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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 8, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRADLEY BYRNE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2014, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT–59 or S–123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Tuesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 31, 2014, and will be delivered on Monday, January 5, 2015.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at http://webster/secretary/cong__record.pdf, and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at https://housenet.house.gov/legislative/research-and-reference/transcripts-and-records/electronic-congressional-record-inserts. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT–59.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the *Congressional Record* may do so by contacting the Office of Congressional Publishing Services, at the Government Printing Office, on 512–0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman.*

THANKING THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank our fellow Americans and the people of American Samoa for the opportunity they gave me to serve them.

Having grown up in the small village of Vailoatai in American Samoa and having graduated from Kahuku High School in Hawaii, I never expected that the people of American Samoa would choose me to serve them in the U.S.

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House of Representatives from the time they first elected me in 1988 until 2014.

I pay special tribute to them and to the late Paramount Chief A.U. Fuimaono, who served as American Samoa's first elected representative to Washington, D.C. Paramount Chief Fuimaono gave me the opportunity to serve as his chief of staff from 1973 to 1975, and I am grateful for all he taught me.

From 1975 to 1981, it was my honor to serve with the late Congressman Phillip Burton, who was chairman of the House Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs. During my service as his chief counsel, he instructed me with drafting legislation providing for the first elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa and for American Samoa to be represented by a Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. I will always be grateful and thankful for the opportunity that I had to participate in such an historic undertaking for and on behalf of the people of American Samoa.

After my service with Chairman Burton, the late Senate President, Paramount Chief Letuli Toloa encouraged me to come home and ai le pefu ma savali le ma'ama'a, which means, come back home to ''eat the dust and walk on the rocks'' so that I could feel the people's pains and sufferings and so that I might be able to serve them with more meaningful purpose.

I followed his advice, and as I look back over my life of service, had I not returned to American Samoa to live among our people, it would have been impossible for the people of American Samoa to have entrusted me to serve them for nearly four decades at home and abroad.

As I now leave this great institution, Mr. Speaker, I once more express my love for the people of American Samoa and to all my fellow Americans. I also want to express my love to my dear wife, Antonina Hinanui, who is from Tahiti, and our children for standing beside me throughout my years of service.

I express my love for my late father, Eni Fa'aua'a, Sr., and my dear mother, Taualaitufanuaimeaatamali'i. I also want to thank my siblings for their unwavering support.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I publicly want to thank my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, in the House and the U.S. Senate. We have worked together in close cooperation for many years, and I will always be grateful for their steadfast friendship, as well as their constant support for the initiatives I put forward on behalf of the people of American Samoa.

I especially want to thank our fellow Democratic leader NANCY PELOSI. My service with the late Congressman Phillip Burton, who was like a father to me, led to my friendship with Congresswoman PELOSI. Congresswoman PELOSI and I have been family since our Burton days, and I am grateful that she has been a part of my life for all these years.

I am also proud that Congresswoman PELOSI became the first woman in U.S. history to serve as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Congresswoman PELOSI will always hold a special place in my heart.

I thank my friends from around the world, including diplomats and world leaders from Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Taiwan, both North and South Korea, China, India, Hong Kong, and elsewhere, for their friendship and support.

I also want to thank my staff in Washington, D.C., and in American Samoa for their loyalty and dedication to me, to our Nation, and to the people of American Samoa.

Above all, I thank my Heavenly Father for his guidance and protection.

I go forward, Mr. Speaker, knowing that the best is yet to come and hoping that I will be remembered for trying my best. For the times I fell short, I ask for forgiveness.

To each of my colleagues and to you, Mr. Speaker, I extend my kindest and highest regards. May God be with you always. Fa'afetai ma ia Soifua, meaning, in the Samoan language, thank you, and may peace be with you always.

CRISES IN VENEZUELA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, stability in the Western Hemisphere is in jeopardy due to the political and economic pressures occurring in Venezuela. Misguided financial decisions, attacks on entrepreneurship, and socialist policies have led the economy in Venezuela to a free fall.

With oil prices continuing to decrease, Venezuela is suffering from large budget shortfalls due to its large dependency on oil sales. To try to make up for the deficiency, the Venezuelans have a foreign debt of over $100 billion and have had to cut its oil shipments to some Caribbean and Central American nations.

This paradigm shift can lead to an opening for the U.S. to get more involved in the region and deter the large democratic setbacks that we have experienced in recent years.

Venezuela's economic crisis is combined with its political problems and, Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge this body to stand in solidarity with the freedom-seeking people of Venezuela. Nicolas Maduro's intransigent, brutal regime continues to desperately and violently silence dissonant voices who believe in freedom, in democracy, and in respect for human rights.

Just last week, democracy advocate Maria Corina Machado was summoned to a kangaroo court in Caracas. This courageous woman was, until recently, a member of the Venezuelan National Assembly until she was illegally removed from her seat in Congress by the Venezuelan thugs. Why was she removed from that seat? Because she spoke up for the people of Venezuela.

Before she was removed unjustly from her legislative seat, she was physically assaulted on the floor of the National Assembly. Yes, on the floor of the Venezuelan Congress, she was beaten up.

Maria Corina, despite being banned from leaving her country, continues to use the power of her voice to spread awareness about the violence and the corrupt nature of Nicolas Maduro's brutal regime.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, her case is not an isolated incident. Earlier this year, savage repression met the thousands of students who peacefully demonstrated, seeking a better Venezuela. Maduro, in desperation, used his National Guard and paramilitary forces to savagely quash the protest. During that time, innocent people were injured, arrested, and even killed, unarmed demonstrators killed by Nicolas Maduro. Seventy-two of those students remain in prison today, as well as two mayors who are in prison and opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, another brave voice for freedom like Maria Corina.

Here is Leopoldo Lopez. He remains in solitary confinement in Ramo Verde military prison under the poorest of conditions and without regular access to visitors and all denying his due process. His wife, children, family, and friends are not allowed to freely visit him, Mr. Speaker.

His case caused international outcry from Amnesty International, stating that the charges against him are politically motivated and an assault on dissent in Venezuela.

More recently, the United Nations working group on arbitrary detentions, along with that body's top human rights officials, demanded the release of Leopoldo Lopez as well as the release of all of those who have been detained for exercising their legitimate right to express themselves freely.

In response, the Venezuelan regime stated that the U.N. body's decision was nonbinding on them, and so these innocent civilians remain in prison.

The Venezuelan people have been met with intimidation, with violence, with imprisonment for simply calling for respect for human rights and democratic freedoms in their own country.

So the United States must stand with them in their struggle for freedom. That is why this body passed H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act, in May, a bill that I authored. The bill targets Venezuelan officials by denying them visas to enter the United States, blocks their property, freezes their assets, and prohibits financial transactions of these thugs responsible for committing human rights abuses against the people of Venezuela.

I call on the Senate to pass the Venezuela sanctions legislation immediately to send a signal that these abusive tactics by the Maduro regime will have consequences.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Venezuela are sending us a distress signal, and the United States must stand ready to act for the cause of freedom, democracy of our own hemisphere. Democracy leaders like Leopoldo Lopez and Maria Corina Machado are counting on us.

HONORING HARRIET TUBMAN'S LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MAFFEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, in this Nation's great history, the life of Harriet Ross Tubman is certainly a life worth recognition by this Congress and this country.

Harriet Tubman, born Araminta Ross in 1822, dedicated her life to the emancipation movement as a leader of the Underground Railroad that provided enslaved African Americans a pathway to freedom in the North. She served for the Union Army during the Civil War and as a caregiver for the elderly by establishing the Tubman Home for the Aged in Auburn, New York, where she lived out her life.

She suffered from traumatic brain injury throughout her life after she was hit as a teenager with a heavy weight by a slave overseer who was trying to subdue another enslaved person. She was an advocate for women's rights and worked to get women the vote. After settling in Auburn, she dedicated much of her life and effort to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church there.

In 2008, the National Park Service completed a special resource study to determine the most appropriate way to recognize the life of Harriet Tubman. The Park Service eventually came to the conclusion that a park should include two geographically separate units. One would be a tightly clustered set of buildings in Auburn, New York, and the other would include large sections of landscape that are evocative of Tubman's life both as a slave and as a conductor of the Underground Railroad on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The Harriet Tubman National Historical Parks Act, which I introduced, aims to further commemorate the life of Harriet Tubman by establishing the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Dorchester County, Maryland.

Harriet Tubman Historical Park is located in Auburn, New York, and the part of that that includes historical structures like the Tubman home, the Tubman Home for the Aged, the AME Zion Church that she went to, and the Fort Hill Cemetery where she is buried.

Mr. Speaker, last week this House passed legislation as part of the armed services authorization bill to establish a park in Tubman's honor. This week I hope the Senate will also pass this legislation and send it to President Obama for his signature.

It is completely appropriate that this provision should be included, for, though not as well known as her activity on the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman was one of our first African American women military veterans. She volunteered her time and efforts, traveling to the South to help the Union war effort by helping fugitives and serving as a nurse to Union soldiers in Port Royal, South Carolina.

□ 1215

Eventually she was leading bands of scouts through the land around Port Royal, where her ability to travel unseen and fool her adversaries made her an ideal spy. Her group, working under the orders of the Secretary of War, made maps and collected important intelligence that aided the Union capture of Jacksonville, Florida.

Subsequently, Tubman became the first woman to lead an armed assault during the Civil War. When Union Colonel James Montgomery and his troops attacked plantations along the Combahee River, Tubman went with them and guided three steamboats around confederate mines in the waters leading to the shore. More than 750 enslaved African Americans were rescued in the Combahee River raid and, according to the newspapers at the time, most of those newly liberated men went on to join the Union Army, largely due to Tubman's recruiting efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Harriet Tubman lived for freedom and worked hard to extend freedom to hundreds of others. In doing so, she earned the Nation's respect and honor. A century after her death, I am proud to have worked so hard to establish a fitting memorial to her.

I truly believe that Harriet Tubman's example of inner strength, persistence, her love of freedom, and her dedication to the Nation based on the principles of freedom makes her as relevant today as she was in her own time.

Mr. Speaker, our time is filled with too much cynicism and people feeling powerless to do much to better our society. We should look to the example of Harriet Tubman, a true American patriot. She was someone for whom liberty and freedom were not just concepts but were principles worth working for and fighting for.

According to Tubman's authorized biographer, Sarah Bradford, when Tubman had escaped from slavery in the Northern States, she said, ''I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything. The Sun came up like gold through the trees and over the fields, and I felt like I was in Heaven.''

We, Mr. Speaker, should look to Harriet Tubman, an enslaved African American woman of slight physical stature and suffering from head trauma, and realize that the glory and heaven that is American freedom is there for us all if we are willing to work for it and to fight for it and to believe in it, as Harriet Tubman did.

SOUTHERN PRESTIGE INTERNATIONAL

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in October, I had the privilege of visiting Southern Prestige International to view firsthand the company's creative and innovative manufacturing solutions.

Based in Statesville, North Carolina, Jim Wilson, one of the most creative and remarkable people I have ever met, started the company in March 1979 as Southern Prestige Industries. In 2013, this family-owned business joined with partners Jeff Eidson and Joey Chambers to form a new company, Southern Prestige International, and focus on future opportunities.

Currently, Southern Prestige International has two operating companies, ProEdge Precision and Specialty Perf. ProEdge Precision is an advanced manufacturer of precision machine components for the aerospace, defense, medical, energy, and commercial industries. Specialty Perf is a soft-goods perforator, producing specialty products for signage, advertising media, and food packaging, as well as one-way vision, energy diffusion/control, and medical products.

Although its business has taken on different forms over the years, today Southern Prestige International is a place where experience and confidence have prevailed to forge an advanced manufacturing business that understands the needs of its customers.

During my visit, I had the opportunity to meet with employees as well as local leaders in workforce development before touring the company's two manufacturing operations. ProEdge Precision currently employs about 35 people, and during the visit, Mr. Chambers told me he could see the company doubling its workforce in the next few years to keep up with increasing demand. However, he also said one of the company's greatest challenges is finding the qualified workforce it needs to be a competitive manufacturer in today's marketplace.

It is my hope that Southern Prestige International will have an easier time finding these employees with implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which aims to close the skills gap by modernizing and reforming our country's workforce development system. By streamlining the jumble of paperwork and red tape that has been prevalent in Federal workforce education programs, this law will provide direct access to education and skills development for in-demand jobs.

During the tour, I saw firsthand the cutting-edge equipment and methods

used by Southern Prestige International and how they take advantage of industry innovations and develop proprietary advances of their own to give customers a competitive edge.

It is clear we need to stop Washington from telling employers every little jot and tittle of what to do and turn the American workforce loose to be productive and innovative, as it has been in the past.

The underlying philosophy of Southern Prestige International is that of customer service and high-quality products. It is clear that there is more wisdom in Iredell County than in Washington, D.C.

A PIECE OF HOME THIS CHRISTMAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the United States has our military all over the world, and we have for a good number of years. In fact, the United States has been at war for a long, long time.

This year, as we approach Christmas, families across America will gather around to enjoy homemade apple pie and turkey and each other's company, but our men and women in uniform, those volunteers, are still all over the world, protecting and representing the United States. These are America's best. It is the best we have in our country.

In 2005, I had the opportunity to go over to Iraq and see our military during the Christmas season. But before I left, I decided I would ask local schoolchildren and their teachers to help make some homemade Christmas cards and holiday cards to give to our troops when I arrived in Iraq.

So that year, after I landed, I took about 5,000 handmade Christmas cards—made primarily by schoolchildren—to our servicemen and -women in Iraq and also in Kosovo. Since that time, children in southeast Texas have been making handmade Christmas cards and holiday cards for our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq and other parts of the world every year, and these cards are either taken overseas by me or they are shipped.

This year, the community in southeast Texas and the schools rallied, and the result is quite outstanding. I am proud to say that this holiday season we will be sending 96,000 handmade Christmas cards and holiday cards to our troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other parts of the world, primarily made by schoolkids in southeast Texas. Remember, Mr. Speaker, these are handmade cards. These are not storebought cards.

These cards were received from various Texas residents. Just to name a few: Kingwood High School, Sterling Middle School, Timberwood Middle School, Goose Creek Memorial High School, Alamo Elementary, Horace Mann Junior High, the Hi Neighbor Club in Kingwood, Houston Methodist Hospital, Baytown Chamber of Commerce, the Baytown school district, the Baytown Housing Authority, Victory Hospital, and Boy Scout and Girl Scout clubs in southeast Texas.

Mr. Speaker, 80,000 of these came from the city of Baytown alone. So a big ''thank you'' to Rikki Wheeler, the executive vice president of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce, as well as to the Baytown schools, hospitals, and organizations for their remarkable contribution and organizing and managing the collection of these cards.

The patriotic spirit of those folks in southeast Texas to me is quite heartwarming, and the outpouring of support from Texans, primarily schoolchildren, is quite exceptional.

I want to thank all of those who have taken the time to bring joy to our troops in lands that are far, far away, those troops who will be separated from their families this Christmas. It is because of the schools, the teachers, and the schoolchildren that this is all made possible every year.

This is a way that people in southeast Texas show appreciation to our troops who are separated from their families this time of the year. Remembering to thank them and send them special greetings is very important.

Many of these schoolchildren have family members overseas who are serving in the military, and this small gesture brings comfort and cheer to all of those involved. A piece of home will mean so much to those who are representing us overseas, and it is possible only because the community volunteers to do this each year.

The simple act of making a handmade card shows the connection between our warriors and our schoolchildren who are thinking about them this time of year. So this Christmas, as Americans celebrate, we remember to say a prayer for those who safeguard America's freedoms.

We thank our volunteers in uniform, and we thank our volunteers who made this season quite special for our military by making these cards.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I will also include for the RECORD a list of other groups who have made holiday cards for our troops.

Advanced Aromatics/GCM High/Chevron Phillips
Aramark/Stuart Career Ctr.-Culinary Arts
Awards & Engraving/St. Joseph's/Byt
Draft'g/Staff'g
Bayer/Clark Elementary
Baytown GMC/Bowie Elem.
Baytown Sun/GCCISD Public Relations
Beacon FCU/Ashbel Smith Elem.
CenterPoint/Gentry Jr.
Chevron Phillips/Crockett Elem.
CRCU/Lamar Elem.
Community Toyota/Highlands Jr.
Crespo & Jirrels/Peter Hyland (ALP)
ExxonMobil/RE Lee High
ExxonMobil/Walker Elem.
ExxonMobil/Travis Elem.
ExxonMobil/San Jacinto Elem.
ExxonMobil/Baytown Jr.
ExxonMobil/Cedar Bayou Jr.
Highlands C of C/Hopper Primary
Highlands Rotary/Highlands Elementary
Houston Methodist San Jac Hosp/RS
Sterling High
Kiwanis Club/Alamo Elem.
LCY/Harlem Elem.
Legacy/Point Alternative
Rotary/DeZavala Elem.
Shine Dental/Impact Early College High School
SNC-GDS/Horace Mann Jr.
Solvay/Carver Elem.
Texas First/SF Austin Elem.
GCCISD Special Olympics
Stuart Career Ctr.
Woodforest/Banuelos Elem.
BCA 2nd Grade Class

AMERICA'S SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask for a moment that my colleagues imagine a situation. Imagine a few years down the road that a Republican President announces he has instructed the Justice Department to no longer enforce the Clean Air Act, that he has told the Justice Department to no longer prosecute violations of the Clean Air Act.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would rise up with frustration and indignation. They would say the President has failed to faithfully execute the laws passed by Congress, as he has been constitutionally required to do, and they would be right to do so.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what is happening in our country today. President Obama has chosen unilaterally not to enforce our Nation's longstanding immigration laws. He has made this decision without any consultation with Congress and entirely on his own.

Think for a moment about the precedent this action sets: that a President can alter longstanding law simply through an executive memo and his words, a President can simply say that he is not going to enforce the law. That would be frightening to all Americans, regardless of political belief.

Let's be clear what this action is not. It is not prosecutorial discretion.

No one doubts that the President has prosecutorial discretion. But this goes far beyond that power and enters into new territory that, frankly, has never before been touched.

I believe this issue was settled long ago, before our country was even founded. You see, in the 17th century in Britain, during this big fight between the King of England and Parliament, the King said that he had prerogative powers, the ability to override Parliament. And there were battles. There were wars in Britain about how this was going to be settled. And the Parliament determined, in consultation with the courts, that the King couldn't, on his own, do that, that he couldn't just simply say, I am going to dispense with the laws or suspend their operations for a period of time.

Our Founding Fathers knew this history well, and when they put together the Constitution of our country, in article II, they had that in their minds when they gave to the President the obligation—not the option—to faithfully execute the laws, all the laws of the United States, regardless of whether the President agrees with those laws or not.

I would say that this type of executive action is clearly not what the Founders had in mind when they drafted our Constitution. The main overriding goal of our forefathers was to prevent the executive from becoming too powerful, and they went to great efforts to ensure a strong system of checks and balances.

President Obama's executive action runs in the face of how our government was designed to operate. Let's also remember that earlier this year, President Obama said his policies—all of them—would be on the ballot in the mid-term elections. And the American people went to the polls and soundly rejected the President's policies. They made clear they were not supportive of more unilateral executive action. They wanted us to work together.

□ 1230

As a Congress, we warned the President not to go forward with this executive action.

Mr. Speaker, we need a solution to our Nation's immigration problem, but by using executive action, the President has made finding common ground far more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this House should rise above the actions of the President, and early next year, we should send the President real border security legislation, much like the border security legislation we passed in this House this past summer, yet the Senate wouldn't even take up.

This House should pass legislation to update and fix the worker visa program. This House should pass legislation to put in place E-Verify for all employers. This House should pass legislation to tighten internal security. Then, and only then, when we go through all of those pieces of legislation, should we even begin to discuss what we are going to do about the millions of people who are in this country illegally.

You see, Mr. Speaker, the more the President acts outside the bounds of his powers, the harder it becomes to actually achieve a solution. It leads me to wonder: Does President Obama actually want a long-term, lasting solution to immigration? His actions imply otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President to rethink his approach to the immigration debate. I urge him to abandon this ill-conceived executive action and, instead, to come to the table and work with the Republicans and Democrats in the Congress and both Houses to find together the commonsense solutions that we need to find for these problems.

We are capable of doing that. That is how our Founders intended our government to operate, and anything other than that is a disservice to the American people.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 8, 2014.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 8, 2014 at 10:37 a.m.:

That the Senate passed H.R. 2366
That the Senate passed H.R. 4812
That the Senate passed H.R. 5108
That the Senate passed H.R. 5462
That the Senate passed H.R. 5739
That the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 120
That the Senate passed H.J. Res. 105
That the Senate passed S. 1447
That the Senate passed S. 1683
That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 45
Appointments:
Katherine Tobin of Virginia, United States-China Economic Security Review Commission.
Tom Girardi of California, Library of Congress Trust Fund Board.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Lieutenant Commander Robert Burns, Chaplain, United States Navy Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Plantation, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we praise You for You have blessed this land with a diverse multitude gathered from every nation, tribe, people, and language. You have bound us together with noble ideals of liberty, justice, equality, and yet we struggle to be one people, a unified Nation.

We pray for all the Members of this House, asking You to bless them with wisdom and discernment to lead our people to reconciliation, to rebuild our Nation's confidence in justice, to restore our sense of equality. Free them from the divisive distractions of any lesser ideals that they may more powerfully serve the people as a House in one accord, making every effort to keep the unity of the people through the bond of peace.

Bless also our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines deployed overseas as they continue to bring peace to this troubled world. We pray in Your Holy Name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO 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.

IMMIGRATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, President Obama significantly overstepped the bounds of his constitutionally granted executive authority when he took steps to grant amnesty to millions of immigrants who are in the United States illegally.

Prior to his unilateral actions, the President himself acknowledged repeatedly that this is not how our democracy functions, and the way to reform this Nation's broken immigration system is legislatively. As they say in North Carolina, the President has ''gone to meddling.'' It is absolutely critical that we go on record against his unparalleled power grab, and Congress must do everything it can to stop his destructive actions.

As the granddaughter of Italian immigrants, I am thankful America has always opened her arms to people looking to build a better way for themselves and their families legally. However, breaking the law to enter the United States should not be rewarded. It is wrong to short-circuit the American immigration process in this manner when there are so many individuals who have waited years for the opportunity to come to this country the right way, the legal way.

RECOGNIZING FIU VP OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STEVE SAULS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of Steve Sauls, who is retiring this month from Florida International University.

As vice president of government relations for Miami's public research university—and my alma mater—Steve has always aimed for a more beautiful day in south Florida.

Early in his career as a House staffer, Steve helped craft the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, opening the doors of opportunity to thousands of Cubans fleeing the oppression of Fidel Castro.

After moving to Miami, Steve was instrumental in creating the International Hurricane Research Center following Hurricane Andrew, helping advance research to make south Florida and the Nation more resilient to hurricanes.

Congratulations, Steve, on a fulfilling career and a well-deserved retirement, and please do enjoy your own fair share of beautiful days in south Florida.

RECOGNIZING PUEBLO EAST BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pueblo East High School football team and their coach, David Ramirez, who claimed their first Class 3A football title.

The Eagles and their opponents, the Rifle Bears, who had an impressive 12-win season, both showed great sportsmanship and determination in the final game, resulting in a 30–14 victory for the Eagles.

All year long Coach Ramirez and his staff instilled confidence in the Eagle team to work hard but most importantly believe in themselves and their quest for a championship. With grit and a long tradition of Eagle pride, a stellar season was realized in the culmination of a State football title. The city of Pueblo is extremely proud of this team. Each coach, player, and the staff of this Eagle football team will stand tall among the great athletic champions in Pueblo sports history.

Mr. Speaker, with Coach Ramirez's leadership and the team's hard work, Pueblo East captured their first football championship in school history while establishing a legacy of dedication and commitment to the game. There is no doubt that future Eagle teams will be inspired to do the same. We are very proud of them.

CORRECTION TO ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 3979, PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979, pursuant to House Resolution 770, the Clerk be instructed to make the correction I have placed at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the correction.

The Clerk read as follows:

In section 3050 of the House amendment, strike ''2013'' and insert ''2014''.

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

There was no objection.

CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT OF 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 770, I call up the bill (H.R. 5781) to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 770, the amendment printed in part C of House Report 113–646 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5781

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF

Sec. 101. Definitions.
Sec. 102. Emergency projects.
Sec. 103. Temporary operational flexibility for first few storms of the water year.
Sec. 104. Progress report.
Sec. 105. Status of surface storage studies.

TITLE II—PROTECTION OF THIRD-PARTY WATER RIGHTS

Sec. 201. Offset for State Water Project.
Sec. 202. Area of origin protections.
Sec. 203. No redirected adverse impacts.
Sec. 204. Allocations For Sacramento Valley Contractors.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Effect on existing obligations.
Sec. 302. Termination of authorities.

TITLE I—CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT.—The term ''Central Valley Project'' has the meaning given the term in section 3403 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (106 Stat. 4707).

(2) DELTA.—The term ''Delta'' means the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Suisun Marsh, as defined in sections 12220 and 29101 of the California Public Resources Code.

(3) NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE LONG-TERM SURVIVAL.—The term ''negative impact on the long-term survival'' means to reduce appreciably the likelihood of both the survival and recovery of a listed species in the wild by reducing the reproduction, numbers, or distribution of that species.

(4) SALMONID BIOLOGICAL OPINION.—The term ''salmonid biological opinion'' means the biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service on June 4, 2009.

(5) SECRETARIES.—The term ''Secretaries'' means—

(A) the Secretary of Commerce; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) SMELT BIOLOGICAL OPINION.—The term ''smelt biological opinion'' means the biological opinion on the Long-Term Operational Criteria and Plan for coordination of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on December 15, 2008.

(7) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of California.

(8) STATE WATER PROJECT.—The term ''State Water Project'' means the water project described by California Water Code section 11550 et seq. and operated by the California Department of Water Resources.

SEC. 102. EMERGENCY PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the priority of individuals or entities, including those with Sacramento River Settlement Contracts, that have priority to the diversion and use of water over water rights held by the United States for operations of the Central Valley Project and over rights held by the State for operations of the State Water Project and the United States obligation to make a substitute supply of water available to the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors, the Secretaries shall direct the operations of the Central Valley Project and allow the State Water Project to provide the maximum quantity of water supplies possible to Central Valley Project agricultural, municipal and industrial, and refuge service and repayment contractors, and State Water Project contractors, by approving, consistent with applicable laws (including regulations)—

(1) any project or operations to provide additional water supplies if there is any possible way whatsoever that the Secretaries can do so unless the project or operations constitute a highly inefficient way of providing additional water supplies; and

(2) any projects or operations as quickly as possible based on available information to address the emergency conditions.

