY
MARILYN T. T. LAI
JIMMY F. LAM
JOHN C. LAVIN
LESLIE N. LOVETT
ANNE LY
RAYMOND W. MAK
JEFFERY S. MARTIN
PAUL E. MASON
KRISTEN M. MAYER
ANDREW J. MCUMBER
GARRETT A. MILLER
RONALD P. MILLER
VIVIEN J. MILLER
SHAOPING MO
KASEY MOORERITICHIE
MELANIE K. MULDRON
RICHARD J. NAVAREZ, JR.
JEFFREY G. NELSON
SANG Q. NGO
LYNH H. NGUYEN
KEMEJUMAKA N. OPARA
DAVID PANBOON
MELISSA A. PETERS
BRIAN D. PETROVICH
SONRIE G. PICKENS
JAIME J. PONS VALERIO
LEWIS M. PULLEY
LATEASA REED
CHRISTOPHER P. REICHLEN
JAMES A. RESCH
PETER GEORGE REY
LISA M. ROACH
AMANDA M. RUST
JOSHUA A. RYAN
MICHAEL D. SALYER, JR.
ELIZABETH A. SCHNABEL
DARNELL R. SCHUETTLE
MICHAEL A. SCIORTINO
RYAN M. SEYMOUR
NATHAN P. SHEPARD
ARIELLE R. SHIELY
BRIAN D. SHULER
AMANDA R. SIMSHIGH
EMILY E. SKINNER
RICHARD T. SMITH, JR.
CLIFFORD C. SOUDER
THADDEUS A. SPEED
FELISHA STANCIL
KARA B. TAYLOR
DANA R. THOMAS
EARL E. J. THOMAS
STEPHANIE M. TRACY
QUAN N. TRAM
ALEXANDRA L. TRAN
DEKONTEE M. TRAUB
DAVID S. TUBMAN
SYLVIA K. VALVERDE
JOHN A. VANN
COLLEEN M. VARGA
STEPHEN E. VELA
LETICIA VENEGAS
MICHAEL JOHN VIETTI
JOHN M. WADE
ANDREW B. WALLACE
FELECIA R. WASHINGTON
CHARLA R. WATSON
BENJAMIN C. WEAVER
TIMOTHY C. WEIGLE
MATTHEW S. WILKERICK
ADAM C. WILLETT
ANDREW P. WILLIAMS
SEAN M. WILSON
SETH P. WILSON
JOHN S. WU
ANITA M. YATES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

RICHARD S. BEYEA III
CHRISTIAN L. BISCOTTI
MATTHEW A. BOARTS
KRISTOFFER K. COX
LARRY J. FOWLER
JULIAN C. GAITHER
KENNETH E. JOHNSON, JR.
EUGENE F. LAHUE
CHRISTOPHER M. LAPACK
CHARLES R. MONTOYA, JR.
SCOTT P. NUPSON
RANDY L. SELLERS
MICHAEL D. SHANNON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RICHARD S. BEYEA III
CHRISTIAN L. BISCOTTI
MATTHEW A. BOARTS
KRISTOFFER K. COX
LARRY J. FOWLER
JULIAN C. GAITHER
KENNETH E. JOHNSON, JR.
EUGENE F. LAHUE
CHRISTOPHER M. LAPACK
CHARLES R. MONTOYA, JR.
SCOTT P. NUPSON
RANDY L. SELLERS
MICHAEL D. SHANNON

MARK F. THOMAS
SAMMY C. TUCKER, JR.
TRAVIS C. YELTON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

MARION A. ALSTON
SCOTT J. ANDERSON
SHANE J. ANDREWS
KRISTOPHER T. APPLER
CHRISTOPHER D. BASS
FRANCOIS A. BATES
LARA A. BRENNECKE
JESSICA N. BUCHTA
ALICIA D. CAWLFIELD
CURTIS R. CLINE
JESSICA M. CONNOLLY
DANIELLE M. DIAMOND
BETHANY A. EVERETT
CYNTHIA A. FALLNESS
SARA R. HEGGE
MELISSA D. HEHR
DEANNA K. HOWELL
JESSICA J. HUWA
ELIZABETH A. JAMES
ANDREW J. A. KAY
NOEL L. KUBAT
RACHEL E. LEE
TIFFANY D. MCQUEEN
ANNA B. MULLINS
MATTHEW C. REED
JILL A. REIDELBERGER
CARA P. REITER
LAURA E. RIDDLE
MARTY G. ROACHE
DUSTIN J. STAAB
JASON J. THORNTON
NATHAN A. E. WIENANDT
STEFANIA V. WILCOX

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

RACHEL R. ANTHONY
SARAH E. BAKER
PATRICK L. BARKER
STEPHANIE M. BOCANEGRA
BENJAMIN K. BOWER
STEVEN A. BREWER
BARBARA K. BUJAK
BRENDA D. BUSTILLOS
ALVARO D. CALVILLO
CHRISTINA M. CARRIGAN
CARLA R. CARRILLOKING
ANTONIO F. CHANG
JOHN J. CICCARELLO
ERICKA M. CISCO
SCOTT C. DEMBOWSKI
KIMBERLI A. DEMBENT
JEFFERY A. DOLBEER
DAVID L. EDMONDS
WILLIAM H. EDMONDS
CHRIS M. GONZALEZ
VIVIEN S. GUEVARA
ROBERT J. HALL
REBECCA A. HAWKINS
NATHAN E. HENRY
MATTHEW S. HOLT
MICHAEL R. HUNT
JAMES E. JACKSON
JASON L. JUDKINS
KARYN E. KAGEL
BRYAN C. KOZAK
JOHN M. KURTZ
ANDREA C. LOHMANN
JAMES S. LORENZ
JOHN MASON
RONALD K. MCANDREW
STEVE E. MCKELLAR, JR.
CHRISTOPHER B. MERCER
LETRENDRA R. MILES
AMY M. MOORE
RACHEL E. MORGANS
REBECCA L. MORELL
SHAUN J. O'NEILL
ROBERT M. PADEN
JOSHUA M. PAGE
WILLIAM J. PITT
KAYLA O. RAMOTAR
TRAVIS ROBBINS
RYAN M. RODRIGUEZ
CHERI M. RUIZ
JAMES A. RULEY
MATTHEW Z. SAMONTE
MARION J. SMITH III
RACHEL M. SNELL
SARAH K. SOJA
SEAN T. SUTTLES
LEIGH A. SWAFFORD
ELIZA B. SZYMANEK
ANDREA R. TARRANCE
KERRI A. VANARNEM
LUTS E. VIDAL
HUGH D. WALLER II
NATHAN D. WILLIAMS
TODD WILLIAMS
JAMES P. WINSTEAD
LARRY E. WITHAM

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THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

NADINE M. ALONZO
ALFONSO J. ALVAREZ III
NICHOLAS J. BARANELLO
CARLOS A. BARRERA
KRISTINA L. BARTPEE
VALERIE S. BARTONICO
JON M. BASHAM
TORRANCE C. BECK
SEAN P. BEEMAN
JAMES F. BEHELER
MIGUEL BENZOR
JARED L. BLACK
AUDREY A. BOENKER
MORRIS J. BOOTH
LONNIE S. BRADFORD
PAOLO C. BRIONES
JEFFREY L. BROWN
KENDRA L. BROWN
DANIEL L. BURN
DAVID W. BYRD
GABRIELLE N. CALDARA
CHRISTOPHER C. CARPENTER
JESSICA T. CARTHEON
PABLO A. CERCENIA
ERICA L. CHABALKO
EUN S. CHOI
BRANDEN K. CHUN
BRIAN E. COAKER
MEGAN A. CONNELL
JOSHUA I. CONNOR
MICHAEL R. COOPER
JARED M. COX
KIMI R. DAMASSIA
DAVID DELGADO
RICHARD A. DEMARAIS
ELIZABETH A. DESITTER
SAMUEL J. DIEHL
DAN T. DITZLER, JR.
BRIAN M. DOWNS
RAN DU
STUART R. DURRIER
MARC N. DUFFING
TODD R. EAVES
BRITTANY L. ELLIS
NOLAN G. ELLIS
DAMON W. ELLISON
GARY S. FALZONE
ALEC L. FINLAY
JOSEPH E. FISHER
JESSICA L. FORMAN
MICHAEL S. FRANKEL
ASHLEY L. FRANKLIN
JEFFREY W. FROUDE II
PATRICK J. FRY
ANGELA N. FULBRIGHT
MELISSA K. GALAZIN
MICHELLE M. GARCIA
WILLIAM P. GEHLEN
PATRICK R. GLASS
JUSTIN R. GOLDMAN
ELVIS A. GONZALEZ
NATHANIEL B. HAGEN
WILLIAM C. HAMRICK
JODY J. HARBEITTRASK
JEAN P. HARE
ROBERT E. HAUPT
DANIEL D. HEFFNER
RICHARD A. HEIPERTZ
SEAN J. HENDERSOON
RONALD R. HENRIQUEZ
QUANESHA K. HENRY
MEGAN M. HENSON
WILLIAM D. HICKEY
RONNIE HILL
CHRISTOPHER M. HINNERICHS
GARRETT W. HOLT
ADAM T. HUGHES
PATRICK KAYLOR
BEATRICE I. KEARNEY
PATRICK R. KEARLEY
KEVIN A. KIRCHGRABER
MELISSA K. KODANI
KATHERINE L. KOLACKI
MATTHEW KRULL
MICHAEL J. KWON
SPENCER D. LEE
BRETT M. LEHMAN
THOMAS M. LEHMANN
MARVIN A. LEONARD
REBECCA K. LESEMANN
WILLIAM B. LEWIS
FRANK L. J. LILES
JISUN S. LIM
LUKE A. LINDAMAN
LIONEL Q. LOWERY II
KYLE R. LUND
GREGORY C. MABRY
MARY E. MARKIVICH
MARCOS MARTINEZ
DEEPAK J. MATHEW
JANEEN L. MATHIES
JIMMY L. MCCLAIN, JR.
MAHEALANI N. MCFARLAND
DAMIEN MCCUIGAN
ERIC J. MIES
ERIN E. MILNER
DEREK R. MONTHIEI
MATTHEW J. MOOSEY
SCOTT T. MUELLER