(b) MANDATE.—In carrying out subsection (a), the applicable Secretary shall—

(1) authorize and implement actions to ensure that the Delta Cross Channel Gates remain open to the maximum extent practicable using findings from the United States Geological Survey on diurnal behavior of juvenile salmonids, timed to maximize the peak flood tide period and provide water supply and water quality benefits, consistent with operational criteria and monitoring set forth in the California State Water Resources Control Board's Order Approving a Temporary Urgency Change in License and Permit Terms in Response to Drought Conditions, effective January 31, 2014, or a successor order;

(2)(A) implement turbidity control strategies that allow for increased water deliveries for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project while avoiding a negative impact on the long-term survival delta smelt

(Hypomesus transpacificus) due to entrainment at Central Valley Project and State Water Project pumping plants;

(B) operating within the ranges provided for in the smelt biological opinion and the salmonid biological opinion to minimize water supply reductions for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, manage reverse flow in Old and Middle Rivers at −5,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) unless current scientific data indicate a less negative Old and Middle River flow is necessary to avoid a negative impact on the long-term survival of the listed species; and

(C) show in writing that any determination to manage OMR reverse flow at rates less negative than −5000 cubic feet per second is necessary to avoid a significant negative impact on the long-term survival of the Delta smelt, including an explanation of the data examined and the connection between those data and the choice made prior to reducing pumping to a rate less negative than −5000 cfs;

(3) adopt a 1:1 inflow to export ratio for the increment of increased flow of the San Joaquin River, as measured as a 3-day running average at Vernalis during the period from April 1 through May 31, resulting from voluntary sale, transfers, or exchanges of water from agencies with rights to divert water from the San Joaquin River or its tributaries on the condition that a proposed sale, transfer, or exchange under this paragraph may only proceed if the Secretary of the Interior determines that the environmental effects of the proposed sale, transfer, or exchange are consistent with effects permissible under applicable law (including regulations), and provided that Delta conditions are suitable to allow movement of the acquired, transferred, or exchanged water through the Delta consistent with the Central Valley Project's and the State Water Project's permitted water rights;

(4) issue all necessary permit decisions under the authority of the Secretaries within 30 days of receiving a completed application by the State to place and use temporary barriers or operable gates in Delta channels to improve water quantity and quality for Central Valley Project and State Water Project contractors and other water users, which barriers or gates should provide benefits for species protection and in-Delta water user water quality and shall be designed such that formal consultations under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) would not be necessary;

(5)(A) complete all requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) necessary to make final permit decisions on water transfer requests associated with voluntarily fallowing nonpermanent crops in the State, within 30 days of receiving such a request; and

(B) allow any water transfer request associated with fallowing to maximize the quantity of water supplies available for nonhabitat uses as long as the fallowing and associated water transfer are in compliance with applicable Federal laws (including regulations);

(6) allow any North of Delta agricultural water service contractor with unused Central Valley Project water to take delivery of such unused water through April 15, of the contract year immediately following the contract year in which such water was allocated, if—

(A) the contractor requests the extension; and

(B) the requesting contractor certifies that, without the extension, the contractor would have insufficient supplies to adequately meet water delivery obligations;

(7) to the maximum extent possible based on the availability and quality of groundwater and without causing land subsidence—

(A) meet the Level 2 and Level 4 water supply needs of units of the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Central Valley of California, the Gray Lodge, Los Banos, Volta, North Grasslands, and Mendota State wildlife management areas, and the Grasslands Resources Conservation District in the Central Valley of California through the improvement or installation of wells to use groundwater resources and the purchase of water from willing sellers; and

(B) make a quantity of Central Valley Project water obtained from the measures implemented under subparagraph (A) available to Central Valley Project water service contractors; and

(8) implement instream and offsite projects in the Delta and upstream in the Sacramento River and San Joaquin basins, in coordination with the California Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, that offset the effects on species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) due to actions taken under this Act.

(c) OTHER AGENCIES.—To the extent that a Federal agency other than agencies headed by the Secretaries has a role in approving projects described in subsections (a) and (b), the provisions of this section shall apply to those Federal agencies.

(d) ACCELERATED PROJECT DECISION AND ELEVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the State, the heads of Federal agencies shall use the expedited procedures under this subsection to make final decisions relating to a Federal project or operation to provide additional water supplies or address emergency drought conditions pursuant to subsections (a) and (b).

(2) REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the State, the head of an agency referred to in subsection (a), or the head of another Federal agency responsible for carrying out a review of a project, as applicable, the Secretary of the Interior shall convene a final project decision meeting with the heads of all relevant Federal agencies to decide whether to approve a project to provide emergency water supplies.

(B) MEETING.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convene a meeting requested under subparagraph (A) not later than 7 days after receiving the meeting request.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—Upon receipt of a request for a meeting under this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the heads of all relevant Federal agencies of the request, including the project to be reviewed and the date for the meeting.

(4) DECISION.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which a meeting is requested under paragraph (2), the head of the relevant Federal agency shall issue a final decision on the project in writing.

(5) MEETING CONVENED BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary of the Interior may convene a final project decision meeting under this subsection at any time, at the discretion of the Secretary, regardless of whether a meeting is requested under paragraph (2).

SEC. 103. TEMPORARY OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY FOR FIRST FEW STORMS OF THE WATER YEAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with avoiding a negative impact on the long-term survival in the short-term upon listed fish species beyond the range of those authorized under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and other environmental protections under subsection (d), the Secretaries shall authorize the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, combined, to operate at levels that result in negative Old and Middle River flows at −7500 cubic feet per second (based on United States Geological Survey gauges on Old and Middle Rivers) daily average for 28 cumulative days after October 1, as described in subsection (b).

(b) DAYS OF TEMPORARY OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY.—The temporary operational flexibility described in subsection (a) shall be authorized on days that the California Department of Water Resources determines the daily average river flow of the Sacramento River is at, or above, 17,000 cubic feet per second as measured at the Sacramento River at Freeport gauge maintained by the United States Geologic Survey.

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH ESA AUTHORIZATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretaries may continue to impose any requirements under the smelt and salmonid biological opinions during any period of temporary operational flexibility as they determine are reasonably necessary to avoid additional negative impacts on the long-term survival of a listed fish species beyond the range of those authorized under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

(d) OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS.—

(1) The Secretaries' actions under this section shall be consistent with applicable regulatory requirements under state law, including State Water Resources Control Board Decision 1641, as it may be implemented in any given year.

(2) During the first flush of sediment out of the Delta in each water year, and provided that such determination is based upon objective evidence, OMR flow may be managed at rates less negative than −5000 cubic feet per second for a minimum duration to avoid movement of adult Delta smelt (Hypomesus transpacificus) to areas in the southern Delta that would be likely to increase entrainment at Central Valley Project and State Water Project pumping plants.

(3) This section shall not affect the application of the salmonid biological opinion from April 1 to May 31, unless the Secretary of Commerce finds that some or all of such applicable requirements may be adjusted during this time period to provide emergency water supply relief without resulting in additional adverse effects beyond those authorized under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. In addition to any other actions to benefit water supply, the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce shall consider allowing through-Delta water transfers to occur during this period.

(4) During operations under this section, the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall undertake a monitoring program and other data gathering to ensure incidental take levels are not exceeded, and to identify potential negative impacts and actions, if any, necessary to mitigate impacts of the temporary operational flexibility to species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

(e) TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS TO TARGET PERIOD.—If, before temporary operational flexibility has been implemented on 28 cumulative days, the Secretaries operate the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project combined at levels that result in Old and Middle River flows less negative than −7500 cubic feet per second during days of temporary operational flexibility as defined in subsection (b), the duration of such operation shall not be counted toward the 28 cumulative days specified in subsection (a).

(f) EMERGENCY CONSULTATION; EFFECT ON RUNNING AVERAGES.—

(1) If necessary to implement the provisions of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall use the emergency consultation

procedures under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and its implementing regulation at section 402.05, title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, to temporarily adjust the operating criteria under the biological opinions, solely for the 28 cumulative days of temporary operational flexibility—

(A) no more than necessary to achieve the purposes of this section consistent with the environmental protections in subsections (c) and (d); and

(B) including, as appropriate, adjustments to ensure that the actual flow rates during the periods of temporary operational flexibility do not count toward the 5-day and 14-day running averages of tidally filtered daily Old and Middle River flow requirements under the biological opinions.

(2) At the conclusion of the 28 cumulative days of temporary operational flexibility, the Secretary of the Interior shall not reinitiate consultation on these adjusted operations, and no mitigation shall be required, if the effects on listed fish species of these operations under this section remain within the range of those authorized under the Endangered Species Act. If the Secretary of the Interior reinitiates consultation, no mitigation measures shall be required.

(g) LEVEL OF DETAIL REQUIRED FOR ANALYSIS.—In articulating the determinations required under this section, the Secretaries shall fully satisfy the requirements herein but shall not be expected to provide a greater level of supporting detail for the analysis than feasible to provide within the short time frame permitted for timely decision-making in response to changing conditions in the Delta.

SEC. 104. PROGRESS REPORT.

Ninety days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretaries shall provide a progress report describing the implementation of sections 101, 102, and 103 to the Committee on Natural Resources in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Senate.

SEC. 105. STATUS OF SURFACE STORAGE STUDIES.

One year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide a progress report on the status of feasibility studies undertaken pursuant to section 103(d)(1) to the Committee on Natural Resources in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Senate. The report shall include timelines for study completion, draft environmental impact statements, final environmental impact statements, and Records of Decision.

TITLE II—PROTECTION OF THIRD-PARTY WATER RIGHTS

SEC. 201. OFFSET FOR STATE WATER PROJECT.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION IMPACTS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall confer with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in connection with the implementation of this Act on potential impacts to any consistency determination for operations of the State Water Project issued pursuant to California Fish and Game Code section 2080.1.

(b) ADDITIONAL YIELD.—If, as a result of the application of this Act, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife—

(1) revokes the consistency determinations pursuant to California Fish and Game Code section 2080.1 that are applicable to the State Water Project;

(2) amends or issues one or more new consistency determinations pursuant to California Fish and Game Code section 2080.1 in a manner that directly or indirectly results in reduced water supply to the State Water Project as compared with the water supply available under the smelt biological opinion and the salmonid biological opinion; or

(3) requires take authorization under section 2081 for operation of the State Water Project in a manner that directly or indirectly results in reduced water supply to the State Water Project as compared with the water supply available under the smelt biological opinion and the salmonid biological opinion,

and as a consequence of the Department's action, Central Valley Project yield is greater than it would have been absent the Department's actions, then that additional yield shall be made available to the State Water Project for delivery to State Water Project contractors to offset losses resulting from the Department's action.

(c) NOTIFICATION RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall immediately notify the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in writing if the Secretary of the Interior determines that implementation of the smelt biological opinion and the salmonid biological opinion consistent with this Act reduces environmental protections for any species covered by the opinions.

SEC. 202. AREA OF ORIGIN PROTECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior is directed, in the operation of the Central Valley Project, to adhere to California's water rights laws governing water rights priorities and to honor water rights senior to those held by the United States for operation of the Central Valley Project, regardless of the source of priority, including any appropriative water rights initiated prior to December 19, 1914, as well as water rights and other priorities perfected or to be perfected pursuant to California Water Code Part 2 of Division 2. Article 1.7 (commencing with section 1215 of chapter 1 of part 2 of division 2, sections 10505, 10505.5, 11128, 11460, 11461, 11462, and 11463, and sections 12200 to 12220, inclusive).

(b) DIVERSIONS.—Any action undertaken by the Secretaries pursuant to both this Act and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.) that requires that diversions from the Sacramento River or the San Joaquin River watersheds upstream of the Delta be bypassed shall not be undertaken in a manner that alters the water rights priorities established by California law.

(c) ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.—Nothing in this title alters the existing authorities provided to and obligations placed upon the Federal Government under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.), as amended.

(d) CONTRACTS.—With respect to individuals and entities with water rights on the Sacramento River, the mandates of this section may be met, in whole or in part, through a contract with the Secretary executed pursuant to section 14 of Public Law 76–260, 53 Stat. 1187 (43 U.S.C. 389) that is in conformance with the Sacramento River Settlement Contracts renewed by the Secretary in 2005.

SEC. 203. NO REDIRECTED ADVERSE IMPACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that, except as otherwise provided for in a water service or repayment contract, actions taken in compliance with legal obligations imposed pursuant to or as a result of this Act, including such actions under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and other applicable Federal and State laws, shall not directly or indirectly—

(1) result in the involuntary reduction of water supply or fiscal impacts to individuals or districts who receive water from either the State Water Project or the United States under water rights settlement contracts, exchange contracts, water service contracts, repayment contracts, or water supply contracts; or

(2) cause redirected adverse water supply or fiscal impacts to those within the Sacramento River watershed, the San Joaquin River watershed or the State Water Project service area.

(b) COSTS.—To the extent that costs are incurred solely pursuant to or as a result of this Act and would not otherwise have been incurred by any entity or public or local agency or subdivision of the State of California, such costs shall not be borne by any such entity, agency, or subdivision of the State of California, unless such costs are incurred on a voluntary basis.

(c) RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS NOT MODIFIED OR AMENDED.—Nothing in this Act shall modify or amend the rights and obligations of the parties to any existing—

(1) water service, repayment, settlement, purchase, or exchange contract with the United States, including the obligation to satisfy exchange contracts and settlement contracts prior to the allocation of any other Central Valley Project water; or

(2) State Water Project water supply or settlement contract with the State.

SEC. 204. ALLOCATIONS FOR SACRAMENTO VALLEY CONTRACTORS.

(a) ALLOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior is directed, in the operation of the Central Valley Project, to allocate water provided for irrigation purposes to existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractors within the Sacramento River Watershed in compliance with the following:

(A) Not less than 100 percent of their contract quantities in a ''Wet'' year.

(B) Not less than 100 percent of their contract quantities in an ''Above Normal'' year.

(C) Not less than 100 percent of their contract quantities in a ''Below Normal'' year that is preceded by an ''Above Normal'' or a ''Wet'' year.

(D) Not less than 50 percent of their contract quantities in a ''Dry'' year that is preceded by a ''Below Normal,'' an ''Above Normal,'' or a ''Wet'' year.

(E) In all other years not identified herein, the allocation percentage for existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractors within the Sacramento River Watershed shall not be less than twice the allocation percentage to south-of-Delta Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractors, up to 100 percent; provided, that nothing herein shall preclude an allocation to existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractors within the Sacramento River Watershed that is greater than twice the allocation percentage to South-of-Delta Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractors.

(2) CONDITIONS.—The Secretary's actions under paragraph (a) shall be subject to—

(A) the priority of individuals or entities with Sacramento River water rights, including those with Sacramento River Settlement Contracts, that have priority to the diversion and use of Sacramento River water over water rights held by the United States for operations of the Central Valley Project;

(B) the United States obligation to make a substitute supply of water available to the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors; and

(C) the Secretary's obligation to make water available to managed wetlands pursuant to section 3406(d) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Public Law 102–575).

(b) PROTECTION OF MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be deemed to—

(1) modify any provision of a water service contract that addresses municipal and industrial water shortage policies of the Secretary;

(2) affect or limit the authority of the Secretary to adopt or modify municipal and industrial water shortage policies;

(3) affect or limit the authority of the Secretary to implement municipal and industrial water shortage policies; or

(4) affect allocations to Central Valley Project municipal and industrial contractors pursuant to such policies

Neither subsection (a) nor the Secretary's implementation of subsection (a) shall constrain, govern or affect, directly or indirectly, the operations of the Central Valley Project's American River Division or any deliveries from that Division, its units or its facilities.

(c) NO EFFECT ON ALLOCATIONS.—This section shall not—

(1) affect the allocation of water to Friant Division contractors; or

(2) result in the involuntary reduction in contract water allocations to individuals or entities with contracts to receive water from the Friant Division.

(d) PROGRAM FOR WATER RESCHEDULING.—The Secretary of the Interior shall develop and implement a program, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, to provide for the opportunity for existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractors within the Sacramento River Watershed to reschedule water, provided for under their Central Valley Project water service contracts, from one year to the next.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractors within the Sacramento River Watershed'' means water service contractors within the Shasta, Trinity, and Sacramento River Divisions of the Central Valley Project, that have a water service contract in effect, on the date of the enactment of this section, that provides water for irrigation.

(2) The year type terms used in subsection (a) have the meaning given those year types in the Sacramento Valley Water Year Type (40–30–30) Index.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. EFFECT ON EXISTING OBLIGATIONS.

Nothing in this Act preempts or modifies any existing obligation of the United States under Federal reclamation law to operate the Central Valley Project in conformity with State law, including established water rights priorities.

SEC. 302. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITIES.

This Act shall expire on September 30, 2016, or the date on which the Governor of the State suspends the state of drought emergency declaration, whichever is later.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5781.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5781, the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014, as introduced by our colleague from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Today the House meets once again to provide a solution to the ongoing water crisis in California. The House has been on record twice to provide solutions, and here we are, and we must act again. Although this bill is different from the two prior attempts and reflects significant bipartisan progress towards enacting a solution, we must provide relief, even if it is short-term relief before this Congress adjourns. It is unacceptable for us to give up when Californians are starving and their communities are literally drying up.

Like California, my central Washington district is heavily dependent on irrigated water to support our local economy and our agriculture industry. I understand the importance of having a stable, reliable water source, and I also understand the economic devastation that is caused when the water supply is shut off, particularly when the shutoff is avoidable.

California is in an emergency situation. For years San Joaquin Valley farmers have been fighting against Federal regulations and environmental lawsuits that have diverted water supplies in order to help a 3-inch fish. In 2009 there was a deliberate diversion of over 300 billion—Mr. Speaker, that is billion with a B—gallons of water away from farmers.

Mr. Speaker, let me equate that: 300 billion gallons of water is nearly 1 million acre-feet of water. What is an acre-foot? An acre-foot of water—for 1 year, that is 12 inches of water for a year that was diverted from these farmers.

As a result, thousands of farmworkers lost their jobs, unemployment reached 40 percent in some communities, and thousands of acres of fertile farmland dried up. The same thing is happening today.

As chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, I have traveled to Fresno, California, twice and have seen the effects of natural and manmade drought firsthand. We have held multiple hearings and heard the pleas of communities that simply want the water turned back on and their livelihoods restored.

We have seen farmers who normally help feed the Nation being sent to wait in line at food banks and, in some cases, Mr. Speaker, being served carrots imported from China.

I want to stress that this crisis does not just impact California, but it has a rippling effect across the entire Nation.

California's San Joaquin Valley is the salad bowl for the world and provides a significant share of fruits and vegetables for our country.

Food grows where water flows. When there is no water, our food supply suffers, resulting in higher food prices across the country, higher unemployment, and increased reliance on foreign food sources.

Unlike the last time this body acted on this issue, the Senate did pass its version of the bill in June of this year. I commend Senator FEINSTEIN for her efforts to pass that short-term bill. However, since the bills were so different in their scope, those interested in productive conversations to bridge differences have negotiated in good faith over the last 6 months.

We got very close to a resolution but more time was necessary on agreeing to a long-term bill. In the interim, the measure before us today reflects much of what the Senate passed earlier this year and agreed to in our negotiations to bring some short-term water supply relief to many of those communities in need.

This bill simply allows us to capture some water from storms in this and the next water year and improves data quality when it comes to the existing biological opinions on smelt and salmon. It also protects those communities in the north that are in relatively abundant water areas.

The entire bill, Mr. Speaker, sunsets in September of 2016 to allow more time to negotiate a longer-term solution that not only could help California but other States in the West as well.

This bill is not perfect, but it is a short-term bridge based on productive negotiations between those who want sensible solutions to the California water crisis. This bill, while very limited in scope, helps protect the jobs and economic livelihoods of farm families and workers and communities that are in dire need of water.

The people of the San Joaquin Valley cannot wait any longer for Congress to act. As the title of this bill suggests, it is truly an emergency for many, and time is running out. Those communities facing massive unemployment deserve nothing less.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues in the last two Congresses for working together to get us this solution. This is the latest iteration of that, and I want to commend them.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, Congressman VALADAO's bill, H.R. 5781, the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014, is a northern California drought relief bill; it isn't a California drought relief act.

It was introduced last week without hearings, without markups, without consultation with the House Democrats, and without any consultation or input from local water agencies, State agencies, cities, and/or tribes.

This bill is being rushed to the floor without the input of critical California leaders throughout the State. It focuses primarily on providing more Bay-

Delta water to Central Valley farmers at the expense of other users. This bill would require mandatory increases in pumping to Central Valley agriculture, which could force water managers throughout the State to cut water deliveries to southern California, to other urban water users, and, of course, to fisheries, which is a mainstay of many of the tribes in California.

□ 1415

This could also lead to less fresh water in the delta and higher levels of salt and contamination in the water being pumped down to southern California.

The White House states the President will veto this bill because ''it fails to equitably address critical elements of California's complex water challenges,'' and ''the bill appears to include a number of potentially conflicting mandates which can cause confusion and undermine environmental laws, making it ripe for future litigation.''

Senator BOXER says she opposes the bill because ''it could reignite the water wars by overriding critical State and Federal protections of all of California.''

Mr. Speaker, I have some of the statements of opposition. One of them is The Sacramento Bee who has come out opposing the bill because ''any legislation affecting California water policy deserves a full hearing with input from the varied interests in northern California, the Central Valley, and the south.''

Mr. Speaker, we must work in a bipartisan manner to address this drought crisis for the whole State and certainly not in secret and behind closed doors.

I have introduced H.R. 5363, the Water in the 21st Century Act, and Representative HUFFMAN has introduced H.R. 4239, which would provide drought relief to all of California with its water conservation programs, its water recycling projects, its groundwater improvement operations and storm water capture solutions, including desalination and title XVI.

House Democratic proposals have been excluded from this bill, H.R. 5781. There have been past attempts in past Congresses to pass certainly some proposals our legislation has proposed today, and it has failed.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD statements of opposition to this bill from the White House, from Senator BOXER, The Sacramento Bee, American Rivers, the League of Conservation Voters, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Golden Gate Salmon Association, the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association, and the California Environmental Water Caucus, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I urge us not to pass this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,

Washington, DC, December 5, 2014.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 5781—THE CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT OF 2014

(Rep. Valadao, R–CA, and 6 cosponsors)

The Administration opposes H.R. 5781 because it fails to equitably address critical elements of California's complex water challenges. The Administration appreciates the efforts by the bill authors to address concerns raised by the Administration regarding H.R. 3964, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act. However, because H.R. 5781 makes operational determinations regarding the use of limited water resources during the ongoing drought, and contains many new provisions that could lead to unintended consequences or further litigation, the Administration cannot support the bill in its current form.

The Administration takes seriously the ongoing drought that has affected communities, producers and water users across much of the country, including the especially hard hit State of California. Since the President's visit to Fresno, California earlier this year the Administration has undertaken a number of steps to help those most affected by drought. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has directed millions of dollars in food, conservation and emergency water assistance to tens of thousands of residents in areas hardest hit by drought. The Bureau of Reclamation has provided cost-share assistance for nine water reclamation and reuse projects in the State as well as millions of dollars in grants to build long-term resiliency to drought.

Moreover, the President has directed Federal agencies to work with state and local officials in real-time to maximize limited water supplies, prioritize public health and safety, meet state water quality requirements, and ensure a balanced approach to providing for the water needs of people, agriculture, businesses, power, imperiled species and the environment. Among other things, these efforts took form in a 2014 Drought Operations Plan, prepared in close coordination with the State, and the Administration is already taking steps to prepare a new drought plan for 2015 based on lessons learned and the best available science during the current year.

H.R. 5781 was introduced on December 2 and is being considered in the few remaining days of this session without a hearing or opportunity for the public to review and provide comment. In particular, the bill appears to include a number of potentially conflicting mandates which can create confusion and undermine environmental laws, making it ripe for future litigation. Given the complexity of California water issues, policy determinations over the use of scarce water resources should be developed in an open and transparent manner, with an ability for the public, affected stakeholders, and Federal, state and local officials to review and provide comment and feedback. The Administration stands ready to work with Congress in this regard.

For these reasons, if the President were presented with H.R. 5781, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.

SENATOR BARBARA BOXER, D–CALIFORNIA

H.R. 5781

''I have carefully studied the Republican water bill and I am dismayed that this measure could reignite the water wars by overriding critical state and federal protections for California. The GOP's proposal would dictate specific pumping levels—regardless of the opinions of scientists—which could jeopardize our state's salmon fishing industry.

''We have communities across the state that are hurting from this drought, so we need a balanced approach that doesn't pit one stakeholder against another, and meets the needs of all of California's water users.''

[From The Sacramento Bee]

EMERGENCY DROUGHT BILL DESERVES TO DIE

(By the Editorial Board)

House Republicans intend to jam through a California drought-relief bill early next week that would suspend some state water rights and environmental law to maximize water diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

This is no way to address an issue as important to California as water. It is doomed to fail in the Senate and deserves to die. California's congressional delegation should be working on a compromise that involves all interested parties, not ramming through a bill during the final days of the lame-duck session.

Late Friday, the Obama administration came out in opposition to the bill, saying in a statement that ''it fails to equitably address critical elements of California's complex water challenges'' and ''the bill appears to include a number of potentially conflicting mandates which can create confusion and undermine environmental laws, making it ripe for future litigation.''

Central Valley Republicans have proposed the bill, HR 5781, and plan to bring it to a vote as early as Monday without going through committee hearings. The new bill deserves a full public hearing so that we know its full implications for California.

The House Rules Committee won't allow amendments to this problematic bill, which is unfortunate. The 26-page bill is replete with technical language, directed at environmental laws and regulations governing California water policy.

Rep. Jared Huffman, D–San Rafael, told the Rules Committee that the bill, like a previous version, would micromanage the state's water system without input from federal, state or local water officials. He warned that it would violate state environmental laws, misstates federal water contract law, and would have negative implications for fisheries and Indian water rights.

Rep. David Valadao, R–Hanford, who introduced the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014, claimed the bill has bipartisan support and approval of California's Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

Boxer, however, made clear she opposes the bill, saying in an emailed statement to The Bee: ''The problem here is that Republicans insisted on a secretive process, and only bad things can happen when your process is secretive . . . and now they are trying jam through legislation that will only reignite California's water wars.''

On Friday, Feinstein said in an email to The Bee, ''There are some provisions in HR 5781 I support and there are some provisions I don't support, so we'll have to wait and see what action the House takes.''

Feinstein dropped talks with House Republicans in November and said she would reopen negotiations in January. That is a reasonable approach. Any legislation affecting California water policy deserves a full hearing with input from the varied interest in Northern California, the Central Valley and the south.

The bill is backed by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R–Bakersfield, Rep. Tom McClintock; R–Elk Grove; Rep. Doug LaMalfa, R–Richvale, and others who would export water to Central Valley and Southern

California at the expense of the environment and other water users.

The drought is hurting farmers and cities; it is challenging for all of us. However, a near-unanimous California Legislature approved placing a $7.5 billion water bond measure before voters, showing that changes in state water policy can be achieved through consensus.

But trying to remedy the problem for some Californians while excluding others from the discussion will, like Boxer said, reignite water wars.

AUDUBON CALIFORNIA, AMERICAN RIVERS, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION, CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, CLEAN WATER ACTION, CONSERVATIVES FOR RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP, EARTHJUSTICE, ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION, EPIC-ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER ENVIRONMENT AMERICA, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, GREENPEACE, INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESOURCES, KLAMATH FOREST ALLIANCE, LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION, NORTHCOAST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION OF FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS, SIERRA CLUB, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS,

December 5, 2014.

PLEASE OPPOSE H.R. 5781

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to urge you to oppose H.R. 5781, (Valadao, R–CA), a bill that would dramatically weaken protections for salmon, migratory birds, and other fish and wildlife in California's Bay-Delta estuary, and the thousands of fishing jobs in California and Oregon that depend on the health of these species.

This legislation would roll back environmental protections for salmon, migratory birds, endangered fish and wildlife, and other native species in California's Bay-Delta watershed, in order to significantly increase water exports out of the largest estuary on the West Coast. The bill would revise and override protections required under the Endangered Species Act and substitute political judgment for existing scientific determinations. It would undermine protections for migratory birds, expediting water transfers that could harm wildlife habitat and undermining water supply for the state and federal wildlife refuges. This complex legislation could greatly interfere with state water rights and cripple the ability of state and federal agencies to manage limited water resources for all beneficial uses, yet it has never been subject to a single committee hearing or input from the State, hunting organizations, sport and commercial fishermen, tribes, and conservation groups.

California's ongoing drought—not federal environmental laws protecting salmon and other fish and wildlife—is the reason for low water supplies across the state. H.R. 5781 attempts to scapegoat environmental protections for the lack of rain and snow, and it threatens thousands of fishing jobs in California and Oregon that depend on healthy salmon runs from the Bay-Delta. The closure of the salmon fishery in 2008 and 2009 resulted in thousands of lost jobs in these states. The livelihoods of commercial and recreational salmon fishermen, Delta farmers, fishing guides, tackle shops, and communities across California and along the West Coast depend on the environmental protections that H R. 5781 would eliminate.

California has already lost more than 90 percent of its existing wetlands and in the current drought conditions, migratory birds are crowding onto the small remaining habitat areas, suffering from decreased food and increased risk of disease. H.R. 5781 would further exacerbate the extremely difficult conditions facing migratory birds in California by threatening the minimal water supply and degrading conditions on federal and state wildlife refuges, and impacting the important private lands that these birds rely upon as they migrate up and down the Pacific Flyway.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose H.R. 5781 and any other last-minute attempts to undercut the existing balance of rights among the users of the California Bay-Delta watershed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), the author of the previous bill that I had mentioned in my opening remarks.

Mr. VALADAO. Thank you, Chairman HASTINGS. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of my legislation.

Mr. Speaker, since taking office, ensuring the Central Valley has reliable access to clean, high-quality water has been my number one priority. My constituents are suffering through a drought, and they have suffered more these last few years because of the laws that are in place today.

We have got regulations that require that we basically send water that should be going to communities, to homes, and to farms that create jobs and grow food, and that water is being diverted out to the ocean all in the name of a fish.

We have got so many different people living in this valley, from farm workers, to farmers, and to business owners, all different types of folks that represent this, and this has affected every single one of them. It has affected everybody down to their just regular daily lives.

When you think about how simple it is for someone to just turn on the faucet, be able to take water, put it in a cup, and put it in their coffeepot in the morning, that is what we are talking about today.

We have had wells go dry. We have got communities in my district today that are literally watching and in the process of looking to drill four, five, sometimes six wells, just to get enough water into the household. It is something that is very frustrating.

Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation is a very, very simple patch. It is a short-term bill. As the chairman mentioned, the bill expires at the end of September next year, or when the Governor decides the drought declaration is over.

The bill is simple, and it is very specific that it does keep in place all protections of the Endangered Species Act, the biological opinions and others that have been put in place to protect the environment, but this does give a little more flexibility to those agencies to allow some pumping to help these poor communities.

We have got people in food lines today. We have got people who are trying to feed their families and trying to earn an honest day's wage, and this is actually hurting those people, the people that my friends across the aisle always claim to want to help the most.

This is a simple, very small piece of legislation, the majority of which was introduced by a Democrat in the Senate, with just a few provisions that were changed. This isn't a surprise legislation that we passed out of the House, a lot more complicated, a lot more comprehensive. It covers the issue, and it creates a long-term solution. Again, this is a short-term solution that helps provide some security.

The bill helps all Californians, especially those south of the delta, including those in southern California, because there is about 20 million Californians that rely on water from northern California. Across the board, this is a piece of legislation that helps all people in California be successful, feed their families, and take care of their daily life. It is something that I feel is very reasonable.

Mr. Speaker, we work across the aisle as much as we can. We have worked on this issue for 6 months now, but it is a complicated issue, and we have a lot of outside interests that want to see this prevented, but it is all, again, over a few bad laws that need to be changed.

All we are asking today is for a short-term fix, give us enough time to give these people a little bit of breathing room, a little bit of fresh water for their houses, and something that could really, truly make a difference in their lives, and they are trying to stop it. It truly is sad. We are here at the last possible minute.

The most important aspect to this bill and the reason why it is so important that we pass it today is, if we don't get something done this week, we have to wait for the next Congress. The next Congress starts in January. From there, we have got to wait a few more weeks before a bill gets introduced, passed, and goes through the process again, and we start all over.

In that time, we will miss out on all the rain that could possibly—we are in a drought, but we did have some rain last week. We could have some more rain in the next 2 weeks, maybe a month, and that is an opportunity that we will be wasting if we don't take care of this legislation today and get this passed.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my colleague from northern California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

May I add that I am very thankful for his many years of service to this House and to the Nation, especially the State of California on water issues.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks, and I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, once again, we find ourselves in a situation where a group of people in the Central Valley—a small number of farmers in the Central Valley—have decided that if they can't have it their way, they are just going to roll over the process.

Now, we are confronted with a piece of legislation that was, in fact, much of it was withdrawn by the Senator from California because it became apparent to all of the interests in the State that there were no public hearings, there was no public participation, and it was a very narrow group of people sitting in the back room in the Capitol of the United States drafting legislation, where essentially everybody except the people in that room take a hit. The people in the room get a benefit.

How do they get the benefit? Because they extract more water than you can currently extract and still keep the State whole. They extract more water from a vibrant, commercial fishing industry. That is why the Senators in Oregon and the Pacific Fisheries Association are against this legislation.

This is a fishing industry that is worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and they are at risk if you operate under this legislation because this legislation overrides what the State agencies, what the Governor, what the Federal agencies, and what the Secretary of the Interior did this last time.

Mr. Speaker, when we got two surprise storms in March of this year, we went back to the drawing table, and we figured out how we could get more water out of this system to help these farmers in the Central Valley. That was a good faith effort. That was done within the law.

Now, what they want to do is eviscerate that law, take away those safeguards, and say, ''We are going to take additional water out this system.'' When they take that additional water out of the system, they take that additional water out of the water quality of hundreds of thousands of people who drink the water from the delta and rely on a fresh water supply.

We are quite aware of what happens in these dry years, and if you keep turning the pumps on, those people are going to start sucking—those water districts are going to start taking saltwater out of the delta. They take it at the expense of the delta farmers who pump water in the delta. That water will become saltier and saltier, and they will not be able to plant their crops. They have limited time to plant their crops, as it is, under these droughts.

Everybody in this State is paying a price for this drought, but now, in the eleventh hour of this Congress, this group of farmers, these very powerful, small people—these very powerful, small people—have decided they are going to do it this way. We have seen this before.

We have worked year after year to get agreement, and when they can't get their way, they go off to a private meeting, they draft legislation, and that collapses all those talks, and then we start over again. This is about the third or fourth time we have been here because it is their way or the highway, and they absolutely expect that they can take water.

These are people who have a contract right. They have a contract right that is variable because they have the lowest water rights in the State, and so what they are trying to do is to say they get to get in line in front of everybody else in the State in exercising their water rights.

The fact of the matter is we understand exactly what this is going to do. That is why The Sacramento Bee, the Central Valley newspaper, the Fresno Central Valley newspaper said that this bill deserves to die. This bill deserves to die.

Mr. Speaker, I want to praise Senator BOXER for alerting the Members—they talked about working across the aisle. They worked across the aisle, but not with members of the House delegation who represent this impacted area who stand to lose these jobs and who stand to lose millions of dollars of economic activity.

I am not suggesting things are right for the people in the Central Valley or right for people in the State. Our whole State is suffering from a drought, but now, this is an eleventh hour attempt to say that we don't like the way you are coming together to do this, and we are going to take ours first.

This is contrary to what the State legislature did on a bipartisan basis and with the participation of legislatures from the Central Valley, from Southern California, from the Imperial Valley, and from north California.

This is contrary to what the State and Federal agencies did to try and work out and to get additional water, as we did in March. This is contrary. This is contrary to what the State legislature said about these being coequal values.

You have to protect the northern delta region, the origins of this water, and you have to try to have sustainable water deliveries to southern California. The legislature, again, on a bipartisan basis agreed to that.

Then, on the bond issue, overwhelmingly, State legislatures voted to put a bond on to try to deal with the drought, a rather remarkable issue, with the support of the Governor. Legislatures from southern California, from the Central Valley, and from north California voted to put it on the ballot.

The public across the State—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents from every region of the State—voted overwhelmingly to support the bond issue, and now, in the eleventh hour, this small group of people think that they can come and turn those expressions of State legislative intent, of State law, of Federal law, and of State environmental quality laws.

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

Ms. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, we cannot let this happen. The suggestion is that, somehow, there is free water floating around out in that system and somebody is denying it. All of the water in this current system, especially in this drought, is for purposes to try to maintain a great Pacific coast salmon run that is tens and tens and tens—hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity from the mouth of San Francisco Bay almost to Santa Barbara and from the mouth of San Francisco Bay almost to the Washington-Oregon border.

This impacts across State lines and the economy that that generates, the economy that that generates in the hospitality industry and the tourism industry, and the economy that generates in the delta. Yes, there have been cutbacks. There have been cutbacks. We have all had cutbacks, all of us; but now, you just don't get to go take your neighbor's water. You don't get to go do that.

We will try and try again, and with these storms, I assume there is going to be a renewal of the effort that was successful. It was successful for the Central Valley, it was successful for the biological opinions, and it was successful for the delta farmer; yet we moved a little additional water that we hadn't anticipated.

Now, with these storms, hopefully, we will be able to do the same things, but to write into the law that all of that water must always be moved as long as this law is in place is absolutely contrary to the interests of the rest of the State of California, whether they are in northern California or whether they are in the Central Valley or whether they are in southern California.

That is how we try to move this policy forward. It is a much better policy today than it has been in the past, but we have got to have this open hearing. We have got to discuss this among all of the members of the California delegation, among all of those who represent the taxpayers of this Nation.

The idea that you can just go into a room in the eleventh hour because you know the session is ending, and you are going to say, ''we have greater merit than anybody else, we are going to change this law,'' that is not the democratic process.

That is not the proper representation of the people we represent in the State of California, and it is absolutely contrary to what the State government has done and accomplished, what they have done and accomplished together with the Federal agencies, to try and make this work recognizing the incredible hardship that every region in our State is under.

The State is investing billions of dollars, and the private sector is investing billions of dollars to try to make us water efficient, to try to capture more

water and anticipate the building of dams.

All of these things are being done, but the idea that you can just come in and say: Well, you know what, we are tired with the process, we are impatient, even though we just voted for the bond issue, we are going to take our water now, and you do the best you can.

□ 1430

They are saying: You do the best you can. You do the best you can if that is your drinking water in towns across Alameda County. You do the best you can if that is the water you farm with. You just do the best you can. If it is too salty and raises health concerns and you can't grow your crops, that is tough because we are coming in line first. We are going to step in front of everyone else.

What you are going to ignite here with the passage of this bill, you are going to take us all back in time. As Senator BOXER pointed out, this reignites the California water wars, something that we tried to move away from, and we have made progress. I appreciate that those who are impatient and who think that they are given a greater right than in fact they are to water, that they believe now that they can just take it from their neighbor—just take it from their neighbor—that is an unacceptable process.

That is why Senator FEINSTEIN withdrew from these negotiations, said she would come back next year and go through regular order and have the hearings that the people of California are entitled to so they know what is going on. And those of us who represent very disparate parts of the State will be able to participate and have hearings and understand how California together cannot only solve the current problem in terms of impacts, but also prepare the State for what most people tell us will be a series of droughts by changing the manner in which we manage water.

Everybody has to put into that pot, but this is somebody just reaching into the pot and saying: I am taking mine first and you all do whatever you want because we have changed the laws of the State, we have changed the laws of this Nation, we have overwritten the biological opinions from the courts, and we have overwritten the basic environmental laws of the State and the Nation. So we are going to get ours first, and then you do the best you can after that.

Those ramifications ripple across billions of dollars in our economy, just as this drought has rippled across billions of dollars in our economy because of the hardships in agriculture and the shortening of seasons in fishing.

I urge my colleagues not to support this legislation and demand that we have an open process and that we do not cave in to the same group of people who have been trying to do this for 50 years.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, California's regulatory drought was causing enormous economic damage and human hardship long before the historic natural drought that has now stricken the State. And through all of those years, the House has passed legislation repeatedly to address it.

Finally, after years of inaction, the Senate produced a modest measure to provide very limited flexibility for water managers to deal with it. This bill largely reflects those provisions. It is a temporary, stopgap measure that suspends no environmental laws and no regulations. It simply tasks Federal water managers to conserve our water for beneficial human use to the maximum extent possible once all State and Federal environmental and water rights laws have been fulfilled. Let me repeat: the bill explicitly requires all environmental laws and regulations to be adhered to. All the House added to the Senate bill are provisions to strengthen water rights for areas of origin by adding Federal protection over these rights.

During the worst drought in California's history, we continue to release billions of gallons of water from our dams just to adjust river temperatures for the fish. Sadly, this bill doesn't even affect this wasteful practice. But during the next year and a half, it does give limited flexibility to water managers within these laws. That is important because we are getting some rainfall this season, and once all of the environmental laws have been fulfilled, we desperately need to store what surplus remains for what could be another very dry year.

To take that surplus above and beyond what is needed to meet all of our environmental mandates and dump it into the Pacific Ocean, as my colleagues on the left suggest we should do, is nothing short of lunacy. The fact that this very modest bill has evoked such apoplexy from the left is a measure of just how extreme and out of touch they have become. I wish this bill did much more, but it is a start.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for the opportunity to speak on H.R. 5781, the California Emergency Drought Relief Act.

Mr. Speaker, we have been here before, and we will be here again until Congress acts to provide authority for increased operational flexibility for California's water projects. The American Geophysical Union released a report last week that indicates, according to some of the measures they are taking, that the 2012–2014 drought affecting California is the worst in 1,200 years. The 2014 drought is responsible for part of the greatest absolute reduction to water availability to agriculture that we have ever seen. But we can operate the projects differently for different outcomes.

The water modeling experts in the area I represent have indicated to me that without additional authority to move water, unless California receives 150 percent of its normal average rainfall this year, which is unlikely, the water allocation on both the east side and the west side of the San Joaquin Valley will be zero. Last year it was zero, and next year it will be zero.

But urban users in the bay area and southern California, they will get water. The fish, they will get water. But the folks on the east and west side of the San Joaquin Valley will get a zero water allocation unless we exceed 150 percent of normal. I would like the House to think about that. We are talking about 2 years without surface water that forms the basis of the economy of the region. The results are an immediate impact to farmworkers and their families, to farmers, and to the farm communities. This isn't some esoteric discussion about precedent; this is about people's lives and their livelihoods that are at stake.

Economists at UC Davis estimated that in 2013 the California economy lost $2.2 billion in economic output as a result of this drought. For my friends whose primary concern is environmental protection, the loss of surface water supplies for the valley means that farmers are forced to turn to groundwater, and they are overdrafting that groundwater in substantial manner.

This is a crisis. The situation this year has been devastating, and if we do nothing, next year it will become catastrophic.

H.R. 5781 is not perfect nor is it a bill that will solve all of California's problems. We need to fix a broken water system. However, it is a bill that provides, for 18 months, the flexibility for the movement of water which is now not being moved. And it does so responsibly by preserving the Secretary's discretion to reduce pumping to prevent additional harm to endangered species. It will only take advantage when we have storms. It does not change the biological opinions, and it does nothing to move water rights in front of someone else, as the previous speaker said. It has a sunset on it.

There will be debate about others ways to assist in drought recovery, but this is the measure we have before us now.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It will help the San Joaquin Valley. It will help all of California to get by during the devastating effects this drought is having. It is not a panacea. And yes, we need to work together, but as far as igniting water wars, gee, I don't think they have ever subsided. There are still historic differences.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

The fault lines on water in California everybody on this floor knows. They are deep and they are historic and they have existed for decades. It is because we have this broken water system. We have a water system designed for 20 million people. We now have 38 million people.

To provide water for the people, for the environment, and to maintain agriculture, of which we are the largest agricultural State, we need to work. We need to work together.

There were some comments about the secret meetings. Gee, if this has been a secret as we have been working together for 8 months now, it is one of the worst-kept secrets in Washington this year, I think. The fact is this provides us a modicum of relief. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, but we need to do much more.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his service to this House and this country. You will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank those who have worked so diligently on this bill, like Congressman DAVID VALADAO. He understands the need. And we are not here today because we haven't thought that we might have this problem. I have stood in this well before with Congressman DEVIN NUNES, looking ahead, trying to be prepared so we can have water throughout California, looking prepared that government, creating a drought when we still have rain and snowpack.

Do you realize 4 years ago we had 170 percent of snowpack, but only 80 percent of the water was allocated to come down through the valley? The valley not just feeds California, not just feeds the Nation, but feeds the world.

When the valley does not get water, the price of food goes up to all. But you know what is even more important? Those that go out of work. I have watched many elected officials come to this well and talk about unemployment. They say unemployment is below 6 percent. Let me tell you what unemployment is throughout the valley today. There are some cities that have more than 30 percent unemployment. The number one factor—water. So what does the world look like today even though not just this Congress but the Congress before it moved legislation to deal with this issue. We are now at a 1,200-year drought. That is much longer than the entire life of this Nation.

So if we are at this time, why do we bring this bill before us? I think we should have honesty in this bill. This is not the bill I would write. This is not the bill I would bring forward. This is a bipartisan bill where people on both sides of the aisle sat down. We said we need a temporary bill that lives within these means.

So do we change endangered species? No, we do not. What does this bill do? It says, in the rainy season when the flood waters are high, can we not move water down through the valley. That is what this bill does. It also has a safeguard that, if the fish are harmed, to stop.

Does this bill go on forever? No. It goes the length of September or to the length of what the Governor has declared within the drought.

Now, I know government cannot make it rain, but government can stop the government policies that pick fish over people. Government can prepare ahead of time that, if we are going to have a rainy season coming, we allow the water to have the best use of where it goes, that it protects the fish while at the time allocates water to the valley so everyone wins in the process. That is why it was bipartisan. That is why we sat together. That is why it is temporary. That is why this bill is brought before us today.

I would like to thank everybody on both sides of the aisle that worked for it. But what is unfortunate, some people will say things it is not. The most important thing we should do in this House is make sure fairness is provided. I think the greatest fairness that should be provided is being prepared for when water comes. But what is even more important is looking at the faces of the 30 percent unemployed, looking at the faces throughout that valley and saying it does not have to be that way. Government can make a difference if both sides would work together as we did to craft this bill.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 13½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Washington has 17½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

Now, why would an Oregonian insert himself into the perpetual water wars in California? Well, first off, this bill has had no hearings. As you can see from the debate here on the floor, there is extraordinary disagreement over the potential impacts of this legislation. That is not just critical to Californians, it is critical to Oregonians.

I have a letter here from the Pacific Fishery Management Council. They believe that this could have a hugely detrimental impact on some audit species which compose about 80 percent of the California fishery and about 50 percent of the fishery in Oregon.

We went through this before about a decade ago where there were inadequate outflows. There were problems with the forge fish, the smelt, and the returning salmon, and we had a season that was closed for 2 years. It put many, many Oregonians out of work. There was impact beyond commercial fisheries and coastal communities on recreational fisheries. It cost us hundreds of millions of dollars. We got a couple of hundred million dollars in Federal relief.

□ 1445

The experts, the Pacific Fishery Management Council and their lawyers who have read this bill, believe it does change the management of the water in ways that are detrimental and would void the biological opinion and would probably put us back into another couple of ''no fishing'' years a few years down the road given the cycle of salmon, particularly, section 103(d)(2) and section 103(c).

I have heard here on the floor, despite the fact no hearing has been held—the bill just burbled up very recently—that on one side they are saying, ''No, don't worry, it will not have a detrimental environmental impact, and, if it does, well, we will stop doing it.''

But I just looked at that section of the bill and it doesn't quite say that definitively. In fact, it changes the standards, and then it says, ''If additional negative impacts might happen, then the Secretary could suspend some of the provisions of this bill.'' Not exactly certainty, and we need some certainty here for our fisheries.

We have been hurting for years. Last year, we had a good year, thankfully. We are still dealing with buybacks because of reducing the size of the fleets from past problems. Fishermen are burdened with the buyback year in, year out. I just got the terms of that adjusted in the NDAA. They had a payday loan from the Federal Government. Now we got them a reasonable loan from the Federal Government. The government didn't even pay for their buyback. Heck, in the Northeast, they paid for a couple of buybacks. No, we had to pay for our own with a payday loan. Now we are going to jeopardize the fleet 1, 2, or 3 years out because we won't have the returns with the endangered species.

So this is a bad idea to do in the waning days of a Congress, to bring forward a bill which is controversial, over which there is disagreement on the actual language in the provisions of the bill, and which my experts, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, say would be detrimental and would cause those problems.

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL,
Portland, OR, December 6, 2014.

Hon. JARED HUFFMAN,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HUFFMAN: Thank you for your letter of November 17 and follow-up on December 3 requesting Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) comment on

legislation related to operation of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project in California (HR 5781) and its potential impacts to fisheries. Although the timing of the bill did not allow for full Council deliberation, we present the following concerns, which are consistent with previous comments the Council has made on similar legislation. Absent changes in the legislation to address these concerns, the Pacific Council does not support HR 5781 moving forward.

HR 5781 would override Endangered Species Act protections for salmon, steelhead, and other species in the Bay-Delta in order to allow increased pumping from the Delta in excess of scientifically justified levels. These measures also protect salmon stocks not currently listed under the ESA, which are a primary source of healthy sport and commercial fisheries from Central California to Northern Oregon. The bill introduces a new standard for implementing the Endangered Species Act concerning Central Valley salmon and Delta smelt, a keystone species in the Bay-Delta ecosystem. (See Sec 101(3), and 102(b)(2)(a).) It is unclear how severe the negative effects of this new standard might be, but it would certainly impact current water management policy that protects ESA listed salmon stocks from further decline and helps prevent currently healthy stocks from becoming listed under the ESA.

The bill contains several provisions that override the salmon and Delta smelt biological opinions (for example Section 103(d)(2), Section 103(c), and others). Section 103 could result in dramatically higher pumping than is authorized under the biological opinions, and would cause significant harm to migrating salmon and steelhead and other native species. The 1:1 inflow to export ratio for the San Joaquin at Vernalis overrides the 'reasonable and prudent alternatives' to standard operations that were set out in the 2009 Central Valley biological opinion in order to protect Sacramento River winter-run Chinook and other salmonid species. Further degradation of salmon habitat is contrary to the provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Act (Sec. 305(b)(1)(D)) and something the Pacific Council strongly opposes.

Section 103(f)(2) provides exemptions for mitigation of negative effects on listed fish species, which alleviates the project from compensating fisheries for negative effects of its operations; it is unclear if there is an exemption for mitigation of negative effect on non-listed salmon stocks. Exempting mitigation responsibility for harm to salmon populations provides the exact opposite incentive to the kind of salmon protection and enhancement advocated by the Council, and essentially amounts to redistributing the value of salmon fisheries to agricultural or municipal interests, as well as increasing the risk to ESA listed fish stocks threatened with extinction. Additionally, the Pacific Council is concerned about whether Central Valley projects are achieving their current mitigation responsibility, and providing these exemptions could preclude seeking remedy. If this bill moves forward, it should provide direct mitigation for the proposed actions and risks to which it would subject fish populations and fishing communities, not avoiding this appropriate responsibility.

In 2008 and 2009. $158 million in Congressional aid was provided to deal with the disaster of the closure of ocean salmon fisheries off California and Oregon south of Cape Falcon due to a collapse of the Sacramento River salmon stocks. These fisheries are an important source of jobs for coastal communities, which cannot be replaced simply through disaster relief. Without adjustments to this bill, we fear such a disaster could be repeated in the reasonably near future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this legislation; please don't hesitate to contact me or Ms. Jennifer Gilden of the Pacific Council office if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

D.O. MCISAAC, PH.D.,
Executive Director.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES), author of the original, long-term bill that passed in the last Congress.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, listening to the rhetoric that is coming from the other side, I am reminded of the old saying about the Soviet Union: if you tell a lie long enough, eventually people will believe you.

There is hardly anything coming from the other side of the aisle that is even remotely close to the truth. I don't have enough time to go through it all, but let me just hit the high points.

Number one, let's start with the facts on the table. Most of the population in California lives in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area or Los Angeles, which mostly Democrats represent, and which is the home of the 1 percent in California. The poor people that they continue to make more poor are my constituents because they have taken their water and dumped our water out into the ocean.

Let's take the example of San Francisco in the Greater Bay Area. They get their water not only from the delta, but also the United States Congress passed legislation in the early part of last century that allows water to be piped over from Yosemite National Park directly over to the Bay Area.

This is our water. This water should be going to the San Joaquin Valley. They have given up none of that. You have a Member who has been here for 40-some years who made the claim that some people are reaching in and taking their water. Well, no, it is the opposite. Once again, if you tell a lie long enough, I guess you think eventually people will agree with you or believe you.

This is about San Francisco and Los Angeles getting all of their water, never giving up one drop, and they have taken the water from our communities. As the majority leader said, we have communities that continue to suffer 20, 30, or 40 percent unemployment while the 1 percent on the coast say nothing, do nothing. They complain about it. They give big subsidies to their salmon fishery buddies and the environmental community. We have other people on the other side of the aisle who made their whole careers making millions of dollars off of lawsuits, bringing lawsuits against the farms, that remain undisclosed in the dark today.

So, Mr. Speaker, we need to get the truth out on the table here.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. NUNES. So what we are doing here now is, we have been working diligently with Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER, but you have one of the Senators decide that she didn't want to come up with a solution. We got the bill from being permanent down to just an 18-month temporary bill. We have floodwaters today that are not being pumped that historically were pumped. We have communities that are completely out of water, 100 percent out of water, yet the 1 percent, they don't care.