NOE R. MUNIZ
STEVEN C. MURTY
BRYAN P. NOWAK
NICHOLAS J. NUSSDORFER
SEAN K. OBRIEN
MICHAEL M. OGANOVICH
EDDIE B. OLIVER
RUFINO D. ONG, JR.
ELIZABETH ORTIZ
VERONICA D. J. ORTIZ
RILIWAN O. OTTUN
STEPHEN W. OWEN
TRAVIS H. OWEN
CARPACCIO E. OWENS
JOHN W. PAAP
SEAN M. PALMER
XAVIER R. PENA
RANDY D. PERRY
BRANDON S. PYBUS
SUSAN H. RAGLIN
JOSHUA D. REECE
LYMAN S. REYNOLDS
CAMERON L. RICHARDSON
ANTHONY H. B. ROBINSON
RONNIE P. ROBINSON
FAUSTINO RODRIGUEZ, JR.
KENNETH J. RODRIGUEZ
RICARDO J. RODRIGUEZCRUZ
NOLAN D. ROGGENKAMP
RALPH T. SALAZAR
TEFFANY N. SAMPLE
MARK G. SANDER
JOSE A. SANFELIZ
EDILBERTO SANTOS
BETTINA SCHMID
ISAAC S. SCHUNK
TODD C. SCHWARZ
JON M. SHARP
JULIE A. SHIN
RYAN C. SHUBAT
WALTER J. SKEISTAITIS, JR.
BRIAN G. SMITH
MAXWELL H. SMITH
LUIS F. SOTOORTIZ
MICHAEL P. STEVENS
DEREK T. STRANTON
JOHN T. STRINGER
JESSE J. TAPOYA
RONALD M. TALIS
DANIEL H. TENHAGEN
AARON THOMPSON
CRAIG E. THOMPSON
WILLIAM G. THOMPSON
TAMIKA N. THORNTON
JEREMY J. TRESCOTT
NORMAN V. TUALA
JAMES R. TULLIS
ALISA M. VANLANDINGHAM
KAYLA L. VICKERS
ABIGAIL S. VINCENT
KEVIN J. VOGT
LORI B. VOORHEES
MARK D. WALKER
ROBERT M. WEBER
BRAD A. WESLEY
MARK R. WESSELER
MICHELLE WHITLOCK
MARK T. WILLIAMS
ANDREW W. WILSON
JAMES E. WILSON
JOHN R. WOLF
DAVID P. WRIGHTEN
ANGELA M. YARNELL
MATTHEW B. YOUNG
JOSEPH G. ZIEBELL
D012227
D012289

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

MARK ACOPAN
THOMAS A. AGNEW
MAYAMONA D. AIKEN
CHRIS N. ANGELES
MANUSHKA ANGOY
HOLLY R. ARCHER
APRIL L. BACCINELLI
PHILLIP L. BALDWIN
JADELYN T. BANIQUED
REBECCA G. BARRERA
MELVENA R. BARTON
GABRIEL M. BELTRAN
AMBER M. BIRKLE
BRIAN D. BLUMHAGEN
MELANIE R. BOWMAN
CHRISTINE BRANDT
RUTH J. BROWNE
REVENIA J. BUCK
LISA K. BUCKLES
MELANIE C. BUDNIK
ADAM R. CAMPBELL
MICHAEL A. CAMPBELL
KATHLEEN E. CASPER
JESSICA CHAVEZ
JESUS CHAVEZ
KATRINA L. CHEEK
SOCHARA CHUMNOEUR
SCOTT A. COLEMAN
JASON M. CRISP
JUDY L. CRUZ
RUBEN D. CRUZ
TANISHA L. CURRIE
EMILIE M. DANKO