I have heard a lot about the 1 percent around this place. The rhetoric from the other side, that rhetoric represents the 1 percent. We represent the people that are unemployed because of their 1 percent policies.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can get back to the truth. If we can get this bill passed, it gives the Senate an opportunity to amend the bill, send it back in the waning days of this Congress. If they cannot, then we have to start back in January with new legislation.

But, in the meantime, people are out of work, cities are out of water, towns are out of water, rural homes are out of water, schools are out of water, churches are out of water, because the folks on the other side of the aisle spent 40 years taking water away and keeping it for themselves.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I have heard the impassioned speech, but it is not our water. It is California water.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), the ranking member of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

This is always a difficult issue. It is a California issue, and I want to point out that the California delegation is not evenly split on this. It is unevenly split. The reason is the gentleman just talked about what he called ''facts.'' His points of what he was making are not true.

As the ranking member indicated, the chair, she indicated that this is public water, public water that is transported in the State by publicly financed canals, both by the Federal Government and by the State government. This is water that is supposed to balance for all California. It is all publicly owned and distributed, mostly to the private sector in the San Joaquin Valley.

Now, we have a drought. Everybody knows it. It is a disaster. The President declared it that. What we ought to be doing in Congress is paying for that disaster, like we pay for every other disaster. This bill doesn't do it. I was a coauthor of the original bill, but I am not cosponsoring this one, and I am not supporting this one because what this does is not deal with the problem of getting money to California to build the infrastructure that we need for offstream storage and things like that.

What it does is disrupt a balanced system that has flexibility. We have been through the worst drought, and there have been flexible releases given this year. We solved it administratively. But to put it in law I think is very harmful. It is going to cause more lawsuits, more dissension, and we are back to, as Senator BOXER indicated, square one and not being able to find resolution.

Now, you argue that, well, we are the leading ag State. I am the leading ag county: $4.8 billion worth of agriculture. We don't get a drop of this water. We find our own water in our own county. Frankly, we are reducing the amount of use in agriculture tremendously by drip irrigation and other forms of agricultural use.

So I think that the danger here is in the last minute of this Congress we are taking a bill that is extremely controversial and trying to pass it in the last minutes when we really need to resolve this thing so it is a balance for all of California, not just a few.

I think this is very harmful for our State, and I hope that those who are not from California will oppose the bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman HASTINGS, and a special thanks to my friend and colleague Mr. VALADAO for introducing this legislation.

Why is somebody from Illinois standing on the floor of the House to talk about a bill that affects California? Well, this chart says it all: California crops, 99 percent of the almonds, 99 percent of the figs. Go down this chart and you can see how it impacts every single family that I represent in central Illinois. 800,000 people in my congressional district go buy these products in our stores. The cost of not doing something to affect this historic drought is costing them and their families more to eat these products, healthy products, that come from the Central Valley of California.

When you have over 800,000 acre-feet of water being released, fresh water being released into the ocean, that is enough water for 800,000 families to use for a year. We are simply asking for flexibility that has a direct impact on every single family in this country. It has an impact on my families that I represent, and that is why I am so proud to stand here and support this legislation.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the amount of time that is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 8 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Washington has 13½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

Some of our colleagues from other States may be experiencing a sense of deja vu right now. Yes, this is the second time this year that the House has voted on a California water bill that would harm northern California fisheries, tribes, and communities; that would undermine State law; that would deprive water managers of the flexibility they need; and it would micromanage the complex water system of California.

To make sure we are all dealing with the same facts, I want to remind my colleagues that the State and Federal water export pumps in the delta right now are operating at more than 5,000 cubic feet per second.

The only reason they are not pumping even faster is not to protect fish and wildlife, not because of the Endangered Species Act, none of the other bogeymen that we hear as a justification for this bill. No, the reason those pumps are not going even faster is because of standards set by the State of California to protect water quality from municipal and industrial and agricultural and other uses in the system.

So the only way that this bill could deliver more water today—well, there is no way it could deliver more water today—and the only way it could deliver more water in other times of the year is by taking it away from other water users and other beneficial uses in our State.

With that inconvenient fact out of the way, let's talk about the process that brought us here today. H.R. 5781 has never been reviewed by the authorizing committee, let alone marked up in open session. Nor have we received the input of State or Federal agencies that have the responsibility over clean water and fisheries management. Nor have we received the input of affected local water agencies, of commercial and recreational fishing interests, of tribes—including ones that I represent—or other communities that will surely be impacted negatively if this were to become law.

The proponents of this bill say that it is the result of bipartisan collaboration. Really? Those of us who represent northern California's fishing industries, tribes, farmers, and communities have been systematically kept out of the room and even kept out of the conversation.

Last month, we learned that members of our State's Republican delegation refused to even brief Senator BARBARA BOXER if northern California Democrats like me were even in the room.

This is no way to negotiate something this important. It is a terrible precedent for other States as well, and that is why I am glad that Senator BOXER has been so clear in stating her opposition to it, that it would ignite water wars in California, not solve problems, and I am glad that over the weekend we received a veto recommendation from the Obama administration.

Now, on Saturday, the Pacific Fishery Management Council sent me a letter about the bill. I asked them how they felt it would affect western fisheries in this country. Here is what they said:

H.R. 5781 would override Endangered Species Act protections for salmon, steelhead, and other species in the Bay Delta in order to allow increased pumping from the delta in excess of scientifically justified levels.

In 2008 and 2009, $158 million in congressional aid was provided to deal with the disaster of the closure of ocean salmon fisheries off California and Oregon south of Cape Falcon due to a collapse of the Sacramento River salmon stocks. These fisheries are an important source of jobs for coastal communities, which cannot be replaced simply through disaster relief. Without adjustments to this bill, we fear such a disaster could be repeated in the reasonably near future.

Mr. Speaker, I will include this letter in the RECORD at this time.

PACIFIC FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL,
Portland, OR, December 6, 2014.

Hon. JARED HUFFMAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HUFFMAN: Thank you for your letter of November 17 and follow-up on December 3 requesting Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) comment on legislation related to operation of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project in California (HR 5781) and its potential impacts to fisheries. Although the timing of the bill did not allow for full Council deliberation, we present the following concerns, which are consistent with previous comments the Council has made on similar legislation. Absent changes in the legislation to address these concerns, the Pacific Council does not support HR 5781 moving forward.

HR 5781 would override Endangered Species Act protections for salmon, steelhead, and other species in the Bay-Delta in order to allow increased pumping from the Delta in excess of scientifically justified levels. These measures also protect salmon stocks not currently listed under the ESA, which are a primary source of healthy sport and commercial fisheries from Central California to Northern Oregon. The bill introduces a new standard for implementing the Endangered Species Act concerning Central Valley salmon and Delta smelt, a keystone species in the Bay-Delta ecosystem. (See Sec 101(3), and 102(b)(2)(a).) It is unclear how severe the negative effects of this new standard might be, but it would certainly impact current water management policy that protects ESA listed salmon stocks from further decline and helps prevent currently healthy stocks from becoming listed under the ESA.

The bill contains several provisions that override the salmon and Delta smelt biological opinions (for example Section 103(d)(2), Section 103(c), and others). Section 103 could result in dramatically higher pumping than is authorized under the biological opinions, and would cause significant harm to migrating salmon and steelhead and other native species. The 1:1 inflow to export ratio for the San Joaquin at Vernalis overrides the 'reasonable and prudent alternatives' to standard operations that were set out in the 2009 Central Valley biological opinion in order to protect Sacramento River winter-run Chinook and other salmonid species. Further degradation of salmon habitat is contrary to the provisions of the Magnuson Stevens Act

(Sec. 305(b)(1)(D)) and something the Pacific Council strongly opposes.

Section 103(f)(2) provides exemptions for mitigation of negative effects on listed fish species, which alleviates the project from compensating fisheries for negative effects of its operations; it is unclear if there is an exemption for mitigation of negative effect on non-listed salmon stocks. Exempting mitigation responsibility for harm to salmon populations provides the exact opposite incentive to the kind of salmon protection and enhancement advocated by the Council, and essentially amounts to redistributing the value of salmon fisheries to agricultural or municipal interests, as well as increasing the risk to ESA listed fish stocks threatened with extinction. Additionally, the Pacific Council is concerned about whether Central Valley projects are achieving their current mitigation responsibility, and providing these exemptions could preclude seeking remedy. If this bill moves forward, it should provide direct mitigation for the proposed actions and risks to which it would subject fish populations and fishing communities, not avoiding this appropriate responsibility.

In 2008 and 2009 $158 million in Congressional aid was provided to deal with the disaster of the closure of ocean salmon fisheries off California and Oregon south of Cape Falcon due to a collapse of the Sacramento River salmon stocks. These fisheries are an important source of jobs for coastal communities, which cannot be replaced simply through disaster relief. Without adjustments to this bill, we fear such a disaster could be repeated in the reasonably near future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this legislation; please don't hesitate to contact me or Ms. Jennifer Gilden of the Pacific Council office if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

D.O. MCISAAC, Ph.D.,
Executive Director.

Mr. HUFFMAN. In addition, California's recreational and commercial fishing interests sent a letter on Friday with their concerns that this legislation would ''harm, potentially disastrously, the communities, families, and thousands of fishing jobs in California and Oregon that depend on the health of the Bay Delta and its salmon runs.''

Mr. Speaker, I will include their letter in the RECORD at this time as well.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 5781

DECEMBER 5, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to urge you to oppose H.R. 5781 (Valadao, R-CA), a bill that would dramatically weaken protections for salmon and other fish and wildlife in California's Bay-Delta estuary and its tributaries. This legislation would harm, potentially disastrously, the communities, families and thousands of fishing jobs in California and Oregon that depend on the health of the Bay-Delta and its salmon runs.

H.R. 5781 would undermine existing legal protections for salmon, endangered species, and other species in the Bay-Delta ecosystem, in order to pump more water out of the most important salmon producing system south of the Columbia River. For example, the bill would rewrite and override protections required under the Endangered Species Act and replace the best available science with political micro-management. Those ESA protections also benefit fall run Chinook salmon, the backbone of the salmon fishery. This legislation would also undermine existing federal law, which establishes fish and wildlife protection and salmon restoration as a co-equal goal of the Central Valley Project. It would attempt to redirect water dedicated by law to restoring fisheries and ecosystem heath. By requiring a massive new groundwater development project, this legislation has the potential to divert tens of millions of dollars away from ecosystem restoration, including salmon restoration projects. Such groundwater development would likely also reduce surface waters needed by salmon.

This damaging legislation has never been subject to a single committee hearing or input from the State, hunting organizations, sport and commercial fishermen, tribes, and conservation groups. Frankly put, this last-minute legislation is a cynical water grab. It doesn't address the cause of the drought, nor does it offer solutions. Instead, it is simply an effort to legislate the destruction of the environment and the salmon industry.

The very real water shortages experienced in parts of California this year are a result of three dry years, not environmental protections. Real solutions to the impacts of the drought include agricultural and urban water use efficiency, water recycling and other tools that can meet our needs and that don't sacrifice our environment and fisheries. This legislation addresses none of those solutions.

This legislation could not come at a more damaging time. 2015 represents the first year that drought affected salmon year classes will return as spawning adults. We anticipate a significant, perhaps dramatic, reduction in returning salmon during 2015–2017. The coming three years will be a critical time for the salmon industry. This is not a theoretical concern. In 2008–2009, three years after record diversions from the Bay-Delta, low salmon populations led to the complete closure of the salmon fishery. This legislation could help lead to a repeat of that disastrous closure. The standards protecting salmon today are too low already. Further rollbacks could have a devastating impact on salmon runs that have already been harmed by drought.

Our salmon industry is valued at $1.4 billion in economic activity annually. The industry employs tens of thousands of people from Santa Barbara to northern Oregon, including in California's Central Valley. This industry consists of commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, fish processors, marinas, coastal communities, equipment manufacturers, tackle shops, the hotel and food industry, tribes, and the salmon fishing industry at large. All of these economic sectors and individuals could be harmed by damaging federal legislation. We all respectfully request your leadership to protect our future.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose H.R. 5781 and any other last-minute attempts to undercut the existing balance of rights and protections among the users of the California Bay-Delta watershed. California's drought requires real solutions, not a return to the imbalanced policies of the 1940s and 1950s.

Thank you for your consideration.

JOHN MCMANUS,
Golden Gate Salmon Association.

ZEKE GRADER,
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

DICK POOL,
Water4Fish.

ROGER THOMAS,
Golden Gate Fishermen's Association.

MARK GORELNICK,
Coastside Fishing Club.

LARRY COLLINS,
San Francisco Crab Boat Association.

□ 1500

At the Rules Committee debate, I raised a series of important technical questions about flaws in this bill. Unfortunately, the House majority has decided that it cannot be amended through an open rule.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HUFFMAN. If we did have the benefit of a hearing or even just an opportunity to amend through an open rule, we may be able to address some of these, but so far, nobody has answered some of these key technical questions.

First, does the bill allow the State water board, basically, to do its job if we head into a fourth year of a critical drought, doing things like issuing curtailment orders and possibly rationing orders? These are tough calls that our State's water referee has to make. This bill does not appear to allow them the flexibility to do that.

Does the bill, which directs the Federal Government to ''provide the maximum quantity of water supplies possible'' next year, allow the Federal Government to do other things necessary to operate the system, like filling reservoirs, holding water for public health purposes, or—when it might be needed—even for other water contractors?

Does the bill put additional pressure on the Trinity River, which I represent, and the tribes that have depended on it for their traditions and their subsistence on healthy salmon populations for millennia?

There are many other questions that are unanswered about this bill. It is not ready for prime time, it is not good policy, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. LAMALFA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for working with me in this committee on this important topic.

Mr. Speaker, I am a farmer in northern California, and when I hear talk of the water wars being reignited, it has been a one-sided war, with the amount of farmers and people that work in the Valley. They haven't had the bullets to be in a water war because we have been losing for a long time.

Hundreds of thousands of acre-feet that have been diverted already in the past adds up to millions over the years for other uses, besides what has been going in the North Valley, South Valley, and Central Valley.

I heard this comment a while ago. Powerful, small people were how legislators looked at us in the valley—powerful, small people. Do these folks

standing in the unemployment line look powerful to you? Do the farmers who have been fighting against this for years and years look powerful when we keep losing these battles one after another? To build more storage, we would have water for everybody in California.

This measure here today would help everybody in California that is part of State water projects or the Central Valley Project. Twenty million people in California would see additional benefit by taking—and here's the concept here, folks—excess water during high flows that now would be just flowing out to the Pacific.

We are not taking water during the middle of the season any more than what would already be in the established regime. This is the excess water you would see during flood periods or the high flows that do happen when we have rainfall and water thundering down the Sacramento River, the Feather River, and San Joaquin River during those high flows. We are taking that excess water and reprogramming it, so it can benefit more people. It doesn't take anything from the fish regime or any of that type of concern.

We hear the stuff coming from the other side of the aisle that has continued, whether it has been for 40 years or just recently, to distort what we are trying to do here to make more water for California, which is in its third year of a huge drought—as Mr. MCCARTHY said, what looks like a 1,200-year record for droughts—and about stopping this temporary measure that would help to cause a little bit of excess water be retained to help the people like this to have jobs.

We hear we need jobs in California. We are talking about immigration bills. Let's help people have jobs to live the dream. What about the people that are already here? What about the people standing in that line that have conditions that look like this, with the crops in our State being left fallow, these trees and these vines being stumped or completely pushed out because we can't have a vision, all because we have the typical rhetoric, which I have been listening to as a farmer when I was outside of this place and now today on this floor—and probably many more times—that says we can't build any storage because of this?

It is a new regime which respects the already-established protocols. This doesn't take away the power from the State water board or the other boards in place. If you would actually read the bill, you would see in it those provisions are kept in place by the Governor and by the water boards. All the entities that have authority over it can step in and say, ''We think this is going to affect the fish, the water regime, or any of the others.''

I urge that we support this measure today, and I ask that we listen to what is in the bill and not listen to the rhetoric and the lies.

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

I am the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Water and Power, and I read this information in the newspaper. Nobody ever contacted me. I had no idea the formulation of this particular bill was going on.

When we talk about unemployment, it is nice to trot out pictures and show what the effect is, but I see nothing in this bill that is going to help the farm workers themselves, nothing that is going to provide more wet water, create water, whether it is through recycling, desalination, or conservation—all the things that southern California has been doing.

Let's not forget that 80 percent of the water used is for agriculture and 20 percent is for industrial, commercial, and residential; so there is a little bit of a disparity there, my friends.

I really am looking at how we move towards working on a bipartisan basis. We don't want to argue. We want to make resolutions by working together, and that is not happening. Maybe it is something that I have said—I am not sure, Mr. Speaker—but I am more than willing to sit down between now and next year when we have this bill come to the light of the day, if it is reintroduced, and we can have an honest discussion about the effects it has.

Also, when we talk about California's 35 million residents, only 12 million reside in L.A. County, part of the county that I represent. That is not including San Bernardino, Riverside, or San Diego, so we talk about the boaters in southern California getting the shaft for not getting the water and paying more for that water.

When we are looking at water distribution, I suggest that we sit and actually work openly and transparently. We oppose this secretly written Central Valley-focused legislation. We hope that we are going to continue the dialogue because, yes, California, is a donor State. We need to be able to continue providing that for the rest of the Nation, so that we can have a better economy and a growth in our agricultural area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to oppose H.R. 5781, the so-called California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014, which should be called the CVP California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 10½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me just make a couple of points here before I yield back my time. This has been a very interesting debate. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, I attended two hearings in Fresno, California, particularly on this issue, and saw firsthand the impact of what the natural drought and the manmade drought has done to the San Joaquin Valley.

My friends on the other side of the aisle stated a number of newspapers that editorialized against this. Mr. Speaker, I will insert into the RECORD a Fresno Bee editorial of December 6 saying that the Valadao bill, which is H.R. 5781, should be passed.

[From The Fresno Bee, Dec. 6, 2014]

FACTS SUPPORT PASSAGE OF DROUGHT RELIEF LEGISLATION

One of the oldest rules in politics is, when the facts are on your side, you cite the facts; when the facts aren't on your side, you pound the table.

Over the last few days, opponents of The California Emergency Drought Relief Act, which was introduced in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, have been yelling about water grabs, protesting the timing of the bill's introduction and doing all they can to divert attention from the facts—both pertaining to this legislation and to the cruel realities of our state's prolonged drought.

So, let's start with the facts.

This drought is the worst that California has experienced in at least 1,200 years. So says a study published by the American Geophysical Union and cited by a Washington Post blog Thursday. Not only have we received little rain, but the lack of precipitation has been intensified by record-breaking high temperatures. Moreover, the fertile agricultural fields of the San Joaquin Valley are suffering through an ''exceptional drought,'' the most severe classification.

Yes, it has rained lately in California. Thank goodness it has. But much more rain is needed to restore our aquifers, fill our reservoirs reverse the economic hardship inflicted on our state and, in particular, the Valley, by the drought.

The bill (H.R. 5781) introduced by Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford and supported by GOP leadership provides the flexibility and resources to give farmers in the Valley and elsewhere a fighting chance to grow their crops and put people back to work in 2015. In a nutshell, the bill would allow the Bureau of Reclamation the freedom to hold more winter rain and snow and then distribute it to areas in need. Not only would this flexibility help farmers and rural communities, but it would benefit the environment as well.

This legislation is the product of months of talks and negotiations earlier this year involving Republican and Democrats in both the House and the U.S. Senate and is the result of thoughtful compromise. The bill doesn't amend the Endangered Species Act or existing biological opinions. It leaves decision-making about habitat, protected species and water quality to federal environmental agencies. But it would reduce the flow of water through the Sacramento-Joaquin River Delta to the Pacific Ocean and pump more water to the south—as long as that pumping doesn't harm protected fish such as delta smelt, salmon and steelhead.

Moreover, these changes would be temporary, as they would end in September of 2016 or upon the governor ending California's drought declaration.

Opponents are trying to paint this bill as detrimental to the environment and the result of secret negotiations. Again, let's examine the facts. In a phone interview with The Editorial Board on Friday, Rep. Jim Costa, D-Fresno, pointed out that this proposal is similar to Sen. Dianne Feinstein's bill that was passed under unanimous consent by the Senate in February.

Passage of Feinstein's Emergency Drought Relief Act then set the stage for negotiations—and compromise—with Valadao, who

earlier had received partisan House approval of a bill that was extreme and over the top. Early on, Northern California Democrats, many of which are supported by environmentalist, were involved in the negotiations. But they drew firm lines in the sand and quit the talk.

Valadao's bill is reasonable and much needed. It deserves the support of Sen. Feinstein and Sen. Barbara Boxer and the California delegation in the House of Representatives.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Let me address another issue.

We heard a number of times from the speakers on the other side of the aisle that there has been no hearing on this bill; it came out of the blue, blah, blah, blah. We heard that over and over. Maybe it is because when my friends on the other side of the aisle were in the majority, they didn't follow regular order, so let me say this as slowly or plainly as I can.

In the last Congress, Congressman NUNES introduced a long-term bill that we had a number of hearings on in the National Resources Committee. We marked up the bill in the Resources Committee, and we had it on the floor, where there were amendments that were offered to that bill; and, finally, in the last Congress, it passed with bipartisan support.

That was in the last Congress, Mr. NUNES' bill. In this Congress, Mr. VALADAO took that bill, dusted it off, and made two minor changes. We brought it to the floor, and once again, it passed with bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, that is a pretty good example of what regular order is, and all we said, by the way, is, ''Okay. This is our position. This is the House's position. If the Senate has a different position, pass a bill.'' There was nothing complex about that, and to the credit of Senator FEINSTEIN, primarily, there was a bill that passed with unanimous consent.

I might add, however, Mr. Speaker, that there were no hearings held on the Senate bill in the Senate. There were no hearings held on the Senate bill; however, because of the drought in California, many Western senators—primarily, Republican Western senators—when asked, presumably by Senator FEINSTEIN, if this bill could go by unanimous consent, they said, ''Yes, but there are some conditions that we ought to look at before it finally becomes law.'' Their principal concern was in the area of the Endangered Species Act.

Now, in the 20 years that I have been here, I have been a vocal critic of how the Endangered Species Act has been implemented, and I hope that we have made some movement in that with the passage of three bills that we did later on.

My point is this, Mr. Speaker: the Senate then passed their bill. The normal process under regular order is when the House has a position and the Senate has a position, then you get together to negotiate the differences.

Now, there are a lot of differences between those two bills, and for the last 6 months, there has been a good faith effort to try to negotiate the difference.

A week ago, Senator FEINSTEIN said: We just can't get it done at this point; and, at that point, my colleagues here in the House—Mr. VALADAO, principally, but the other colleagues that spoke—said: I think what we ought to do is to put into bill form what we had principally agreed to in this conference—although it wasn't a formal conference, it was an informal conference—and put it in bill form.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say what we have before us is legislation that has been largely agreed to in this informal conference that has been going on for some time with the California water issue.

This isn't something that came out of the dark. As a matter of fact, in the 4 years that my colleagues controlled this House, there was no California water legislation whatsoever. So to come up here and talk and say there are other things and they should be involved, of course, they should be involved. They were involved with the Senate action on the Senate bill.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that this is good legislation. It represents a broad consensus that could be done in the informal conference, so I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation. Hopefully, the Senate can take it up before we adjourn. If we don't, the consequences are that we are going to have to start all over again in the next Congress.

There has been so much work that has been done in the informal conference that to let that go and not have some positive action on it, I think, would be wrong for us to do.

With that, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 5781, yet another California water-grab bill. If enacted, H.R. 5781 would dictate specific actions for water management agencies' experts to take while undermining state water rights and state environmental laws. These directives would eliminate flexibility in the system by making it more difficult for state and federal agencies to make real-time, science-based decisions to address the drought.

In addition to my colleagues speaking out against the bill today, the Administration issued a Statement of Administration Policy on the bill which states:

H.R. 5781 makes operational determinations regarding the use of limited water resources during the ongoing drought, and contains many new provisions that could lead to unintended consequences or further litigation, the Administration cannot support the bill in its current form.

Further, the Administration highlighted its ongoing work to address the drought:

The United States Department of Agriculture has directed millions of dollars in food, conservation, and emergency water assistance to tens of thousands of residents in areas hardest hit by drought. The Bureau of Reclamation has provided cost-share assistance for nine water reclamation and reuse projects in the State as well as millions of dollars in grants to build long-term resiliency to drought. . . . The President has directed Federal agencies to work with state and local officials in real-time to maximize limited water supplies, prioritize public health and safety, meet state water quality requirements, and ensure a balanced approach to providing for the water needs of people, agriculture, businesses, power, imperiled species and the environment.

Instead of legislating how the current dwindling supply of water should be moved within the state, we should follow the Administration's lead and fund conservation, recycling, and storage projects to create new water.

Additionally, over 30 environmental, natural resource, and fishing groups sent letters of opposition to H.R. 5781 to Congress. Fishing industry groups oppose the bill because:

The bill would undermine existing legal protections for salmon, endangered species, and other species in the Bay-Delta ecosystem, in order to pump more water out of the most important salmon producing system south of the Columbia River. For example, the bill would rewrite and override protections required under the Endangered Species Act and replace the best available science with political micro-management.''

Authors of H.R. 5781 believe it will boost the economy in part of California, but in this haphazard attempt at amelioration, they risk eliminating jobs in the $1.4 billion salmon industry by, jobs in the Delta tourism industry, and jobs in Northern California agriculture.

Natural resource and bird organizations oppose the bill because of the devastating impact it could have on migratory birds and other fish and wildlife in the Bay-Delta estuary. According to these groups:

California has already lost more than 90 percent of its existing wetlands and in the current drought conditions, migratory birds are crowding onto the small remaining habitat areas, suffering from decreased food and increased risk of disease.

With at least a billion birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway each year, we cannot afford to eliminate even more habitat. We must ensure water supplies are properly balanced for all needs and mandating exports to water users south of the Delta will not achieve this balance.

In addition to being deeply flawed, this bill is being rammed through at the last minute. Introduced just last week, this bill is circumventing all regular order and will be voted on despite having no hearings and no mark-ups. As the Sacramento Bee states, ''The new bill deserves a full public hearing so that we know its full implications for California.''

As I have stated before, this drought is caused by nature—something so painfully obvious, it can be seen from space. Circumventing science and legislating how to operate a water system is irresponsible and we must find ways to add to our water supply instead of taking water from one group and giving to another for political gain. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5781, a bill that was written in secret, would destroy jobs, ignores established science, and does nothing to address the drought.

Unfortunately, I am unable to participate in this debate today due to the House Majority's last minute scheduling. Not only were we not given time for Congressional hearings or public input on this legislation, we were not even

given enough time to plan to be here to debate the bill after it was rushed to the floor. I was home working in district when this debate was scheduled and by the time I received notice of the floor debate, no flights were available other than the one I was originally on.

Ten months ago this House considered and passed a similarly horrible bill. Neither bill will solve the drought because neither bill can make it rain.

Instead of spending the last ten months working across the aisle with all stakeholders at the table to come up with legislation that actually addresses the statewide drought, the Majority has negotiated this bill in secret with only a select group of farming interests in the Central Valley.

Everyone in California is affected by the ongoing statewide drought and Congress should not be picking winners and losers. Unfortunately, this bill does just that.

H.R. 5781 is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to use the drought as an excuse to steal water from the Bay Delta—and to do so with zero regard for the folks who depend on that water for their livelihoods.

The Delta supports thousands of jobs in farming, fishing and tourism, and has an economic output of more than $4 billion a year.

Millions also rely on the Delta for drinking water. When clean water is pumped south, the level of salt water in the Delta increases. Folks can't drink seawater.

The entire state of California is in a drought. It's not due to a lack of pumping. It's due to a lack of snow and rain.

If the Majority was interested in actually addressing the drought, there are things we could do to help. Congress can invest in more water conservation, more water recycling, and more water storage.

With investments like these, we can collect millions of gallons of new water, help farmers better plan, and create good jobs.

This bill does none of that. Our people deserve better than this politically driven bill. They deserve solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on H.R. 5781.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 770, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 5781 is postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

□ 1515

SGT. AMANDA N. PINSON POST OFFICE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5385) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the ''Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5385

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

SECTION 1. SGT. AMANDA N. PINSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the ''Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office''.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5385, sponsored by Representative ANN WAGNER of Missouri, to designate the Post Office located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office.

Army Sergeant Amanda Pinson died on March 16, 2006, while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom. She, along with a fellow soldier, were killed when a mortar round detonated. She was only 21 years old.

Sergeant Pinson enlisted in the Army after graduating from high school and was known as a model soldier, a ''breath of fresh air,'' and wanted to attend college after the military to become a CIA or FBI agent.

Mr. Speaker, this courageous young woman served her country with honor and gave her life in defense of our country. It is my honor and privilege to stand before this body and pay tribute to Sergeant Pinson's memory and sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 5385.

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I support this, and I can't add to the excellent words of my colleague from North Carolina.

It is an amazing thing when we are naming post offices to hear about the brave lives—in this case of a very young woman with a bright future who gave her life for her country. So I am delighted to join in Representative WAGNER's legislation to make this name permanent so that we can all remember and revere the memory of this brave soldier.

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Vermont for his support.

I yield as much time as she may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend and colleague from North Carolina for yielding me this time, and the gentleman from Vermont also for his tremendous support and commitment to honoring our fallen heroes.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a great American hero. On March 16, 2006, Missouri's Second District lost a brave young woman when United States Army Sergeant Amanda N. Pinson was killed in a mortar attack while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the life of this young patriot.

Army Sergeant Amanda Pinson was a signals intelligence analyst assigned to the 101st Military Intelligence Detachment of the 101st Airborne Division based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

On a personal note, I have to say that the Screaming Eagles are very personal to me, as my oldest son is presently serving as an Army officer in the 101st.

Amanda is survived by her mother, Chris; her father, Tony; and her younger brother, Bryan.

Growing up in Lemay, Missouri, Amanda enlisted in the Army after graduating from Hancock Place High School, where she won several scholarships and was on the basketball and the softball teams.

Amanda was always concerned about helping others. In high school, she started her own group called HELP, the Hancock Environmental Leadership Program. She enlisted all of her friends to join, and Amanda and the HELP group planted trees at local parks and volunteered with local seniors.

The group also planted and maintained flowers at the entrance of Jefferson Barracks Park. The park where she used to plant flowers is adjoined to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, where Amanda is laid to rest.

Amanda also had the respect and admiration of her fellow soldiers. She was described, indeed, as a model soldier and ''a breath of fresh air'' by Lieutenant Colonel Lucinda Lane, who spoke at her service.

Upon her death, Sergeant Pinson was awarded a Bronze Star, a Good Conduct Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Medal, and a Purple Heart.

Her impact on the people privileged to know her during her life is evidenced by the many memorials honoring Amanda. In 2006, the U.S. Army honored Amanda by dedicating the building where she worked in Tikrit, Iraq, naming it ''Pinson Hall.'' A pink willow tree was planted in her honor at her alma mater, Hancock High School, in 2006. And now, the Amanda N. Pinson Post Office will join these memorials as a testament to the bravery, valor, and kindness of this American hero who gave the ultimate sacrifice for her country.

It is my honor to sponsor H.R. 5385, a bill that names the Affton branch, Grasso Plaza post office after such a courageous young woman, immortalizing a hero who gave up her life in service to the Nation she loved. May it bring comfort to her family and friends and give witness to Sergeant Pinson's bravery and her sacrifice.

To quote the phrase that adorns so many of the tributes and memorials to Amanda: ''If love could have saved you, you would have lived forever.''

So today, on behalf of a grateful nation, I say: ''Thank you, Amanda, and you are, indeed, loved.''

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for her words, and I would say that it represents her heart. Whether it is here in Washington, D.C., or anywhere else, she is always looking to really recognize those who serve their country.

Certainly, in this honor today, I would urge all our Members to join me in support of this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5385.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SGT. ZACHARY M. FISHER POST OFFICE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5794) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the ''Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5794

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

SECTION 1. SGT. ZACHARY M. FISHER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the ''Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office''.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5794, introduced by Representative ANN WAGNER of Missouri, to designate the post office located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office.

Army Sergeant Zachary Fisher, a native of Ballwin, Missouri, was killed on July 14, 2010, at Forward Operating Base Lagman in Afghanistan. He died of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his vehicle and detonated an improvised explosive device. Sergeant Fisher was only 24 years old.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Fisher was a brave young man. He decided to join the Army Reserve, and then courageously volunteered to become a member of the Active Duty military. Sergeant Fisher chose to put himself in harm's way in order to protect the freedoms that we, as Americans, enjoy every day. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for making the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

I ask my colleagues to honor and memorialize Zachary M. Fisher's service by supporting H.R. 5794.

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

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

Again, it is a combination of humility and pride when we hear about the lives of these brave young Americans. That is the second wonderful person from Missouri, but all of us, in our States, have people that have served America this way.

What strikes me here is Sergeant Fisher went from Iraq to Afghanistan—he didn't have to do that, but he had a need to serve—and the inspiring story about his selfless commitment to serving this country when he had behind a loving family and a wife, and he sacrificed all.

If he were here and were asked the question, ''Was it worth it?'' you know he would say it was because he loved his family, he loved his country, and he was willing and did give his life for his country.

So as a person here standing on the floor, as an American hearing about the bravery of this young man, I want to thank Representative WAGNER for bringing this to the collective attention of the House of Representatives, and we fully support this legislation. It is a small honor for a large sacrifice.

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding the time and the gentleman from Vermont for his always kind and compassionate words about our fallen heroes and these great opportunities that we have to represent them and give living testament to their bravery and their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a great American hero, Sergeant Zachary M. Fisher, of my hometown of Ballwin, Missouri.

On July 14, 2010, Missouri's Second District lost a brave young man when United States Army Sergeant Zach Fisher was killed by an IED while serving during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sergeant Fisher was assigned to the 27th Engineer Battalion of the 20th Engineer Brigade based out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was, indeed, 24 years old when he died at Forward Operating Base Lagman in Afghanistan.

Zach was, again, from my hometown of Ballwin, Missouri, and he graduated in 2004 from Marquette High School, where his history teacher remembered him as a patriotic student with an interest in how the United States developed as a country.

Zach met his beautiful and loving wife, Jessica, just before his earlier deployment in Iraq. At the time of his death, they had been married for just 2 years.

Zach is survived by his parents, Sue and Jim Jacobs and Bob and Alicia Fisher; three brothers, Andrew, Clayton, and Alexander; and two sisters, Emily and Zoe.

Zach initially enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves, and when he told his parents that he wanted to report for Active Duty, they asked him to give two good reasons why he would choose to put himself in harm's way for the service of his country. His reply said a lot about the character of the man, Zach Fisher. First, he wanted to join the Army because he wanted the discipline it would provide, and, more importantly, he wanted to be a part of something bigger than himself.

Although the United States of America can never fully repay the priceless debt we owe to Sergeant Fisher, we can do our part to ensure that his memory lives on. Therefore, it is my honor to

sponsor H.R. 5794, a bill that names the Chesterfield main post office after such a courageous young man, immortalizing a hero who gave up his life in service to the Nation that he loved.

All of Zachary's friends would say that Zach was their best friend. He was a dedicated warrior whose commitment to family, friends, and country will be long remembered.

I am proud that this legislation will serve as a testament to the dedication and sacrifice of Sergeant Zachary Fisher, standing as a physical reminder of the bravery of one American from Missouri's Second Congressional District who chose to serve a cause greater than oneself.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 5794, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5794.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

FATHER RICHARD MARQUESS-BARRY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4030) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 18640 NW 2nd Avenue in Miami, Florida, as the ''Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building.''

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4030

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

SECTION 1. FATHER RICHARD MARQUESS-BARRY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 18640 NW 2nd Avenue in Miami, Florida, shall be known and designated as the ''Father Richard Marquess-Barry 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 ''Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 4030, introduced by FREDERICA WILSON of Florida, to designate the post office located at 18640 NW 2nd Avenue in Miami, Florida, as the Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building.

The Reverend Canon Richard Livingston Marquess-Barry has led a remarkable life—one of courage, service, and strong faith.

Father Marquess-Barry has been an ordained priest in the Episcopalian church for 39 years. He currently serves as the pastor of the Historic Saint Agnes Episcopal Church in Miami, Florida. In this capacity, Father Marquess-Barry has contributed to bettering the lives of those in his congregation and community, and he has earned a well-respected reputation for bridging the divide between people of different races and religions and of uplifting the downtrodden and underprivileged. The projects and ministries of his church are numerous—among them, spearheading an affordable housing project for low- and moderate-income families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the dedication and selflessness that Father Marquess-Barry has shown throughout his life, and I urge the support for this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I fully support this legislation.

At this time, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida, Representative WILSON, and I thank her for sponsoring this legislation.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WELCH for yielding me time as well as Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for their support in bringing this bill to the floor.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4030, a bill to designate the post office at 18640 NW 2nd Avenue in Miami Gardens, Florida, as the Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building.

The Reverend Canon Richard Livingston Marquess-Barry was born on November 14, 1940, in Miami, Florida, to Bahamian immigrants. Raised by his grandparents, Reverend Barry attended the Miami-Dade County Public Schools system while working as a garbage collector every morning before school and as a dishwasher after school.

Reverend Barry earned his Bachelor of Arts at St. Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1962. That same year, he married Virla Rolle, his college sweetheart. The couple has been married for 52 years and has one daughter and two grandsons.

Reverend Barry's lifelong devotion to the church began in 1965 when he became the only person of color enrolled at the Virginia Theological Seminary. Three years later, he earned a master's in divinity, and in 1989, he was the youngest person to earn a doctor of divinity degree in the 200-year history of the Virginia Theological Seminary. He has been a visiting fellow at the University of Munich in Germany as well as at Oxford University in England.

In 1977, Reverend Barry took a pay cut in order to lead the Saint Agnes Episcopal Church, the largest and oldest Episcopal congregation for people of color in south Florida. Not only did he transform Saint Agnes and leave it with an endowment upon his retirement, he also worked tirelessly to improve the Overtown community where Saint Agnes is located.

As a young priest, Reverend Barry served his community religiously and also dedicated himself to furthering civil rights despite numerous assassination attempts. He led the effort to integrate the St. Lucie County public school system. He also pressured the city of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County to adopt fair hiring and promotion practices within the police and fire departments and within all other government agencies. He has also been a champion of improving housing options for underprivileged people in our community.

Among his many awards, Reverend Barry is currently the holder of two keys to Miami-Dade County and of one key to the city of Miami for his many years of devotion and advocacy to the south Florida community. He has been recognized for his work by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the NAACP, the Florida State Senate, and President Obama.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Reverend Barry for his decades of service to our community, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill to designate the Miami post office the Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building.

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 4030, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4030.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICER SCOTT J. WILLIAMS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5562) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Ocean Avenue in Lompoc, California, as the ''Federal Correctional Officer Scott J. Williams Memorial Post Office Building.''

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5562

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

SECTION 1. FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICER SCOTT J. WILLIAMS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Ocean Avenue in Lompoc, California, shall be known and designated as the ''Federal Correctional Officer Scott J. Williams 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 ''Federal Correctional Officer Scott J. Williams Memorial Post Office Building''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5562, which is sponsored by Representative LOIS CAPPS of California, to designate the post office located at 801 West Ocean Avenue, in Lompoc, California, as the Federal Correctional Officer Scott J. Williams Memorial Post Office Building.

Senior Officer Specialist Scott J. Williams was killed in the line of duty on April 3 of 1997. While performing routine supervision duties at the U.S. penitentiary in Lompoc, California, an inmate senselessly and brutally attacked Officer Williams, tragically taking his life. Officer Williams was a marine veteran, a former Marine of the Year, who served in Operation Desert Storm. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 5562 and ensure that this fallen hero is never forgotten.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I am in full support of this postal naming.

At this time, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California, Representative CAPPS, the sponsor of this legislation.

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague from Vermont for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5562, which would designate the United States Postal Service facility in Lompoc, California, as the Federal Correctional Officer Scott J. Williams Memorial Post Office Building.

This is an important bill not only for the community of Lompoc, which resides in my congressional district on the central coast of California, but for the memory of a public servant we lost way too soon. Naming the Lompoc post office in honor of Scott J. Williams is a very fitting tribute.

Scott was a veteran, a civil servant, and a beloved family man who dedicated his life to public service. As a youth, he attended Lompoc High School and Allan Hancock College, both in the 24th Congressional District of California.

His tradition of service began in the Persian Gulf war, with distinction and valor, rising to the rank of corporal in the United States Marine Corps. During his military career, Scott was widely respected by his colleagues and was credited with saving many lives during combat. In fact, his outstanding work as a decorated veteran has been recognized through multiple awards, including being honored as Marine of the Year in 1989. Upon returning home to Lompoc, Scott continued his services to our Nation and began a career in law enforcement as a correctional officer. After 4 years of service at the United States Bureau of Prisons, Scott was tragically killed in the line of duty in 1997.

We are still saddened by the loss of this local hero and this family man. He is sincerely missed by the people of Los Alamos, California, and by the entire Lompoc, California, community.

After years of selfless service to our Nation and to the local community, the naming of the Lompoc Post Office after Officer Scott Williams is a fitting tribute. This recognition would complement the memorial park and the State highway in his name, and it would continue to honor a man whose selfless career was dedicated to keeping our Nation, as well as his own community, safe.

Scott is survived by his wife, Kristy, and their two daughters, Kaitlin and Kallee. This bill also honors them because they have sacrificed as well, and they have shown great perseverance in the face of terrible tragedy.

I thank you for the privilege of speaking on the family's behalf. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to author this bill and to see it here on the floor today. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5562.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD POST OFFICE

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5687) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 East Market Street in Long Beach, California, as the ''Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office.''

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5687

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

SECTION 1. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 East Market Street in Long Beach, California, shall be known and designated as the ''Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5687, introduced by Representative JANICE HAHN of California, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 East Market Street in Long Beach, California, as the Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office.

Juanita Millender-McDonald represented California's 37th District in the House of Representatives for over a decade, serving from 1996 until her untimely death. During her time in Congress, she was known for her commitment to protecting international human rights, and she worked to aid victims of genocide and human trafficking. Representative Millender-McDonald was also the first African American woman to chair the House Administration Committee. Sadly, she passed away on April 22, 2007, at age 68, due to colon cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in memorializing Juanita Millender-McDonald's public service by supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation.

At this time, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from

California, Representative HAHN, the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. HAHN. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak today about a friend and predecessor who served some of the same communities that I now represent.

Today, we are voting on a piece of legislation that will recognize the life and legacy of the late Congresswoman, Juanita Millender-McDonald, by designating the United States Postal Service facility located at 101 East Market Street, in Long Beach, as the Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office.

Many of my colleagues in the House had the opportunity to serve alongside Congresswoman Millender-McDonald. They remember her forceful personality and her unyielding advocacy on behalf of her constituents. However, Juanita, who left us so suddenly and too early, was a remarkable woman who broke barriers and who had many impressive achievements even before entering Congress.

□ 1545

By age 26, Juanita Millender-McDonald was a mother of five. She was already in her forties when, after raising her children, Valerie, Angela, Sherryll, Michael, and R. Keith, she went back to school and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees with the support of her loving husband, James.

She became a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District and later became the manuscript editor for Images, a textbook aimed at promoting the self-esteem of young women, and the director of gender equality programs for the school district.

She broke down barriers for women and minorities and made history by becoming the first African American woman elected to the Carson City Council and, in 2007, became the first African American woman to chair a congressional committee, the Committee on House Administration.

While serving for more than a decade in the House of Representatives, she also served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Small Business Committee, the committees on which I now currently serve, and she was an active member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

From her days in the California Assembly to serving here in the House, Juanita Millender-McDonald dedicated her career to advocating for the Los Angeles public school system, job training, women's equality, women's health, and combating the drug epidemic that was tearing apart her community. Her advocacy on behalf of the victims of genocide and human trafficking serves as a lasting testament to her dedication to creating a better world.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald worked tirelessly for her constituents, taking only a week of leave before she succumbed to cancer.

By designating a United States Postal Service facility in my district as the Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office, we honor an exemplary woman with an incredible public service record.

It is my hope that honoring her now will allow her life and accomplishments to inspire further residents, not only of Long Beach but Americans across the land.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak today about a friend and predecessor who served some of the same communities that I now represent.

Today we are voting on a piece of legislation that will recognize the life and legacy of the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, by designating the United States Postal Service facility located at 101 E. Market Street in Long Beach, as the Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office.

Many of my colleagues in the House had the opportunity to serve alongside Congresswoman Millender-McDonald and remember her forceful personality and her unyielding advocacy on behalf of her constituents.

However, Juanita, who left us so suddenly and too early, was a remarkable woman who broke barriers and had many impressive achievements even before entering Congress.

By age 26, Juanita Millender-McDonald was a mother of five. She was already in her forties, when, after raising her children, she went back to school and subsequently earned bachelor's and master's degrees and did additional studies towards a PhD.

She became a teacher in L.A. USD and later the manuscript editor for Images, a textbook aimed at promoting the self-esteem of young women, and the director of gender equity programs for the school district.

She broke down barriers for women and minorities and made history by becoming the first African-American woman elected to the Carson City Council, and in 2007 became the first African-American woman to chair a Congressional Committee—the House Administration Committee.

While serving for more than a decade in the House of Representatives, she also served on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and the Small Business Committee—the committees on which I now serve—and was an active member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

From her days in the California Assembly to serving here in the House, Juanita Millender-McDonald dedicated her career to advocating for the Los Angeles public school system, job training, women's equality and women's health, and combating the drug epidemic that was tearing apart her community. Her advocacy on behalf of the victims of genocide and human trafficking serves as a lasting testament to her dedication to creating a better world.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald worked tirelessly for her constituents, taking only a week of leave before she succumbed to cancer.

By designating a United States Postal Service facility in my district as the Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office, we honor an exemplary woman with an incredible public service record.

I know her family, including her husband James McDonald, Jr.; children, Valerie, Angela, Sherryll, Michael and R. Keith; and grandchildren, Ayanna, Myles, Ramia, Blair and Diamond, are so proud of her great legacy.

It is my hope that honoring her now will allow her life and accomplishments to inspire further residents not only of Long Beach but Americans across the land.

Mr. MEADOWS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), my good friend who is the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation naming this facility after Ms. Juanita Millender-McDonald, a wonderful lady. She served this institution well up until her final moments. Most of us were not aware of the terminal illness she had. She served with grace, dignity, and honor, and our respect. She will be missed.

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

Mr. MEADOWS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5687.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

R. JESS BROWN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 579) to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the ''R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.''

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 579

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the ''R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse''.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed

to be a reference to the ''R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 579.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 579 designates the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

Mr. Brown was a civil rights lawyer who worked against racial discrimination and was credited in the 1950s with filing the first civil rights lawsuit in the State of Mississippi.

A native of Oklahoma, Mr. Brown attended Illinois State University, Indiana University, and the Texas Southern University Law School. In the 1960s, he was one of only four African American lawyers in the State of Mississippi and one of three who took civil rights cases.

In 1962, he worked on behalf of James Meredith, whose successful lawsuit allowed him to be the first African American student to enroll at Ole Miss. Later, Mr. Brown worked to fight against discrimination in transportation and other public accommodations.

Given his dedication to the law and his work in civil rights, it is appropriate to name this courthouse after him.

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by yielding such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of this bill, H.R. 579, a bill to designate the United States courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Jess Brown was born on September 12, 1912, in Coffeyville, Kansas. His parents, Ernestine and Joe Brown, were jazz musicians and performed in and managed a local theater.

R. Jess Brown received a bachelor's of science in industrial arts from Illinois State Normal University and a master's of science in industrial education from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

After teaching at Alcorn State University, R. Jess Brown moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where he taught industrial arts at Lanier High School, the only Black high school in the city at the time. While teaching at Lanier, R. Jess Brown became an intervening plaintiff in a lawsuit that sought equal pay for Black teachers in Jackson.

After teaching in Jackson, Jess attended Texas Southern University law school. Jess left the law school before receiving his juris doctorate but was able to return to Mississippi and pass the Mississippi Bar in 1953.

Beginning his career in Vicksburg, Mississippi, R. Jess Brown confined his practice to cases involving divorces, deeds, land titles, and other practices that did not agitate White members of the bar. However, after the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka ruling in 1954, Jess felt compelled to defend the civil rights of African Americans.

In the fall of 1955, the conditions and hardships endured by Black lawyers in the courts led Mr. Brown and seven other Black attorneys to establish the Magnolia Bar Association.

Mr. Speaker, R. Jess Brown is credited with filing the first civil suit on behalf of African Americans in the State of Mississippi. That lawsuit, on behalf of a Jefferson County minister, challenged laws that prevented Blacks from voting.

Mr. Speaker, Jess Brown has an extensive record as a civil rights lawyer. His list of clients included Clyde Kennard, who was charged with and convicted of a fictitious crime while attempting to desegregate the University of Southern Mississippi; James H. Meredith, whose litigation ultimately led to the integration of the University of Mississippi; Dr. Gilbert Mason, who led the effort to end racial segregation on the beaches of Biloxi, Mississippi; and civil rights icons Medgar Wiley Evers and Dr. Aaron Henry.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Brown was admitted to practice law before all Mississippi court systems, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit Court, and the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Brown also served on the executive board of the National Bar Association for approximately 15 years.

On December 3, 1989, R. Jess Brown died of cancer in Jackson, Mississippi, at the age of 77.

Mr. Speaker, R. Jess Brown is well deserving of this honor, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 579.

Mr. PETRI. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I too rise in support of H.R. 579, to designate the United States courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

R. Jess Brown was a towering figure in the history of the civil rights movement in the South and especially in the State of Mississippi. He was a native son of Kansas, born in Coffeyville, Kansas, and raised in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He attended law school at Texas Southern University and practiced law in Mississippi, starting in 1953 and continuing throughout the latter civil rights era.

As associate counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP, Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Mr. Brown filed the first civil rights suit in Mississippi in the 1950s. The suit, filed in Jefferson Davis County, sought the enforcement of the right of Black citizens to become registered voters.

In 1961, Brown represented James Meredith in his suit to be allowed to enter the University of Mississippi. His victory in this case opened the doors of that university to all of Mississippi's citizens. While working with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Brown played a major role in fighting discrimination in the areas of transportation and other public accommodations.

During his lifetime, he received numerous awards and honors, including the NAACP's Lawyer of the Year Award; the National Bar Association C. Francis Stradford Award, which is the Bar Association's highest award; and the Mississippi Teachers Association's award for extraordinary service to education in Mississippi.

R. Jess Brown will be remembered as more than a brilliant attorney and civil rights leader; he will also be remembered as a great American. As such, it is fitting that the United States courthouse in Jackson, Mississippi, be designated the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.

I support this legislation and urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 579.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 579.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4926) to designate the ''James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway'' and the ''James L. Oberstar National Scenic Byway'' in the State of Minnesota, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4926

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The segment of Interstate Route 35 between milepost 133 at Forest Lake, Minnesota, and milepost 259 at Duluth, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the ''James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway''.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the segment of Interstate Route 35 referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill before us, H.R. 4926.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4926. This bill designates the segment of Interstate Route 35 between mile post 133 at Forest Lake, Minnesota, and mile post 259 at Duluth, Minnesota, as the James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway.

This is a small but well-deserved and fitting tribute to a former colleague, a leader for many years, first on the staff of the Transportation Committee in the House of Representatives, where he was an aide, and then later succeeded his predecessor in the House of Representatives, the Honorable John Blatnik, who represented the Iron Range for many years, and I think who also has a bridge and some other important locations named after him, and then of course who served on the Transportation Committee as an active member, chairman of many of its subcommittees and, ultimately, chairman of the full committee for many, many years.

I got to know Jim Oberstar personally, and we were competitors on a lot of issues, but we were also very much friends. He was a person with strong family values and a great sense of obligation to the working people of the Iron Range in northern Minnesota.

His father had worked on the mines, one of many who came over from what is now Yugoslavia to work in northern Minnesota, creating enormous wealth for our country, helping to build the steel industry, and arm our Nation and also build the railroads, materials and all the rest, and who shared in that, but only modestly, compared with many, many others.

He was a very interesting man with many, many sterling qualities, a natural linguist. I have been at meetings with Jim Oberstar where the French Ambassador would say, ''Now, where did you learn French? You must have lived in France.'' ''It was at the University of Minnesota,'' that is where he learned French.

He also became a very good speaker of the dialect that people speak down in Haiti. He knew three or four other languages. He had a natural facility for languages.

Jim also had a great interest in transportation policy and in history, and I think, as someone said at his memorial service, he felt everyone that he talked with shared the great love he had for all the details and history and facts of different situations, but he was wrong, but if you were interested, it was fascinating to spend time with Jim Oberstar.

He loved the outdoors. He fought to make sure that the lakes and rivers of northern Minnesota and the Boundary Waters and so on were, to the extent possible, properly managed for the environment, but also available for the working people of that area for their recreation and all the rest, rather than just a few.

He was an example for many of us who served in this House of dedication and putting country and his citizens before self, and he liked to have fun. I had many opportunities to share his love for the outdoors on bicycle trips and other occasions. He was kind enough to come to my district on a number of occasions to help encourage support for different facilities in our area.

He was always a real gentleman, so far as I was concerned in dealing with him, and an example of people who serve in this House from varying backgrounds who have definite and strong feelings, but also who try to make sure that, at the end of the day, they work with people with whom they disagree in order to accomplish something good for our country, and so Jim is sorely missed.