ERNESTINA DELAPENAGUBA
TERRI L. DORN
KEDRICK A. DRAKES
DORIS F. DUALAN
JOCELYN A. EVBUOMWAN
GORDON L. FALVEY
JENNIFER C. FIANDT
CATRENA D. FINDLEY
DAVID R. FISHER
ANNEMARIE FLANIGAN
COURTNEY A. FOLDEDERAUER
KATINA M. FOXWORTH
ERICK D. GABRIEL
LAURA GALINDOYOUNG
JENNIFER L. GLEN
HIRAM GONZALEZ
ERICA K. GRANT
MONIQUE E. GRINNELL
TREVOR D. HALL
TRANESSIA M. HANSON
SEAN L. HARRIS
IAN K. HENNEBERGER
TINA L. HILL
RICHARD L. HOWARD
ANGELA S. HOWELL
ERIN M. JACKSON
NORISHA L. JACKSON
LESLEY M. JACOBS
KENNEATTA M. JASPER
MARGO S. JENKINS
MONIQUE S. JESIONOWSKI
CHRISTOPHER C. JOHNSON
LAKEISHA D. JONES
BROOKE L. KAHL
ARIELLE J. KALIN
PAUL H. L. KILEY
MARILYNN M. KNORR
KATIE H. KUZMA
SHARIKA D. LABRIE
JAMES LACOMBE
JAMES LAWHORN, JR.
HEATHER S. LEAL
TRACEY L. LEE
JESSICA E. LIETZ
STACY J. LOSEY
PHILIPP T. LUCKOWSKI
CHANTY M. MACKINS
ALEXIS MARTINEZSUAREZ
JOHN R. MCINERNEY
JOSE MEJIA
JERRY L. MOON
TANYA B. MOORE
JULES R. MYERS
ABISAI NEGRON
JAMIE L. NEUMANN
DANA NICHOLSON
THERESA J. NOWAK
MARIA E. ORTEGAARTACHE
ANDRE J. PACHO
VALARIE R. PALACIOS
SHANDEL L. PANNETON
CHARLES A. PAUL
TABATHA E. PEPIN
THORBJORN K. PERSSON
DEREK L. PIERCE
LYNAE D. PLACE
YURENA PRIETOCORUJO
JEFFREY L. QUAN
KRYSTAL J. RALL
NATHAN R. RAVE
CONSUELO N. REED
AUDREY N. RICHERT
ALICIA D. ROBINSON
JOSE A. RODRIGUEZ
YAMILLE P. ROPER
JOYCE A. ROSADOHUGHES
JOHN W. ROY
JACQUELINE M. RUSHTON
JAMES M. SCHALK
PATRICIA M. SCHMIDT
STEVE C. SCUBA
YVONNE R. SENDEJO
KELLY M. SHAMLIAN
PATRICK B. SIMON
ADINA M. SIPPPEL
ALISHA L. SOMERO
ESTHER H. SOUTHERLAND
GENNA S. SPEED
KYLE A. STEVENS
LAURA A. STOGNER
JESSICA E. STONE
KIMBERLY L. SUGG
DEBRA L. THORN
ELIZABETH J. TRICOZZI
JORGE A. TRONCOSO
MARY A. G. UGADDAN
ELIZABETH B. VANDERHOOF
MARIELOS VEGA
YASSIR B. VIZCAYA
MARSHA G. WALKER
SHEMICA M. WARD
THOMAS M. WATERS
STEPHEN M. WATT
TIMOTHY C. WICAL, JR.
KELLI C. WILSON
JOHN R. WISDOM
JENNIFER J. WITT
JESSICA M. WOJCIKI
KEVIN T. WORTH
LESEAN A. WRIGHT
JONATHAN G. YOST
TIMOTHY R. YOURK
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