This is a small but fitting memorial for him, and I am sure that he and his wife, Jean, appreciate the fact that the Congress is taking this action today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Wisconsin for his kind words on behalf of not just the Oberstar family, but all the citizens of Minnesota—very kind, very appropriate, and greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I yield, to begin with, to the gentleman from Minnesota, Representative COLLIN PETERSON, a senior member of the Minnesota congressional delegation and our distinguished colleague.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation and also want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his kind words on behalf of the family and the people of the State.

Jim Oberstar passed away this year, as we all know, and we lost a great advocate for transportation and infrastructure. He and I served together for many years in this Congress, and we worked closely together as representatives of rural districts in Minnesota. One thing that I really admired about Congressman Oberstar, he wasn't afraid to take tough positions and do what he thought was right.

As chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he supported an increase in the gas tax, so that we could ensure long-term sustainable funding for our Nation's transportation needs. That is one thing he and I both agreed on, and I know he met strong resistance for expressing those views.

Beyond his work on the committee, Congressman Oberstar was passionate about his district and the people he represented. He was a tireless advocate, and he made sure that the Eighth District had a voice through his leadership and in the caucus.

Mr. Speaker, the legacy of Jim Oberstar will live on in Minnesota and across the country for decades to come, and I know that he would be proud to have this highway and national scenic byway in Minnesota named in his memory, and as has been indicated, we will all miss his tremendous expertise and advocacy for transportation in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of stories we could tell about the Jim Oberstar, and I think it is probably not fully appropriate to do that at this time but just to say that he was a self-made person, he had great intellectual abilities, and he used them well on behalf of his constituents, his State, and our country.

He had an ability, I think, to work very well with people with whom he would disagree on some issues. He was a man of faith and believed that, at the end of the day, we are all sinners, we couldn't expect perfection. There is going to be a certain disagreement there, but, at the other hand, there are some redeeming qualities in us human beings too, and let's look for those and work with others.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank my colleagues for bringing this legislation forward. I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding, and I thank my good friend, Mr. PETRI, whom I deeply regret seeing leave the Congress, as well, because he has contributed so very much to this Congress,

particularly in the field of which we speak today.

Of very few Members can it be said that they grew up in the Congress. One could almost say that about Jim Oberstar who came here as a legislative assistant to the Public Works Committee, then ultimately became its chief of staff, and then decided that he could do the whole thing and become a Member of Congress from the Eighth District of Minnesota.

By the time Jim came to the Congress, he had such an early start that he already knew probably all anyone would expect any Member to know. This early start led to what can only be called breathtaking knowledge and, ultimately, achievements in the transportation and infrastructure field.

He became not only my mentor but, literally, the personal mentor of every Member on each side of the aisle and, ultimately, a mentor to any Member of Congress who wanted to know anything about the Nation's transportation and infrastructure.

At the bottom, Mr. Speaker, transportation and infrastructure is a very technical and specialized field. It takes hard work and brilliance to become a master of the roads, bridges, infrastructure, and bike and running trails of this country, let alone the complexities of intermodalism. It was a marvel to see Jim go at intermodalism. I had the opportunity to see him offer visionary leadership on intermodalism here with Union Station in Washington, D.C., and around the country.

Mr. Speaker, Jim came to subcommittee hearings almost all the time and participated in these hearings with the same depth as the chair of the subcommittee. He never let his encyclopedic knowledge wither.

Mr. Speaker, I have been on the committee ever since I came to Congress in 1991. I can say without any compunction that, if you were around Jim, no matter where you sat in the committee room, you could not avoid his kindness, his warmth, and his depth. Sometimes Jim may have told you more than you wanted to know about transportation and infrastructure, but at the end of the day, you were glad that you listened because you heard him speak, sometimes playfully, in French—he always understood you had better keep using what you once had—but always offering the benefits of his knowledge, and using his great intellectual and personal gifts to bring us all in to the field he had mastered. No wonder Minnesota elected him to serve so long that he became the longest serving Member from the State.

As we struggle still for a highway bill, I hope we will not forget this great Member who began as an ironworker, worked himself through college as an ironworker, organized unions, and never forgot the roots from which he came, and yet came to this Congress and made himself a friend of anyone who would listen.

I am pleased to be associated with this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring former Congressman James Louis ''Jim'' Oberstar, my friend and mentor, and mentor to thousands. Jim represented the 8th district of Minnesota for 18 terms, from 1975 until 2011, but his breathtaking knowledge and achievements on transportation and infrastructure made him the nation's mentor on these issues.

Born in Chisholm, Minnesota in 1934, Jim was the son of an iron miner and shirt factory worker. He learned at an early age the power of organizing workers to fight for fair wages and safe workplaces, and never forgot his roots in the working class and in the organizations they asked to represent them at the bargaining table. Jim worked in the Minnesota mines to fund his college education, graduating from the College at St. Thomas in St. Paul with degrees in French and political science.

In 1963, Jim started his career on the Capitol Hill. He worked as legislative assistant and chief of staff for former Congressman John Blatnik, who represented Minnesota's 8th district at the time. He also served as chief of staff of the House Committee on Transportation and Public Works for many years. In 1974, Jim was elected to the House, where he was fully prepared to use his already well-developed knowledge of transportation and infrastructure as a member on the House Committee on Transportation and Public Works.

Jim contributed to the work of building and rebuilding the nation's transportation systems—its road and bridge networks, and, as a cyclist himself, its bike and running trails. Jim's encyclopedic knowledge of the field led him to master the complexities associated with intermodalism, the transportation wave of the future. His work, for example, to make the District of Columbia's Union Station truly intermodal, still in progress, will always be emblematic of his visionary leadership.

From the moment I joined the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, in 1991, I learned from Jim Oberstar and felt his warmth, kindness and depth. Jim not only led us, he nurtured us. Whether smiling as he playfully spoke French or offering the benefits of his commonsense knowledge, Jim's intellectual and personal gifts left us admiring him as a person and in awe of his knowledge and understanding of the field as a professional. Jim's outstanding work in the Congress led the people of Minnesota to make him the longest serving House member from their state, and Jim served the nation with special distinction at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring Jim Oberstar for his many accomplishments for the 8th district of Minnesota and for his devotion to our nation's transportation and infrastructure.

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

It is truly a great honor for me to present to the House this bill to name the stretch of Interstate Highway I–35 from Forest Lake, Minnesota, to Duluth, Minnesota, on behalf of the late former chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, James Oberstar.

I do so in the spirit of bipartisanship that Jim epitomized on behalf of the entire Minnesota delegation, all of whom have sponsored this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I will never forget the moment in January 2013 when Jim entered this Chamber for the first time as a former Member of the Congress. He walked quietly through the side door here, and one by one, his colleagues here in this Chamber, Democrats and Republicans alike, noticed him and began to spontaneously applaud Jim Oberstar in welcoming him back to the Congress.

I, quite frankly, have never seen anything quite like it, and this gesture of appreciation for the way Jim Oberstar brought us together through his bipartisan leadership and example was one of the more heartwarming and important experiences that I have seen take place here in this Chamber.

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Jim was an idea guy. As TOM mentioned, it didn't matter to him if an idea came from a Republican or a Democrat. The only thing that mattered to him was whether or not it was a good idea. If you had an idea, Jim wanted to hear it, and he was ready to work with you to make it happen if he thought it was a good idea.

And that was particularly true with respect to the building and rebuilding and expanding our interstate highway system that he had worked on, as it was pointed out here, as a staff member to that committee earlier in his life for the sole purpose of connecting every corner of this great Nation together from border to border and from sea to sea.

Through recessions, through budget deficits, through gas shortages and challenges of every kind, Jim Oberstar never wavered in his support for the interstate highway system because he understood how vital it is to our ability to create good jobs, to literally drive our economy forward and create the atmosphere for successful business and job creation.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to honor Jim Oberstar by naming the stretch of I–35 that serves as the gateway to the district he so ably represented for 36 years and designate it as the James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4926, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to designate a segment of Interstate Route 35 in the State of Minnesota as the 'James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway'.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOSEPH F. WEIS JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5146) to designate the United States courthouse located as 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the ''Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5146

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the ''Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse''.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill before us, H.R. 5146.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5146 designates the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse.

Joseph F. Weis, Jr., served as a Federal judge on the United States Court of Appeals on the Third Circuit from 1973 until assuming senior status in 1988, and he served in that capacity until his death earlier this year in 2014. Prior to his appointment to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Judge Weis was appointed to the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Prior to his appointment to the Federal bench, he served as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County and was in the private practice of law.

Judge Weis also served as a captain in the United States Army during the Second World War and is interred in Arlington National Cemetery. Given Judge Weis' service and dedication to the law, it is fitting to name this courthouse after him.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE).

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for his support of the legislation during consideration in the committee. I also want to thank every member of the Pennsylvania delegation who cosponsored this bill with me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5146, legislation which would officially designate the Federal courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, my home district, as the Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse.

This would be fitting recognition for an individual who served his country so well, first as a soldier and then as an outstanding jurist. Throughout his 91 years of life, Joseph F. Weis, Jr., served our country with humility, integrity, and an unfailing sense of duty. As a young man, he enlisted in the Army shortly after Pearl Harbor. Reflecting on that decision later in life, he said plainly: ''It was the thing to do. The country was at war, and I felt I should be out there doing my share.''

He was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor and a Purple Heart with oakleaf cluster after sustaining multiple injuries over the course of his service.

Upon returning back home, Joe Weis pursued a legal career, joining his father's practice after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh Law School in 1950. After becoming a respected trial lawyer, he was elected to the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas in 1968 as the first choice on both the Democratic and Republican ballots. As a judge, he quickly developed a reputation for patience and hard work. He always strove to improve our judicial system, advocating for innovative courthouse technologies and enforcement of judicial ethics.

Two years later, Judge Weis was appointed to the Federal bench, and in 1973 he was appointed to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, one step below the Supreme Court. He served on that court for 40 years, retiring just last year when he was 90 years old. He was recognized for his outstanding service on the bench with the Devitt Award, the highest honor given to Federal judges.

Amidst this remarkable list of accomplishments, he was known perhaps most of all for the strength of his character. ''He is, if anything, an overly modest and unassuming individual,'' said the University of Pittsburgh chancellor at his Devitt Award ceremony.

Joe Weis was equally beloved by his colleagues and his law clerks, who to this day still call themselves the ''Weis guys.''

The life of Joseph F. Weis, Jr., is a model that all public servants should aspire to emulate. Naming this Federal courthouse in his honor is a fitting way to recognize his long, faithful, and extremely capable service to our country, to inspire trust in the Federal justice system which he served for so long and with great integrity, and to provide future generations with an outstanding example of a great public servant. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to name the Federal courthouse in Pittsburgh in his honor.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and thank Congressman DOYLE for that fitting tribute to Judge Weis. Because of Judge Weis' dedicated service to the legal community and his exemplary time as a jurist in Pittsburgh, it is fitting to name the courthouse in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 5146.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation before us.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5146.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENATOR PAUL SIMON WATER FOR THE WORLD ACT OF 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2901) to strengthen implementation of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to implement, leverage, and monitor and evaluate programs to provide first-time or improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene to the world's poorest on an equitable and sustainable basis, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2901

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 4. Purpose.
Sec. 5. Improving coordination and oversight of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene projects and activities.

Sec. 6. Increasing sustainability of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene projects and activities.
Sec. 7. United States complimentary strategies to increase sustainable, affordable, and equitable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene.
Sec. 8. Transparency and monitoring and evaluation.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533)—

(A) makes access to affordable, equitable, and sustainable clean water, sanitation, and hygiene for developing countries a specific policy objective of United States foreign assistance programs;

(B) requires the United States Government to—

(i) develop a strategy to elevate and further the United States foreign policy and foreign assistance objective to provide affordable and equitable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in developing countries; and

(ii) improve the effectiveness and targeting of United States assistance programs undertaken in support of that strategy;

(C) codifies Target 10 of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals; and

(D) seeks to reduce by half between 1990 (the baseline year) and 2015—

(i) the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water; and

(ii) the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation.

(2) For maximum effectiveness of assistance, safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene must be coordinated with and reflected in programs and strategies for food security, global health, environment, education, gender equality, and conflict prevention and mitigation.

(3) On February 2, 2012, the United States national intelligence community released a National Intelligence Estimate on Global Water Security, which found that—

(A) over the next decade, countries of strategic importance to the United States will experience water shortages, poor water quality, or floods, that will risk instability or state failure and increase regional tensions;

(B) water problems may pose a risk to global food markets and economic growth, and may harm the economic performance of important trading partners;

(C) water stresses compound existing problems, such as poverty, social tension, and ill-health and without good management of water food supplies will be reduced and water borne diseases will increase; and

(D) pressure will arise for a more engaged United States to make water a global priority and to support major development projects.

(4) On August 1, 2008, Congress passed House Concurrent Resolution 318, which—

(A) supports the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation; and

(B) recognizes the importance of sanitation on public health, poverty reduction, economic and social development, and the environment.

(5) According to the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, commissioned by the United Nations, more than one-fifth of the world's population relies on freshwater sources that are either polluted or excessively withdrawn. Healthy ecosystems provide multiple water-related services, such as flood control and water purification, upon which human security, health and well-being depend. Therefore, measures aiming to maintain or restore those services ensure the long-term sustainability of strategies to secure safe and reliable access to water and sanitation.

(6) While progress is being made on safe water and sanitation efforts—

(A) more than 783,000,000 people throughout the world lack access to safe drinking water; and

(B) approximately 35 percent of the total global population does not have access to basic sanitation services.

(7) A lack of access to clean water and adequate sanitation has disproportionate, and too often deadly impacts on children:

(A) Water and sanitation-related disease, despite being preventable, remains one of the most significant child health problems worldwide. Diarrhea is the most serious of these diseases, alone killing over 3,000 children each day, and is the second biggest cause of death in children in the post neonatal period, aged one month to 5 years. Ninety percent of all people that die from diarrheal disease are children under the age of 5. Eighty-eight percent of diarrheal disease is attributed to unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.

(B) Even when bouts of diarrhea don't kill, these episodes can physically and mentally stunt children, affecting them for the rest of their lives.

(C) Having adequate and appropriate water supply and sanitation facilities in schools is a major factor influencing whether children, and especially adolescent girls, attend school.

(D) Adequate sanitation facilities and practices contributes to reducing malnutrition in children, improves the quality of life and dignity of girls and women, protects the environment, and generates economic benefits for communities and nations.

(8) The health and environmental consequences of unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation are significant, accounting for nearly 10 percent of the global burden of disease, and as further indicated by the following:

(A) At any given time, half of the hospital beds in developing countries are occupied by patients suffering from diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene.

(B) More than 3,575,000 people die each year from water-related disease.

(C) Chronic or acute diarrhea can lead to cognitive delays, with severe repercussions for economic development.

(D) Lack of adequate sanitation contaminates rivers worldwide, as one of the most significant sources of water pollution. Every day, 2,000,000 tons of untreated sewage and industrial and agricultural waste are discharged into the world's freshwaters.

(9) Clean water and sanitation are among the most powerful drivers for human development. They extend opportunity, enhance dignity, and help create a virtuous cycle of improving health and rising wealth.

(10) Diseases linked to unsafe water and poor sanitation, as well as the time and energy women often devote to collecting water, significantly reduce economic productivity in less developed countries and promote lifecycles of disadvantage.

(11) Expanding access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, while protecting the natural infrastructures that store, deliver, and purify water for nature and people, are essential steps in reducing the global burden of disease, advancing sustainable economic and social development, protecting basic human rights, preventing violence against girls and women, and mitigating sources of conflict associated with water scarcity, mass migration, and water related disasters, both within and between countries.

(12) Nearly 1,000,000,000 people across the globe still suffer from chronic hunger. Water scarcity and poor water management reduce agricultural productivity and add pressures on valuable fisheries, posing a major threat to food security and local livelihoods, and limits the ability of the world to provide the resources necessary for the doubling of food production that will be required to meet the demands of a projected population of 9,000,000,000 people by 2050.

(13) 2.8 billion people in more than 48 countries are expected to face severe and chronic water shortages by 2025, with major impacts on energy and food security, development, livelihoods, human health, and natural infrastructure.

(14) Agriculture consumes 70 percent of all freshwater withdrawn globally. Global increases in the efficiency and productivity of both irrigated and rain-fed agriculture will be needed to meet future food production requirements.

(15) Approximately half the world's population lives in cities, often in slums characterized by unsafe water, poor sanitation, lack of basic services, overcrowding, inferior construction and insecure tenure.

(16) According to the United Nations, women make up 70 percent of the world's poor. Yet, the time they spend collecting water prevents them from undertaking other activities, such as generating income or attending school.

(17) A lack of access to safe water and improved sanitation close to home and at school can impact girls' educational attainment and retention, limiting their ability to break the cycle of poverty. Research has found increases in girls' school enrollment when clean water points were installed closer to home, and increases in girls' school attendance when separate latrines for boys and girls were provided on site. Meeting Target 10 of the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation would provide an estimated 272,000,000 additional school days per year.

(18) A lack of water points close to home or safe, private latrines can put women and girls in isolated situations, making them more vulnerable to sexual and physical violence. Violence against women and girls has consequences ranging from psychosocial trauma to heightened risk of HIV/AIDS.

(19) Faith communities and nonprofit development and conservation organizations across the United States contribute significantly to the improvement of water, sanitation, and hygiene in developing countries. By applying their expertise, providing services, building the capacity of local organizations, establishing long-term partnerships with local communities, empowering marginalized groups, supporting sustainable water management and serving as a voice for the poor, faith-based and nonprofit organizations complement and leverage assistance provided by the United States Government.

(20) United States businesses have developed key technologies, donated goods and services, partnered with private and public sector entities, and invested their capital to improve water and sanitation and freshwater sources in many developing countries. Corporate actors have also partnered with other stakeholders to implement sustainable water management and water use efficiency within their plants and throughout their supply chain.

(21) Implementation of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 must be significantly strengthened if the purposes of section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2152h; relating to assistance to provide safe water and sanitation), as added by section 5(a) of the Senator Paul

Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, are to be met.

(22) The monitoring and evaluation of the performance of United States foreign assistance programs and their contribution to policy, strategies, projects, program goals, and priorities undertaken by the Federal Government is essential to improving aid effectiveness.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) In May 2013, the United States Agency for International Development released a Water and Development Strategy, whose goal is ''to save lives and advance development through improvements in water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, and through sound management and use of water for food security.''.

(2) The Water and Development Strategy states that it supports the efforts of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 ''by advancing many activities consistent with the goals of the Act.''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the initial United States Agency for International Development's Water and Development Strategy, released in May 2013—

(A) is a significant accomplishment and improves the Agency's capacity to provide sustainable and effective water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance;

(B) is supportive of and should continue to reinforce the United States foreign policy and development objectives for clean water, sanitation, and hygiene;

(C) should be refined and expanded by the United States Agency for International Development as often as necessary to ensure best practices are used and the purposes of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533) and this Act are met, should target the world's poorest and those suffering from the lowest levels of access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, and should be updated by the Agency not later than every 5 years, to more fully meet the requirements and spirit of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 and section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2152h), as added by section 5(a) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005; and

(D) is not, on its own, the holistic United States water strategy required by the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, but instead addresses components of a comprehensive strategy for how the United States plans to support the United States foreign policy and development objectives and measure its success towards the objectives required by the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 and this Act, and must be complimented by the development of a whole-of-government United States Government global water strategy aimed at creating an enabling environment through diplomatic channels for the Agency's water, sanitation, and hygiene programming that will better allow the Agency to succeed in its mission; and

(2) the Secretary of State, acting through the Special Advisor for Water Resources (established by 136(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961), as added by section 5(a)(2)(C) of this Act, and in collaboration and consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, should develop a Global Water Resources Strategy relating to United States foreign policy objectives for water, pursuant to section 6(a) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, as added by section 7 of this Act, that—

(A) articulates a vision for the role played by the Department of State, including in its power as a convener, in addressing the foreign policy and national security issues identified in the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 and this Act, the 2012 National Intelligence Estimate on Global Water Security, and other relevant whole-of-government assessments, strategies, and approaches;

(B) is an ambitious United States foreign policy framework that advances the objectives of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 and this Act to provide sustainable access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene to poor and marginalized people through improved United States diplomatic efforts to build political will and coordination across the Federal Government to better enable United States Government agencies and partners to meet their international development objectives;

(C) is complementary to, supportive of, and does not inhibit, the Water and Development Strategy, and establishes clear roles and responsibilities insofar as possible among Federal agencies and departments responsible for jointly carrying out the strategy, as required by section 6(b) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, as added by section 7 of this Act.

SEC. 4. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act and the amendments made by this Act is to strengthen implementation of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533) by—

(1) improving coordination and oversight of international water, sanitation, hygiene, and sustainable water management programs within and between United States Government agencies;

(2) increasing the sustainability of United States Government-supported water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, including in terms of affordability, accountability, and financial, operational, institutional, and environmental sustainability;

(3) enhancing water, sanitation, and hygiene expertise within the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of State, which shall include a whole of agency approach to establish a learning agenda aimed at increasing the quality, effectiveness, and sustainability of the United States Government-supported water, sanitation, and hygiene programs; and

(4) ensuring water, sanitation, and hygiene programs and strategies are reflected in and supported by other development initiatives such as food security, global health, environment, education, gender quality, and conflict prevention and mitigation within and between countries, with the goal of meeting the needs of the poorest and most marginalized people.

SEC. 5. IMPROVING COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT OF SAFE WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 135, as added by section 5(a) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2536; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note), as section 136; and

(2) in section 136, as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section—

(A) in the section heading, by striking ''AND SANITATION'' and inserting '', SANITATION, AND HYGIENE'';

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''and sanitation'' and inserting '', sanitation, and hygiene''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(e) GLOBAL WATER COORDINATOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) shall designate a senior advisor to coordinate and oversee the Agency's programs in developing countries that seek to provide affordable and equitable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, who shall be known as the 'Global Water Coordinator', who shall administer and oversee an office to be known as the Office of Water, Sanitation, and Development, and who shall report directly to the Administrator and the Assistant Administrator overseeing water programs.

''(2) DUTIES.—The Global Water Coordinator shall—

''(A) oversee implementation of this section, the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note) and the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013;

''(B) oversee the buildup of capacity and expertise within USAID to implement this section, the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note), and the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013, including—

''(i) by appointing USAID mission water advisors in each high priority country, who—

''(I) shall have or be given the opportunity to fully develop their technical skills and competencies necessary to provide appropriate guidance to technical and program staff to ensure the Water and Development Strategy can be successfully implemented; and

''(II) shall ensure water, sanitation, and hygiene objectives and indicators are reflected throughout program planning and budgeting documents;

''(ii) work with USAID regional bureaus, who shall be the primary liaisons between the Global Water Coordinator and mission water advisors, to ensure water, sanitation, and hygiene projects are reflected in country-specific multiyear strategies, multiyear sector strategies, and project designs in each high priority country; and

''(iii) ensure that water, sanitation, hygiene and water management issues are incorporated into all relevant Agency training programs at the office, regional, and mission levels;

''(C) lead the implementation of the Water and Development Strategy and oversee the review and development no later than every 5 years of an updated Water and Development Strategy such that it more clearly meets the requirements of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 and this Act;

''(D) assist and monitor the development of country-specific and, where appropriate, regional water strategies, whether independent, or as part of broader USAID country-specific or regional strategies, in coordination with relevant USAID mission directors, other appropriate personnel, and pursuant to the interagency consultation and coordination process as required by section 5(b) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013, ensuring such strategies reflect best practices as they relate to increasing access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene activities, and sustainable water management;

''(E) ensure sustainable and equitable access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene are reflected in strategies and broader USAID policies or strategies, including policies or strategies relating to food security,

global health, environment, education, gender equality, and conflict prevention and mitigation;

''(F) develop appropriate benchmarks, measurable goals, performance metrics, and monitoring and evaluation plans for water, sanitation, and hygiene programs in accordance with and as required by sections 6 and 7 of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note);

''(G) ensure programming for sustainable water management, and equitable access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene are reflected across USAID programming in a manner consistent with the long-term sustainability of service outcomes and freshwater sources; and

''(H) foster the development, dissemination, and increased and consistent use of low-cost and sustainable technologies, public and private partnerships, credit guarantees and other financing arrangements that leverage non-Federal funds for impact on equitable access to affordable water, sanitation, and hygiene services that will provide long-term benefits to the world's poorest communities.

''(3) STAFF.—The Administrator shall ensure that a sufficient number of employees with appropriate experience or expertise are reassigned or detailed from within USAID to assist the Global Water Coordinator in carrying out the duties of paragraph (2).

''(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'high priority country' means a low-income or lower-middle income country designated pursuant to section 6(b)(2)(C) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note) and enumerated in the strategy required by such Act, the first iteration of which was released by USAID in May 2013; and

''(B) the term 'Water and Development Strategy' means the strategy released by USAID in May 2013 and its revisions, required to be developed as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013, but no less than 5 years after such date of enactment and every 5 years thereafter under section 6(b) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note).

''(f) SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR WATER RESOURCES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall designate a senior advisor to develop, coordinate, and oversee United States foreign policy relating to freshwater resources and policies complementary to, and in support of, the United States Agency for International Development's Water and Development Strategy, who shall be known as the 'Special Advisor for Water Resources', and who shall report directly to the Secretary of State and the Under Secretary overseeing water programs.

''(2) DUTIES.—The Special Advisor for Water Resources shall—

''(A) oversee and coordinate the development and implementation of approaches to increasing political will and government support in partner countries in accordance with United States foreign policy on drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, water resource management, and transboundary water, including—

''(i) working with partner countries and other stakeholders to develop, sustain, and leverage political and financial commitments that would improve access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, and sustainable water management over the long term;

''(ii) assisting and encouraging other countries and international organizations to plan and manage water resources in an efficient, transparent, equitable, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable manner, taking into account the interdependence among water, food, energy, and sustainable development;

''(iii) fostering regional and cross-border cooperation for integrated management, use and protection of internationally shared rivers, lakes, and aquifer systems;

''(iv) preventing and mitigating intra- and trans-boundary conflict over water resources, including through efforts to strengthen international water law and institutions as tools for facilitating cooperation;

''(v) working with partner countries, international organizations, and other stakeholders to manage water resources in ways that reduce risk and impact from potential water-related shocks such as, but not limited to, droughts or floods, including for improved global food security; and

''(vi) fostering increased agricultural and urban productivity of water resources;

''(B) promote and be the representative for United States policy relating to global freshwater issues in key diplomatic and scientific forums; and

''(C) lead the development and implementation of the Global Water Resources Strategy required by section 6(a) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note) and oversee the review of and update to not later than every 5 years the Global Water Resources Strategy to reflect pressing global challenges and changes.

''(3) STAFF.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that a sufficient number of employees of the Department of State with appropriate experience or expertise are reassigned or detailed from within the Department of State to assist the Special Advisor for Water Resources in carrying out the duties of paragraph (2).

''(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'Water and Development Strategy' means the strategy released by USAID in May 2013 and its revisions, required to be developed as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013, but no less than 5 years after such date of enactment and every 5 years thereafter under section 6(b) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note); and

''(B) the term 'Global Water Resources Strategy' means the strategy required under section 6(a) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note).''.

(b) INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the Secretary of State shall develop and implement a process to ensure regular consultation and coordination between the Global Water Coordinator and the Special Advisor for Water Resources so that their efforts are complimentary and in support of the implementation, and subsequent revision not later than every 5 years, of the Global Water Resources Strategy and the Water and Development Strategy.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The process required under paragraph (1) should include jointly convened meetings with any Federal department or agency administering United States water, sanitation, and hygiene programs to evaluate progress in carrying out the strategies described in paragraph (1), or the revision to any such strategy, as required by section 6 of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note), as amended by section 7 of this Act.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term ''Global Water Coordinator'' means the Global Water Coordinator designated under section 136(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by subsection (a)(2) of this section;

(B) the term ''Global Water Resources Strategy'' means the strategy required under section 6(a) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note), as amended by section 7 of this Act;

(C) the term ''Special Advisor for Water Resources'' means the Special Advisor for Water Resources designated under section 136(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by subsection (a)(2) of this section; and

(D) the term ''Water and Development Strategy'' means the strategy released by USAID in May 2013 and its revisions, required to be developed as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, but no less than 5 years after such date of enactment and every 5 years thereafter under section 6(b) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note), as amended by section 7 of this Act.

SEC. 6. INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY OF SAFE WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

(a) PRINCIPLES.—In order to ensure that water, sanitation, and hygiene projects and activities of the United States Agency for International Development carried out under the authorities of section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as redesignated and amended by section 5 of this Act, and the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note), as amended by this Act, achieve maximum impact and continue to deliver lasting benefits after completion, such projects and activities shall be carried out in accordance with, and monitored and evaluated against the following principles:

(1) Projects and activities should be targeted to the poorest and most vulnerable countries and communities, including women and girls, displaced persons and refugees, and other marginalized populations.

(2) Projects and activities should be designed in consultation with a broad range of local and national stakeholders, including communities directly affected by a lack of access to clean water, sanitation or hygiene, nongovernmental organizations, cooperatives, foundations, universities, private sector entities, and women-focused organizations.

(3) Projects and activities to provide services for the poor should be designed wherever possible to be financially or commercially viable over the long term, focusing on local ownership and sustainability, and undertaken in conjunction with relevant public institutions or private enterprise so long as they can provide access to water, sanitation, and hygiene in such a way that strengthens social equity of access and keeps these services affordable to all, especially the poorest of the poor.

(4) Governments of countries in which projects and activities are carried out should identify revenue streams sufficient to cover the costs of maintaining public equipment and services with respect to such projects and activities over the long term.

(5) Projects and activities should provide for a functioning management and maintenance system comprising tools, supply chains, transport, equipment, training and individuals or institutions with clear responsibilities for achieving sustainability.

(6) With respect to projects and activities that are managed by communities or institutions, effective external support should be provided to such communities or institutions.

(7) Projects should be designed to provide access to water, sanitation, and hygiene, and sustainable water management through joint programs and other coordinated mechanisms and policies, in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the results achieved, to mitigate any negative environmental impacts, and to ensure the resilience of natural and man-made infrastructure to floods, droughts, and other water-related disasters.

(8) Access to water and sanitation should be expanded in an equitable manner and on the basis of need, without regard to race, gender, religion, or ethnic origin.

(b) LOCAL OWNERSHIP.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall establish guidelines and procedures to ensure that—

(1) a broad range of local and national stakeholders is consulted in the development of any country-specific water strategy;

(2) any water, sanitation, and hygiene projects and activities authorized under each such strategy are designed to address the specific needs of women and girls; and

(3) local civil society organizations, including nonprofit organizations as well as businesses, are full participants in the selection and design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of water, sanitation, and hygiene projects and activities.

(c) LOCAL PROCUREMENT.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—In providing assistance under the authorities of section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as redesignated and amended by section 5 of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development is authorized to award contracts and other acquisition instruments on a noncompetitive basis to local entities in high priority countries to carry out safe water, sanitation, and hygiene projects and activities in such countries.

(2) LIMITATION.—A contract or other instrument described in paragraph (1) may not have a value that exceeds $5,000,000.

(3) SUPERSEDES OTHER LAWS.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development may exercise the authority of paragraph (1) notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term ''high priority country'' means a low-income or lower-middle income country designated pursuant to section 6(b)(2)(C) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note), as amended by section 7 of this Act; and

(B) the term ''local entity'' means an individual, corporation, or other entity that—

(i) is organized under the laws of the high priority country;

(ii) has its principal place of business or operations in such country; and

(iii) is owned or controlled by citizens of such country.

(5) FUNDING.—Funds made available to carry out the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note) for any fiscal year are authorized to be made available to carry out this subsection.

(d) RETENTION OF INTEREST.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—In providing assistance under the authorities of section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as redesignated and amended by section 5 of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development is authorized to enter into agreements with indigenous local private or public groups, associations, or other entities in high priority countries to provide for the retention by such group, association, or other entity, without deposit in the Treasury of the United States and without further appropriation by law, of interest earned on such assistance so provided.

(2) LIMITATION.—An agreement described in paragraph (1) may not have a value that exceeds $5,000,000.

(3) USE OF INTEREST.—Any interest earned on the advance of funds under an agreement authorized under paragraph (1) may be used only for the purposes for which the agreement is made.

(4) AUDITS.—The Administrator shall, on a regular and recurring basis, audit interest earned on advance funds under an agreement authorized under paragraph (1) to ensure that the requirements of paragraph (3) are met.

(5) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''high priority country'' means a low-income or lower-middle income country designated pursuant to section 6(b)(2)(C) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note), as amended by section 7 of this Act.

SEC. 7. UNITED STATES COMPLIMENTARY STRATEGIES TO INCREASE SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SAFE WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE.

Section 6 of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 6. UNITED STATES COMPLIMENTARY STRATEGIES TO INCREASE SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE, AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SAFE WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE.

''(a) GLOBAL WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013, and every 5 years thereafter, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, shall develop a strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective to provide affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries, as described in section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and by the Agency's Water and Development Strategy required under subsection (b).

''(2) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) articulate the United States foreign policy framework that will drive the implementation of the United States foreign policy objectives on increasing access to equitable, clean drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene for the world's poorest, water resource management, transboundary water and prevention of conflict over water resources; and

''(B) address ways in which United States foreign policy efforts will promote global water security by building political will and partnerships, and support for national level planning processes, in conjunction with the United States Agency for International Development and other Federal agencies, and leveraging expertise, knowledge, technology and resources that will increase the likelihood that the world's poor receive or continue to have the water they need, when and where they need it, in a sustainable, equitable and conflict-free manner.

''(3) CONSULTATION.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall be developed in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, international organizations, international financial institutions, recipient governments, United States and international nongovernmental organizations, indigenous civil society, and other appropriate entities, and shall be complimentary to, or ultimately joined with, the Agency's Water and Development Strategy required under subsection (b) and subsequent revisions thereto.

''(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Under Secretary of State who has responsibility to oversee water programs and the Special Advisor for Water Resources, shall implement the strategy required under paragraph (1). The strategy may also be implemented in part by other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate.

''(5) CONSISTENT WITH SAFE WATER AND SANITATION POLICY.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall be consistent with the policy stated in section 3 of this Act.

''(6) CONTENT.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, and timetables to achieve the objective described in paragraph (1);

''(B) an assessment of the level of funding and other assistance for United States water and sanitation programs needed each by the United States Department of State year to achieve the goals, benchmarks, and timetables described in subparagraph (A);

''(C) methods to coordinate and integrate United States water, water resources and sanitation assistance carried out by the Department of State with water, sanitation, hygiene and water resource development programs carried out by the United States Agency for International Development and other Federal agencies to achieve the objective described in paragraph (1);

''(D) methods to better coordinate United States water and sanitation assistance programs with programs of other donor countries and entities to achieve the objective described in paragraph (1); and

''(E) an assessment of the commitment of governments of countries that receive assistance under section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to policies or policy reforms that support affordable and equitable access by the people of such countries to safe water and sanitation.

''(b) WATER AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013, but no less than 5 years after such date of enactment and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, acting through the Global Water Coordinator and in consultation with the Special Advisor for Water Resources, shall develop a strategy, to be known as the 'Water and Development Strategy', to further, through the United States Agency for International Development, the United States foreign assistance objective to provide affordable, equitable, and sustainable access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene in developing countries, as described in section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. Such strategy shall be complimentary to the United States foreign policy objectives of the safe water and sanitation strategy required under subsection (a) and shall be transmitted to the appropriate congressional committees and made publicly available on the Internet.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall provide an ambitious vision for leadership of the international development objectives of this Act and the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013 and meet the following requirements:

''(A) CONSISTENCY WITH SAFE WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE POLICY.—The strategy shall be consistent with the policy stated in section 3 of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note).

''(B) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING HIGH PRIORITY COUNTRIES.—The strategy shall identify low-income and lower-middle income countries with a severe lack of access to affordable, equitable, and sustainable safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, by assessing—

''(i) the government or nongovernmental organizational capacity or commitment to manage and implement affordable, equitable, and sustainable solutions, in accordance with section 6 of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013;

''(ii) opportunities to leverage existing indigenous public sector, local, donor or private sector investments in the water, sanitation and water resource management sector;

''(iii) the number of people and percent of the population without access to an improved source of safe drinking water in or close to home, disaggregated by rural, peri-urban, or urban geographic location;

''(iv) the number of people and percent of the population without access to an improved source of sanitation in or close to home, disaggregated by rural, peri-urban, or urban geographic location;

''(v) the mortality rate and number of deaths of children under 5 years old due to diarrhea;

''(vi) the mortality rate and number of deaths of children under 5 years old due to pneumonia;

''(vii) the number and proportion of children under 5 years old who are under-nourished;

''(viii) the average time burden of water collection in rural areas;

''(ix) the coexistence in a single geographic area of two or more diseases categorized as a neglected tropical disease spread in whole or in part due to lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation or hygiene, as defined by the Agency; and

''(x) the degree to which water, sanitation, and hygiene programs are identified as a priority by a beneficiary government, region, or community, as identified in national plans and strategies and the country-specific multiyear strategies as developed by the Agency mission in consultation with the national government and civil society.

''(C) DESIGNATING HIGH PRIORITY COUNTRIES.—The strategy shall select 10 to 20 of the eligible countries identified through the assessment required by subparagraph (B) and identify such countries as 'high priority countries'.

''(D) REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH PRIORITY COUNTRIES.—Each country selected as a high priority country shall be the focus of the Agency's water, sanitation, and hygiene programming, and the strategy shall develop comprehensive and holistic individual country plans for each high priority country so as to meet the objectives of paragraph (1). Such plans shall include—

''(i) a results framework, in accordance with the sustainability principles identified in section 6 of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013, and monitoring and evaluation principles identified in section 7 of this Act, which shall include indicators composed of those criteria used in paragraph (2) to identify high priority countries, that shall be used to measure the long-term impacts and sustainability of programs, including the ongoing commitment of host-country institutions, or lack thereof, and increased access to water, sanitation, and hygiene projects, programs and services provided directly or leveraged by the United States Government; and

''(ii) a clearly described process by which the strategy shall be aligned, coordinated, and leveraged with United States development strategies, policies, and international development initiatives that operate within the high priority country, to include coordination with and reflected in the high priority country's comprehensive strategy for United States Government-supported development assistance.

''(E) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH PRIORITY COUNTRIES.—For each high priority country, the Agency's mission director for such country shall—

''(i) designate sustainably increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation as a strategic objective, reflected in country-specific strategies that incorporate sustainable water management goals and targets in accordance with this Act; and

''(ii) ensure, where complimentary, that the benefits of safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene are reflected in other development initiatives.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION RELATING TO INITIAL STRATEGY.—The Agency's Water and Development Strategy, issued in May 2013, shall be deemed to be the initial strategy required under paragraph (1) and shall be updated in a timely manner as required by paragraph (1).

''(4) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of transmission of the initial strategy required under paragraph (1), the Global Water Coordinator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an implementation plan detailing how the United States Agency for International Development will institutionalize the strategy, including—

''(A) the budget resources needed to achieve the goals, benchmarks, and timetables described in this subsection, and an assessment of what will likely be achieved at current funding levels; and

''(B) the number, types, and levels of specialists and generalists currently employed, and projected to be needed, in each functional and geographic area, including support, management, and administrative functions, to carry out the strategy.

''(5) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In developing the strategy required under paragraph (1)), and the implementation plan required under paragraph (4), the Global Water Coordinator shall—

''(i) consult with relevant Executive agencies;

''(ii) consult with the Special Advisor for Water Resources;

''(iii) consult with the Interagency Consultation and Coordination process as required by section 5(b) of the Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013; and

''(iv) consult with representatives of civil society and multi-lateral organizations with demonstrated experience in addressing the lack of access to affordable, equitable and sustainable safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in developing countries.

''(B) PUBLIC COMMENT.—In carrying out paragraph (1)(D), the Global Water Coordinator shall allow public comments to be submitted for consideration through a mechanism of the Global Water Coordinator's choosing, except that such comment period shall last not less than 45 days.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) GLOBAL WATER COORDINATOR.—The term 'Global Water Coordinator' means the Global Water Coordinator designated under section 136(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

''(2) SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR WATER RESOURCES.—The term 'Special Advisor for Water Resources' means the Special Advisor for Water Resources designated under section 136(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.''.

SEC. 8. TRANSPARENCY AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

Section 7 of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 7. TRANSPARENCY AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

''(a) TRANSPARENCY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2013, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall, as part of the Agency's Internet Web site, establish and maintain a Web page to make publicly available comprehensive, timely, comparable, and accessible information on United States water, sanitation, and hygiene foreign assistance programs. The head of each Federal department or agency that administers such programs shall on a quarterly basis publish and update on the Web page such information with respect to programs of the department or agency.

''(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To ensure transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of United States water, sanitation, and hygiene foreign assistance programs, the information required by paragraph (1) shall include—

''(i) the strategy required by section 6(b) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 119 Stat. 2533; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note);

''(ii) a list of countries that meet the criteria outlined in section 6(b)(2)(B) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005;

''(iii) an identification of each country designated as a high priority country under section 6(b)(2)(C) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, including a fully articulated rationale of why each country received the designation;

''(iv) for each fiscal year, information on the amount of funds expended in each country or program to carry out this Act and the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, disaggregated by purpose of assistance, including information on capital investments, and the source of such funds by account; and

''(v) evaluations of water, sanitation, and hygiene programs.

''(B) POSTING REQUIREMENTS.—Such information shall be published on the Web page not later than 30 days after the date of issuance of the information and shall be continuously updated.

''(C) REPORT IN LIEU OF INCLUSION.—If the head of a Federal department or agency described in paragraph (1) makes a determination that the inclusion of a required item of information on the Web page would jeopardize the health or security of an implementing partner or program beneficiary or would be detrimental to the national interests of the United States, such item of information may be submitted to Congress in a written report in lieu of including it on the Web page, along with the reasons for not including it on the Web page.

''(3) DATABASE.—The Web page shall also contain a link to a searchable database available to the public containing such information relating to the current fiscal year and, as available, for each prior fiscal year dating to and including fiscal year 2006.

''(4) FORM.—Such information shall be published on the Web page in unclassified form. Any information determined to be classified information may be submitted to Congress

in classified form and an unclassified summary of such information shall be published on the Web page.

''(b) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With regard to water, sanitation, and hygiene programming, the Global Water Coordinator shall ensure that the Agency monitors and evaluates projects and activities carried out under such programs, including carrying out assessments of impact where appropriate, and ensuring results of evaluations are used to inform the design of such projects and activities. Such monitoring and evaluations shall—

''(A) be carried out in accordance with, and measured against the principles described in section 6(b) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 and, where appropriate, the goals established section 6(b)(2)(D) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005; and

''(B) conduct longer term monitoring and evaluation of its water activities in order to assess sustainability beyond the typical Agency program cycle and to enable reasonable support to issues that arise post implementation.

''(2) MANDATORY SET-ASIDE FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—Each water, sanitation, and hygiene project shall be planned and budgeted to include funding for both short- and long-term monitoring and evaluation so that the United States Government and other stakeholders can ascertain the long-term return on investment of United States assistance funds and to enable learning about the sustainability of assistance programs and projects that shall inform future projects and programs.

''(3) WHEN TO CONDUCT EVALUATIONS.—The evaluation of water, sanitation, and hygiene projects should include measurable goals and performance metrics, to be tracked against an established baseline at the outset. Such evaluations should occur immediately following the completion of a project, and no fewer than half of all water, sanitation, and hygiene projects shall be reevaluated 5 years after the completion of the project, all in accordance with the requirements and metrics enumerated in paragraph (1).

''(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) MONITORING.—The term 'monitoring' means, with respect to a United States water, sanitation, or hygiene foreign assistance program, a continuing function that uses systematic collection of data on specified indicators to provide management and the main stakeholders of an ongoing development intervention with indications of the extent of progress and achievement of objectives and progress in the use of allocated funds.

''(B) EVALUATION.—The term 'evaluation' means, with respect to a United States water, sanitation, or hygiene foreign assistance program, the systematic collection and analysis of information about the characteristics and outcomes of the program and projects under the program as a basis for judgments, to improve effectiveness, and to inform decisions about current and future programming, including an explanation of the reasons for or causes of the observed results.''.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) water and sanitation are critically important resources that impact many other aspects of human life; and

(2) the United States should be a global leader in helping provide sustainable access to clean water and sanitation for the world's most vulnerable populations.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE SAFE WATER AND SANITATION TO INCLUDE HYGIENE.

Chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 135 (22 U.S.C. 2152h), as added by section 5(a) of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note), as section 136; and

(2) in section 136, as redesignated—

(A) in the section heading, by striking ''**AND SANITATION**'' and inserting ''**, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE**''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''and sanitation'' and inserting '', sanitation, and hygiene''.

SEC. 4. IMPROVING COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT OF SAFE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

Section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as redesignated and amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT.—

''(1) USAID GLOBAL WATER COORDINATOR.—

''(A) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this paragraph as 'USAID') or the Administrator's designee, who shall be a current USAID employee serving in a career or non-career position in the Senior Executive Service or at the level of a Deputy Assistant Administrator or higher, shall serve concurrently as the USAID Global Water Coordinator (referred to in this subsection as the 'Coordinator').

''(B) SPECIFIC DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall—

''(i) provide direction and guidance to, coordinate, and oversee the projects and programs of USAID authorized under this section;

''(ii) lead the implementation and revision, not less frequently than once every 5 years, of USAID's portion of the Global Water Strategy required under subsection (j);

''(iii) seek—

''(I) to expand the capacity of USAID, subject to the availability of appropriations, including through the designation of a lead subject matter expert selected from among USAID staff in each high priority country designated pursuant to subsection (h);

''(II) to implement such programs and activities;

''(III) to take advantage of economies of scale; and

''(IV) to conduct more efficient and effective projects and programs;

''(iv) coordinate with the Department of State and USAID staff in each high priority country designated pursuant to subsection (h) to ensure that USAID activities and projects, USAID program planning and budgeting documents, and USAID country development strategies reflect and seek to implement—

''(I) the safe water, sanitation, and hygiene objectives established in the strategy required under subsection (j), including objectives relating to the management of water resources; and

''(II) international best practices relating to—

''(aa) increasing access to safe water and sanitation;

''(bb) conducting hygiene-related activities; and

''(cc) ensuring appropriate management of water resources; and

''(v) develop appropriate benchmarks, measurable goals, performance metrics, and monitoring and evaluation plans for USAID projects and programs authorized under this section.

''(2) DEPARTMENT OF STATE SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR WATER RESOURCES.—

''(A) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, who shall be a current employee of the Department of State serving in a career or non-career position in the Senior Executive Service or at the level of a Deputy Assistant Secretary or higher, shall serve concurrently as the Department of State Special Advisor for Water Resources (referred to in this paragraph as the 'Special Advisor').

''(B) SPECIFIC DUTIES.—The Special Advisor shall—

''(i) provide direction and guidance to, coordinate, and oversee the projects and programs of the Department of State authorized under this section;

''(ii) lead the implementation and revision, not less than every 5 years, of the Department of State's portion of the Global Water Strategy required under subsection (j);

''(iii) prioritize and coordinate the Department of State's international engagement on the allocation, distribution, and access to global fresh water resources and policies related to such matters;

''(iv) coordinate with United States Agency for International Development and Department of State staff in each high priority country designated pursuant to subsection (h) to ensure that United States diplomatic efforts related to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, including efforts related to management of water resources and watersheds and the resolution of intra- and trans-boundary conflicts over water resources, are consistent with United States national interests; and

''(v) represent the views of the United States Government on the allocation, distribution, and access to global fresh water resources and policies related to such matters in key international fora, including key diplomatic, development-related, and scientific organizations.

''(3) ADDITIONAL NATURE OF DUTIES AND RESTRICTION ON ADDITIONAL OR SUPPLEMENTAL COMPENSATION.—The responsibilities and specific duties of the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (or the Administrator's designee) and the Secretary of State (or the Secretary's designee) under paragraph (2) or (3), respectively, shall be in addition to any other responsibilities or specific duties assigned to such individuals. Such individuals shall receive no additional or supplemental compensation as a result of carrying out such responsibilities and specific duties under such paragraphs.''.

SEC. 5. PROMOTING THE MAXIMUM IMPACT AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF USAID SAFE WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE-RELATED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

Section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as redesignated and amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) PRIORITIES AND CRITERIA FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall ensure that the Agency for International Development's projects and programs authorized under this section are designed to achieve maximum impact and long-term sustainability by—

''(1) prioritizing countries on the basis of the following clearly defined criteria and indicators, to the extent sufficient empirical data are available—

''(A) the proportion of the population using an unimproved drinking water source;

''(B) the total population using an unimproved drinking water source;

''(C) the proportion of the population without piped water access;

''(D) the proportion of the population using shared or other unimproved sanitation facilities;

''(E) the total population using shared or other unimproved sanitation facilities;

''(F) the proportion of the population practicing open defecation;

''(G) the total number of children younger than 5 years of age who died from diarrheal disease;

''(H) the proportion of all deaths of children younger than 5 years of age resulting from diarrheal disease;

''(I) the national government's capacity, capability, and commitment to work with the United States to improve access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, including—

''(i) the government's capacity and commitment to developing the indigenous capacity to provide safe water and sanitation without the assistance of outside donors; and

''(ii) the degree to which such government—

''(I) identifies such efforts as a priority; and

''(II) allocates resources to such efforts;

''(J) the availability of opportunities to leverage existing public, private, or other donor investments in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors, including investments in the management of water resources; and

''(K) the likelihood of making significant improvements on a per capita basis on the health and educational opportunities available to women as a result of increased access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, including access to appropriate facilities at primary and secondary educational institutions seeking to ensure that communities benefitting from such projects and activities develop the indigenous capacity to provide safe water and sanitation without the assistance of outside donors;

''(2) prioritizing and measuring, including through rigorous monitoring and evaluating mechanisms, the extent to which such project or program—

''(A) furthers significant improvements in—

''(i) the criteria set forth in subparagraphs (A) through (H) of paragraph (1);

''(ii) the health and educational opportunities available to women as a result of increased access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, including access to appropriate facilities at primary and secondary educational institutions; and

''(iii) the indigenous capacity of the host nation or community to provide safe water and sanitation without the assistance of outside donors;

''(B) is designed, as part of the provision of safe water and sanitation to the local community—

''(i) to be financially independent over the long term, focusing on local ownership and sustainability;

''(ii) to be undertaken in conjunction with relevant public institutions or private enterprises;

''(iii) to identify and empower local individuals or institutions to be responsible for the effective management and maintenance of such project or program; and

''(iv) to provide safe water or expertise or capacity building to those identified parties or institutions for the purposes of developing a plan and clear responsibilities for the effective management and maintenance of such project or program;

''(C) leverages existing public, private, or other donor investments in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors, including investments in the management of water resources;

''(D) avoids duplication of efforts with other United States Government agencies or departments or those of other nations or nongovernmental organizations;

''(E) coordinates such efforts with the efforts of other United States Government agencies or departments or those of other nations or nongovernmental organizations directed at assisting refugees and other displaced individuals; and

''(F) involves consultation with appropriate stakeholders, including communities directly affected by the lack of access to clean water, sanitation or hygiene, and other appropriate nongovernmental organizations; and

''(3) seeking to further the strategy required under subsection (j) after 2018.

''(g) USE OF CURRENT AND IMPROVED EMPIRICAL DATA COLLECTION AND REVIEW OF NEW STANDARDIZED INDICATORS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development is authorized to use current and improved empirical data collection—

''(A) to meet the health-based prioritization criteria established pursuant to subsection (f)(1); and

''(B) to review new standardized indicators in evaluating progress towards meeting such criteria.

''(2) CONSULTATION AND NOTICE.—The Administrator shall—

''(A) regularly consult with the appropriate congressional committees; and

''(B) notify such committees not later than 30 days before using current or improved empirical data collection for the review of any new standardized indicators under paragraph (1) for the purposes of carrying out this section.

''(h) DESIGNATION OF HIGH PRIORITY COUNTRIES.—

''(1) INITIAL DESIGNATION.—Not later than October 1, 2015, the President shall—

''(A) designate, on the basis of the criteria set forth in subsection (f)(1) not fewer than 10 countries as high priority countries to be the primary recipients of United States Government assistance authorized under this section during fiscal year 2016; and

''(B) notify the appropriate congressional committees of such designations.

''(2) ANNUAL DESIGNATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the President shall annually make new designations pursuant to the criteria set forth in paragraph (1).

''(B) DESIGNATIONS AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2018.—Beginning with fiscal year 2019, designations under paragraph (1) shall be made—

''(i) based upon the criteria set forth in subsection (f)(1); and

''(ii) in furtherance of the strategy required under subsection (j).

''(i) TARGETING OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS TO AREAS OF GREATEST NEED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days before the obligation of any funds for water, sanitation, or hygiene projects or programs pursuant to this section in countries that are not ranked in the top 50 countries based upon the WASH Needs Index, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the planned obligation of such funds.

''(2) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection and in subsection (j), the term 'WASH Needs Index' means the needs index for water, sanitation, or hygiene projects or programs authorized under this section that has been developed using the criteria and indicators described in subparagraphs (A) through (H) of subsection (f)(1).''.

SEC. 6. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO INCREASE APPROPRIATE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND ACCESS TO SAFE WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 136 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as redesignated and amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) GLOBAL WATER STRATEGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2017, October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2027, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the heads of other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall submit a single government-wide Global Water Strategy to the appropriate congressional committees that provides a detailed description of how the United States intends—

''(A) to increase access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in high priority countries designated pursuant to subsection (h), including a summary of the WASH Needs Index and the specific weighting of empirical data and other definitions used to develop and rank countries on the WASH Needs Index;

''(B) to improve the management of water resources and watersheds in such countries; and

''(C) to work to prevent and resolve, to the greatest degree possible, both intra- and trans-boundary conflicts over water resources in such countries.