KATHARINE M. E. ADAMS
 KEVIN M. ADAMS
 DAVID L. ADAMSON
 CHRISTOPHER K. ANDERSON
 BRIAN D. ANDES
 DEIRDRE K. BAKER
 KATHERINE R. BANNING
 BRANDON R. BERGMANN
 STEPHEN J. BISHOP
 MICHELLE E. BORGNINO
 MICHAEL G. BOTELHO
 STEPHEN R. CINCOITTA
 LANCE E. CLARK
 GREGORY J. COSTELLO
 FAITH R. COUTIER
 CHRISTOPHER M. COY
 PATRICK A. CROCKER
 DONEL J. DAVIS
 SHEROD L. DAVIS, SR.
 KATHERINE T. DENEHY
 JACK D. EINHORN
 SEAN P. FITZGIBBON
 DAVID L. FORD
 MATTHEW L. FORST
 KRISTEN M. FRICCHIONE
 SAMUEL GABREMARIAM
 MATTHEW C. GALLAGHER
 MARK E. GARDNER
 EMILY E. GEISINGER
 DANIEL M. GOLDBERG
 HOUSTON J. GOODSELL
 TRACY L. GREINERLEE
 KURT S. P. GURKA
 STACEY A. GUTHARTZ COHEN
 JOHN B. HABERLAND
 JACK R. HATFIELD II
 TYLER J. HEIMANN
 BENJAMIN W. HILLNER
 LATISHA IRWIN
 HANNAH E. KAUFMAN
 ELINOR J. KIM
 JAMES W. KITCHEN
 MELVIN A. LEE
 JANAE M. LEPIR
 KURTIS S. MACIOROWSKI
 JOHN H. MARK
 JASON R. MARQUEZ
 CYNTHIA MARSHALL
 EVAN R. MATTHEWS
 PHILIP C. MAXWELL
 BRUCE L. MAYEAUX
 JULIE A. MCCONNELL
 MATTHEW T. MILLER
 DANIEL B. MITCHELL
 JASON W. MOY
 WILLIAM J. OSTAN
 ANGEL M. OVERGAARD
 MAJELLA C. POPE
 AUTUMN R. PORTER
 SETH B. RITZMAN

SEAN D. ROGERS
 KURT M. ROWLAND
 JOHN K. SCHELLACK III
 JOHN L. SCHRIVER
 DANIEL W. SCIALPI
 CRAIG M. SCROGHAM
 CHRISTOPHER S. SEXTON
 RICHARD J. SLEESMAN
 ANDREW D. SMITH
 STEPHEN P. SMITH
 KATHERINE M. SPENCER
 HEIDI M. STEELE
 BRIAN J. SULLIVAN
 BRENT W. THOMPSON
 MICHAEL M. TOWNSEND
 CARRIE L. WARD
 BRITTANY R. WARREN
 JULIE K. WATERS
 DEVON A. R. WELLS
 LAURA B. WEST
 EDWARD J. WHITFORD
 MATTHEW B. WILLIAMS
 JAMES K. WOLKENSPERGER
 HANS P. ZELLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

ROBERT J. ABBOTT
 BRIAN P. ADAMS
 ELIZABETH F. ALLEN
 ALAN APPLE
 EDWARD G. BAHD
 MICHAEL P. BAILEYS
 GREGORY B. BATDORFF
 CHRISTIAN E. BEESE
 EDWARD W. BERG
 JOSHUA F. BERRY
 CATHERINE M. A. BOWERY
 CAROL A. BREWER
 SUSAN A. CASTORINA
 ELISABETH A. CLAUS
 ALBERT G. COURIE III
 JEFFREY S. DIETZ
 CHRISTINE C. FONTENELLE
 DERRICK W. GRACE
 NJERI S. HANES
 TODD J. HANKS
 ERIC A. HETTINGA
 JAMES T. HILL
 ADAM S. KAZIN
 TONY Y. KIM
 KEVIN W. LANDTROOP
 ROBERT M. LEONE
 EDWARD C. LINNEWEBER
 JOHN R. MALONEY
 YOLANDA D. MCCRAYJONES
 EVAH K. P. MCGINLEY
 JOHN J. MERRIAM

DOUGLAS W. MOORE
 JAMES W. NELSON
 ROBERT B. NELSON
 JENNIFER A. NEUHAUSER
 ERIC D. NOBLE
 JOHN M. RATLIFF
 PIA W. ROGERS
 FRANKLIN D. ROSENBLATT
 ROBERT E. SAMUELSEN II
 PHILIP M. STATEN
 ALISON M. TULUD
 ELIZABETH A. WALKER
 MARC B. WASHBURN
 HEIDI E. WEAVER
 ERIC W. WIDMAR
 WINSTON S. WILLIAMS, JR.
 D011857

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

FRANCIS J. RACIOPPI, JR.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JUSTIN C. LEGG

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 3, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID J. HALE, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY.

MARK A. KEARNEY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

GERALD J. PAPPERT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

P. DAVID LOPEZ, OF ARIZONA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2019.