''(2) AGENCY-SPECIFIC PLANS.—The Global Water Strategy shall include an agency-specific plan—

''(A) from the United States Agency for International Development that describes specifically how the Agency for International Development will—

''(i) carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to the Global Water Coordinator under subsection (e)(1);

''(ii) ensure that the Agency for International Development's projects and programs authorized under this section are designed to achieve maximum impact and long-term sustainability, including by implementing the requirements described in subsection (f); and

''(iii) increase access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in high priority countries designated pursuant to subsection (h);

''(B) from the Department of State that describes specifically how the Department of State will—

''(i) carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to the Special Coordinator for Water Resources under subsection (e)(2); and

''(ii) ensure that the Department's activities authorized under this section are designed—

''(I) to improve management of water resources and watersheds in countries designated pursuant to subsection (h); and

''(II) to prevent and resolve, to the greatest degree possible, both intra- and trans-boundary conflicts over water resources in such countries; and

''(C) from other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, that describes the contributions of the departments and agencies to implementing the Global Water Strategy.

''(3) INDIVIDUALIZED PLANS FOR HIGH PRIORITY COUNTRIES.—For each high priority country designated pursuant to subsection (h), the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall—

''(A) develop a costed, evidence-based, and results-oriented plan that—

''(i) seeks to achieve the purposes of this section; and

''(ii) meets the requirements under subsection (f); and

''(B) include such plan in an appendix to the Global Water Strategy required under paragraph (1).

''(4) FIRST TIME ACCESS REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Global Water Strategy shall specifically describe the target percentage of funding for each fiscal year covered by such strategy to be directed toward projects aimed at providing first-time access to safe water and sanitation.

''(5) PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.—The Global Water Strategy shall include specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, performance metrics, timetables, and monitoring and evaluation plans required to be developed by the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development pursuant to subsection (e)(1)(B)(v).

''(6) CONSULTATION AND BEST PRACTICES.—The Global Water Strategy shall—

''(A) be developed in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies; and

''(B) incorporate best practices from the international development community.

''(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

''(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

''(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

''(2) the term 'long-term sustainability' refers to the ability of a service delivery system, community, partner, or beneficiary to maintain, over time, any water, sanitation, or hygiene project that receives funding pursuant to the amendments made by the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2014.''.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE AGENCY-SPECIFIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit an agency-specific plan to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 136(k) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by subsection (a)) that meets the requirements of section 136(j)(2)(B) of such Act, as added by subsection (a).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6 of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121; 22 U.S.C. 2152h note) is repealed.

Mr. POE of Texas (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHARD J. SEITZ COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1434) to designate the Junction City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located at 715 Southwind Drive, Junction City, Kansas, as the Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1434

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

SECTION 1. LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHARD J. SEITZ COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz served as the cadet commander of a unit of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Leavenworth High School in Leavenworth, Kansas, where he earned the American Legion Cup as an outstanding cadet;

(2) while attending Kansas State University, Lieutenant General Seitz accepted a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army and was called into active duty in 1940;

(3) Lieutenant General Seitz volunteered to be one of the first paratroopers in the United States;

(4) at age 25, Lieutenant General Seitz as a major, was given command of the 2nd Battalion of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat Team, becoming the youngest battalion commander in the Army;

(5) along with the 7th Armored Division, the battalion commanded by Lieutenant General Seitz formed what became known as Task Force Seitz at the Battle of the Bulge with the mission to plug the gaps on the north slope of the Bulge when the Germans attempted to break out;

(6) the service of Lieutenant General Seitz earned him the Silver Star, 2 Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, and many other acknowledgments during his 37-year career in the Army;

(7) after victory in Europe, Lieutenant General Seitz remained in the Army, commanding the 2nd Airborne Battle Group, 503rd Infantry Regiment, and the 82nd Airborne Division;

(8) on retiring in 1978, Lieutenant General Seitz settled in Junction City, Kansas, near Ft. Riley, where he would greet deploying and returning units from Iraq and Afghanistan at all times of the day;

(9) Lieutenant General Seitz remained active in the wider community, working with the Coronado Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Fort Riley National Bank, Rotary International, and the Association of the United States Army and serving on the board of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum;

(10) Lieutenant General Seitz had a passion for mentoring young officers and noncommissioned officers at Fort Riley, never ceasing to be a soldier, according to his son, Richard M. Seitz;

(11) Lieutenant General Seitz was named an Outstanding Citizen of Kansas;

(12) in 2012 an elementary school at Fort Riley was named in honor of Lieutenant General Seitz, which is meaningful because he believed the fate of the United States relied on young children and the teachers who inspire them;

(13) during visits to the elementary school, Lieutenant General Seitz would talk with the students about what it meant to be a ''proud and great American'' and his message was always to ''respect the teachers and be a learner'';

(14) the family and friends of Lieutenant General Seitz have described him as a gentleman, compassionate, respected, full of integrity, gracious, giving, and a remarkable individual; and

(15) Lieutenant General Seitz lived each day to its fullest and his commitment to his fellow man serves as an inspiration to all the people of the United States.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Junction City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located at 715 Southwind Drive, Junction City, Kansas, shall be known and designated as the ''Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic''.

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Junction City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic referred to in subsection (b) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate bill, S. 1434.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 1434 which would name the Junction City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located at 715 Southwind Drive, Junction City, Kansas, as the Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

Following completion of the Army ROTC program at Kansas State University, Lieutenant General Seitz served with distinction in World War II. Lieutenant General Seitz participated in the invasion of Italy and the Battle of the Bulge as one of the youngest battalion commanders of the war at the age of 25. After the victory in Europe, Lieutenant General Seitz remained in the Army commanding at many levels, culminating with command of the 82nd Airborne Division.

During his service, Lieutenant General Seitz earned the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the French Croix de Guerre and Legion of Honor.

After Lieutenant General Seitz retired, he settled in Junction City and served the Fort Riley community. He would greet deploying and returning units from Iraq and Afghanistan at all times of the day, and he mentored young officers and noncommissioned officers stationed there.

Beyond this service, he also volunteered his time with the Boy Scouts of America, Rotary International, and the Association of the United States Army.

In recognition of Lieutenant General Seitz's service to both his country and his community, naming the Junction City CBOC after him is a fitting and

appropriate honor. It is my pleasure to support S. 1434, and I am grateful for the leadership and support of Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, Senator MORAN, and the entire Kansas delegation. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1434.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1434, which designates the Junction City, Kansas, Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Junction City as the Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

General Seitz served in the Army for 37 years. Among the medals and commendations he was awarded are the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart. After he retired, he was awarded the Creighton Abrams Medal. In September 2011, he was given France's highest distinction, the Legion of Honor.

In World War II, joined by a company of 7th Armored Division tanks, General Seitz was in command of a battalion of paratroopers who won two decisive attacks during the Battle of the Bulge. Seitz was only 28 years old at the time. He continued to serve in command roles after World War II, earning his first general's star in 1963, his second star in 1967, and finished his distinguished career in 1978 as a three-star general.

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Following his retirement, General Seitz stayed dedicated to those who served. He remained passionate for mentoring commissioned and noncommissioned officers, and frequently visited Fort Riley to greet deploying and returning units bound for the Middle East.

As a native of Leavenworth, Kansas, General Seitz returned to Kansas in 1978 and settled in Junction City.

Joining his name to the community-based outpatient clinic in Junction City, Kansas, would be a fitting way to honor General Seitz in his commitment to duty and valor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 1434, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and, once again, I encourage all Members to support S. 1434.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1434.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORPORAL MICHAEL J. CRESCENZ ACT OF 2013

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass 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''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is 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 SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 229.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 229, which would name the VA Medical Center located at 3900 Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Corporal Crescenz was the only Philadelphia native to earn the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam war. His posthumous award of the Medal of Honor resulted from an act of heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on November 20, 1968.

Reading from Corporal Crescenz's Medal of Honor citation:

In the morning, his unit engaged a large, well-entrenched force of the North Vietnamese Army whose initial burst of fire pinned down the lead squad and killed the two point men, halting the advance of Company A.

Immediately, Corporal Crescenz left the relative safety of his own position, seized a nearby machinegun and, with complete disregard for his own safety, charged 100 meters up a slope toward the enemy's bunkers, which he effectively silenced, killing two occupants in each.

Undaunted by the withering machinegun fire around him, Corporal Crescenz courageously moved forward toward a third bunker, which he also succeeded in silencing, killing two more of the enemy and momentarily clearing the route of advance for his comrades.

As a direct result of his heroic actions, his company was able to maneuver freely with minimal danger and complete its mission, defeating the enemy.

Corporal Crescenz's bravery and extraordinary heroism at the cost of his life are in the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Naming the Philadelphia VA Medical Center after this American hero is a tribute to his legacy and to all residents who served with our Nation during the Vietnam war.

It is my pleasure to support S. 229, and I am grateful for the leadership and support of Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, Senator TOOMEY, and the entire Pennsylvania delegation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this hero by supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

We have come to this floor on any number of occasions honoring people, but I think this may be the noblest moment that I have risen on the floor, because, in this instance, it is not to name a stamp after Wilt Chamberlain from Philadelphia or the train station after Congressman Gray, but this is to acknowledge a young man who graduated from high school in 1966 and, within a year or so, joined, enlisted, and went off to war on behalf of his country in a faraway place.

He finished at Cardinal Dougherty High School. He played varsity baseball there. He played basketball in a summer league at Simons Recreation Center. He grew up in West Oak Lane in my district, on the 7400 block of Thouron Avenue.

But the Corporal Crescenz whom we honor today is someone who, even though he was only in country for just a mere few months, when this attack took place, he grabbed a machinegun and he went towards the fire. It has been recounted when President Nixon awarded him the Medal of Honor, he took out one machinegun nest, he took out another, he then took out a third. Then when a camouflaged artillery post opened up, he charged at it, and that is when he took this mortal round.

But this is a young man who really, I think, represents everything that is important about American ideals because he lived a life of service on behalf of his country. He took it on himself to

face challenge in a faraway place. He honors us even in his death, which was a long, long time ago, by giving us the honor to be able to rise and to acknowledge his courage.

Our city lost a lot of people in the Vietnam war. This is the only soldier to earn the Medal of Honor.

I want to thank Councilman David Oh, who is a member of the Republican Party on our city council—it is hard to be a Republican and get elected in Philadelphia—but who helped to raise this issue locally.

I want to thank all of the Pennsylvania Members. We introduced a bill, H.R. 454. Every single Member of the Pennsylvania delegation supported this.

I have visited the Philadelphia VA. I have talked to veterans there who are getting care, all of whom are proud to have served our country. I think that they will be proud that the name of the medical center will be named after this young corporal who didn't make it in the headlines but, today, he is at the very forefront of the work of the United States Congress as we honor his service and we honor his family by this naming bill.

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

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

I have no further speakers at this time.

The veterans of Philadelphia have for some time been trying to gain recognition for their brother in arms, and I thank the Pennsylvania delegation for their work in bringing this bill to the floor.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 229, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, PAT MEEHAN, my friend.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I also thank my colleague from Philadelphia, the distinguished gentleman, who has been a strong supporter of this important bill. I rise in strong support of S. 229, which is the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Act of 2013.

As has been identified, the legislation would rename the Woodland Avenue Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia after Corporal Crescenz. As has been identified, he is Philadelphia's only Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam era from Cardinal Dougherty High School, which had contributed more young men who gave their lives in the service of their country during the Vietnam war than any high school in the Nation, so this is quite a distinction.

I visited, as have my colleagues, numerous times the veterans medical center, making sure that it ensures the veterans receive the care they deserve.

But I think one of the things that is important about this kind of a recognition is not only that it has been earned with valor, but the veterans who walk in and out of there each day, many of them Vietnam veterans themselves, want to hear the story about Corporal Crescenz. His name will be enshrined, people will know about it, and his heroism will live and continue to live.

Mr. FATTAH. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEHAN. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. I missed the opportunity, and I should acknowledge the strong contribution of Congressman BOB BRADY in this effort, along with yourself and Congressman FITZPATRICK. I neglected in my early remarks to do so, so if I could lay that on the RECORD. This would not have happened without Congressman BRADY's support.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I also want to express my appreciation. I think it is one of the endearing factors. While we from time to time may have strong disagreements about issues, we actually have had many more that we have been able to work together on. This is one that I am proud to support.

I will conclude by saying that this was undoubtedly an act in which he not only acted selflessly for himself, but he saved his fellow warfighters from harm.

I would like to commend those who have worked tirelessly on renaming this facility, and I hope that my colleagues will support this measure.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, MICHAEL FITZPATRICK, my friend, to speak on this issue.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

I also am very pleased to join with my colleagues in both the House and the Senate in advancing legislation which will, we hope, appear on the President's desk to honor the service and sacrifice, the very significant sacrifice, of Corporal Michael Crescenz, whom, as we have heard many times here today, was Philadelphia's sole Medal of Honor winner during the Vietnam war.

I want to also thank my friend, Mr. FATTAH, for his work in getting the bill to the floor here today.

Corporal Crescenz received a Medal of Honor for his actions on November 20, 1968, in Vietnam's Hiep Duc Valley. His citation states—and I know the citation was already quoted here today, but I think it bears repeating, at least in part—that Corporal Crescenz gave his life when he ''left the relative safety of his own position, seized a nearby machinegun and, with complete disregard for his safety, charged 100 meters up a slope toward the enemy's bunkers, which he effectively silenced. As a direct result of his heroic actions, his company was able to maneuver freely with minimal danger and to complete its mission, defeating the enemy.''

By moving to rename the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, we immortalize the legacy of Corporal Crescenz and remember his sacrifice in the defense of our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the Philadelphia region has a long and proud tradition of selfless sacrifice to our Nation dating back to the Revolution. Generations of military members have called our area home, and they continue to serve today. We must continue to recognize those who sacrifice and those who gave their lives at the altar of freedom.

Corporal Crescenz continues to have many friends, led by Joe Griffies and his friends at the Welcome Home Veterans radio program, who have never forgotten Michael Crescenz and have fought tirelessly as well for this legislation.

Mr. FATTAH's Corporal Michael J. Crescenz's Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center legislation reminds us all that the contributions of our Nation's veterans should never be forgotten.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I will close by saying I can't think of anything more appropriate than naming this VA medical center after this Medal of Honor winner. I am a Vietnam-era veteran, lost a lot of friends in the war in Vietnam. It is difficult for me to even talk about it. I can't think of anything more appropriate than naming this great medical center after this hero from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support S. 229.

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

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Act of 2013, to rename the Philadelphia VA Medical Center in honor of Medal of Honor recipient and Philadelphia native Corporal Michael Crescenz.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that we are able to bring this long overdue honor to a great Philadelphian and a worthy American hero. I have been working to accomplish this renaming since I first drafted legislation in 2012, and I am thankful that my colleagues Congressman FATTAH and Senator TOOMEY, as well as the rest of the Pennsylvania delegation, have joined me in this important endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, Corporal Michael J. Crescenz is the only Philadelphia-born recipient of the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military honor, from the Vietnam War. Born on January 14, 1949 to Mary Ann and Charles Crescenz, Michael grew up in the West Oak Lane neighborhood of Philadelphia and went on to graduate from Cardinal Dougherty High School Class of 1966. He enlisted in the US Army in September 1968, the same month that his older brother Charles was discharged from active duty.

According to his Medal of Honor citation, 19-year old Cpl. Crescenz's platoon came under attack on November 20, 1968, in Vietnam's Hiep Duc Valley. Rather than remain in the relative safety of his position, Cpl. Crescenz seized a nearby machine gun,

charged toward the enemy's position, and silenced two bunkers. He then courageously advanced toward a third bunker, which he also silenced, clearing a route for his comrades. Shortly thereafter, gunfire emerged from a fourth, unseen bunker, and in order to protect his fellow soldiers, Cpl. Crescenz advanced on the position, firing with his machine gun. He was mortally wounded when he was just 5 meters away from the camouflaged bunker. His selfless actions allowed his company to maneuver freely to complete its mission, ultimately defeating the enemy.

President Nixon posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to Cpl. Crescenz in April, 1970 for his gallantry and intrepidity in action. Now, 46 years after his heroic stand, we again humbly recognize the sacrifice of Cpl. Crescenz, along with the sacrifice of all those who paid the ultimate price in Vietnam and in all wars in defense of our nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 229.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1645

LANE A. EVANS VA COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass 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''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is 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 Veterans 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''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2921.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2921, which would name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic at 310 Home Boulevard, Galesburg, Illinois, as the Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

We are here today to honor the life and service of the late Congressman Lane Evans by naming the new VA community-based outpatient clinic in Illinois after him. Congressman Evans represented Illinois' 17th District for more than 20 years, was a champion of veterans' issues throughout his time in Congress, and served as the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for a decade.

Congressman Evans passed away this year, at the age of 63, following a long battle with Parkinson's disease. One way to honor Congressman Evans is to recognize his legacy of service to veterans in the community. It is in that thought that we believe naming this facility after him is a fitting tribute.

It is my pleasure to support S. 2921, and I am grateful for the leadership and support of Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, Senator DURBIN, and the entire Illinois delegation. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great public servant by supporting this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of bipartisan legislation that I introduced last month to name the Galesburg VA community-based outpatient clinic in honor of former Congressman Lane Evans, who passed away just last month. Lane served the 17th Congressional District of Illinois, the district I now have the honor and privilege of representing. He served it with honor, humility, and hard work for more than two decades.

A Marine Corps veteran himself, Lane was a steadfast champion for our men and women in uniform. A veteran of the Vietnam war era, he served on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee from his arrival in Washington to his position as the committee's ranking member, a post he held for more than 10 years.

Lane Evans' record on behalf of veterans earned him the praise and respect from veterans service organizations and his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of former Congressman Lane Evans by designating the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Galesburg, Illinois, as the Lane A. Evans Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

I first got to know Lane when I was a young newspaper reporter covering our region. Lane was always warm, accessible, and friendly to me. I interviewed him many times about a number of different topics.

While he was young, with his trademark boyish haircut, his quiet courage and drive made him seem much older than his age. Through my interactions with him over the years and with those who worked with him and those who he touched through his service, I learned a lot about the man and what he stood for.

A proud native of Rock Island, the son of a firefighter and a nurse, and an Alleman High School and Augustana College graduate, Lane truly represented everything that is right about public service. He will be sorely missed by all those he touched, and the legacy of service that he provided will never be forgotten.

The dedication of a veterans' facility in the heart of the district he represented is a fitting tribute and acknowledgment of his career-long fight to ensure that all veterans get the care and the benefits that they have earned and deserve.

I would like to thank the entire Illinois delegation and the many Members who served with Lane for supporting this effort. In particular, I would like to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD of the Veterans' Affairs Committee here in the House and their counterparts in the Senate, Chairman SANDERS and Ranking Member BURR, for bringing this forward. I would also like to thank Senators KIRK and DURBIN from Illinois for shepherding this bill through the Senate.

By renaming this VA clinic, we can ensure that Lane Evans' strong legacy of service to our men and women in uniform lives on in a facility that serves them today. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this bipartisan legislation in honor of the memory of Lane Evans.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my good friend, CHRIS SMITH from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Thank you, Dr. ROE, for yielding and also for helping bring this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2921, which would designate the VA community-based outpatient clinic in Galesburg, Illinois, as the Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

As a cosponsor of the House version of the bill, I appreciate the work that both the House and Senate VA Committees have done and the leadership of both Chambers to bring this bill to the floor. I especially want to thank Senator DURBIN for authorizing this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, for 24 years, Lane Evans served with distinction as the Representative of Illinois' 17th Congressional District. We mourn his tragic

passing last month at the age of 63. Even as he suffered from Parkinson's disease, Mr. Speaker, Lane Evans heroically and tenaciously fought for veterans in the years leading up to his retirement in 2007.

When Congressman Evans retired, the Vietnam Veterans of America said:

> Lane's compassion for his fellow veterans and his commitment to do right by them has come right from the heart.

As ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee during my tenure as chairman of the committee, I saw firsthand how he turned his knowledge, compassion, and expertise—his heart—into effective advocacy and how he worked to make a tangible difference in the lives of veterans and their families around the country.

Mr. Speaker, during our tenure as chair and ranking member, we were able to craft and shepherd into law numerous bills that expanded care and service for our Nation's veterans, including expansion of the GI Bill and assistance to homeless veterans.

Lane's commitment to ensuring that men and women who wore the uniform had timely access to world class medical treatment that they have earned was, in a word, extraordinary.

Of particular interest to Lane, a Vietnam veteran himself, was health care for veterans exposed to agent orange during their service in Vietnam. Throughout the 1980s, it was an honor to work side by side with Lane and others, like Congressman Tom Daschle, in an effort to convince a highly reluctant Department of Veterans Affairs and Pentagon that agent orange severely injured many who served in Vietnam.

In 1991, Lane introduced the Veterans' Compensation Amendments of 1991, which became part of the Agent Orange Act, to provide presumptive service-connected disability assistance to veterans with diseases linked to agent orange; thus the gentleman from Illinois helped ensure that veterans received the care and the compensation they deserved, while not being saddled with the onerous burden of proof for injuries due to exposure to a herbicide that was laced with dioxin.

It is, therefore, highly fitting to name a community-based outpatient clinic after a remarkable lawmaker who fought hard for veterans, health care, and compensation during his time in Congress. I urge my colleagues to join me and all the leadership here on the floor in supporting S. 2921 to honor the legacy of Congressman Evans as a remarkable veterans' advocate.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2921 in honoring the life of our former friend and colleague, Lane Evans, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support S. 2921.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2921.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN TOM LATHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, we are here today under a Special Order because at this time of year—at the end of a session—we have Members that are retiring, Members that deserve recognition, and Members that other Members of the House would like to talk about for a few minutes.

Today, we have one of the best that, unfortunately, is retiring at the end of this year. He is a gentleman that I have known since I came to Congress and have become good friends with. We have had many entertaining times.

I am sorry to say that the thing that people in Washington are going to miss the most, probably, is a rendition of Roy Orbison duets by Mr. LATHAM and myself. I don't know how, but we certainly had fun with those at various events.

Before I say anything else, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

□ 1700

Mr. LOEBSACK. I thank the gentleman from Idaho, Mr. SIMPSON. I didn't know that you did ''Oh, Pretty Woman'' and all these other songs. I can't wait, TOM, to see you back in Iowa.

Madam Speaker, it is really an honor for me to be up here tonight to speak for and about TOM LATHAM. When I got elected in 2006, TOM had been here for some time, not a long period of time, but for 12 years. I knew about TOM from what I had read. I didn't know him personally. I was one of those folks who came to Congress with no one expecting me to get here, so I didn't know that many folks in this body certainly before I got elected.

When I got elected, one of the first things I did was try to find out as much as I could about TOM LATHAM and meet with TOM LATHAM and work with him on a number of issues because I knew he had a reputation for working across the aisle. I also knew that he was very good friends at the time with Mr. BOEHNER, who subsequently became Speaker of the House, so I knew it was probably in my interest to get to know TOM LATHAM if I wanted to get things done for Iowa, even though Speaker PELOSI took over when I came.

My job since I have been here, I believe, has been to work with both sides of the aisle, and TOM LATHAM is a model, as far as I am concerned, for doing exactly that.

When I first came, you know, we had a lot of tough issues to deal with here in the U.S. Congress, and one of the things that happened very early on when I first got elected was the issue of the National Guard came up, and I was on Armed Services. A lot of those Guard folks were being deployed multiple times, and it was very, very difficult for their families.

A number of us recognized that what we needed to do was build facilities, more facilities, upgrade facilities, get rid of those old National Guard armories and replace them with readiness centers that would be there to train and equip our troops in the event that we had to send them overseas on a mission, which we did many, many times, and Iowans proudly have served over the years, over these many years, in Iraq and Afghanistan and other places.

We needed to construct those facilities also for their families, for their spouses, and for their children. So on the Armed Services Committee I did what I could in terms of authorization to make sure that the funds were there, and on the Appropriations Committee, of course, what TOM LATHAM did was make sure that we had the funding to make sure that we built those facilities as well. So we were able to work on that issue together.

Then when the floods, the great flood of 2008 hit across Iowa, but mainly across the eastern half of Iowa—and it would include a lot of TOM LATHAM's district—a lot of it included my district, about half the damage was in my district alone. But I worked with TOM, I worked with STEVE KING, BRUCE BRALEY, and Leonard Boswell. We really did a great job working on a bipartisan basis to make sure that what we needed in Iowa we got. So we worked very hard on that.

Then also on veterans issues. When we heard about the scandal in Phoenix, the first thing I did was I contacted TOM LATHAM and said, ''Hey, we need to go to Des Moines together if that is okay with you. I know it is your congressional district—it is not mine—but let's go to Des Moines together and talk to the folks there about the Des Moines facility.''

I have been to the VA facility in Iowa City in my district many, many times, but I wanted to go to Des Moines, and I wanted to go with TOM, and I knew that he would work together with me on that to make sure that everything

is right, and if it isn't right that we fix it.

So he was very much open to that. He didn't hesitate for a second. That is the kind of person he is. That has been the kind of legislator he is, even at a time—and in this body we have seen a lot of ugliness over the years. It seems as though our politics in America has just gotten uglier by the day sometimes, and even in the middle of all that, when that has happened, TOM LATHAM has stood tall, he has stood proud as an Iowan. He has got a lot of common sense, like most Iowans do, and he works with the other side because he knows that the job is to get things done. That is what TOM LATHAM does. He has gotten things done.

We are going to miss you, TOM, there is no question about that, and I think you know that probably better than we do. We are going to miss you. I know you have heard that from a lot of folks.

TOM LATHAM, he is a humble Iowa guy, that is what he is. He has been able to get a tremendous amount done for his district, for my alma mater, Iowa State, before he lost that to Congressman KING, and for any other number of folks in his congressional district over the years. I honor you. I honor Kathy. I am looking forward to seeing you later tonight, and thank you for everything, TOM. Farewell and good luck with whatever you end up doing.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman from Iowa for his statement. Now I would like to yield to another gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Idaho for yielding to the gentleman from Iowa. There are about four people on the floor right now that do know the difference.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to give a great message of gratitude and thanks to Congressman TOM LATHAM. I want to tell a little bit of the narrative about how this unfolds from the perspective of Iowa, and that is this: we are all politics all the time. There is no off season for us. You are always on season. When the Iowa caucuses emerge, there is a big focus on Presidential politics.

If you are on the State Central Committee, you are in the middle of that arena. That is where I first met TOM LATHAM and first became aware of his commitment to the political arena and to conservatism. I would want to let the body know, Madam Speaker, that TOM LATHAM didn't come from a place that was a big magnificent megalopolis, unless you would want to describe Alexander, Iowa, with 160-some people, as a big megalopolis. 168 people would be the population of Alexander, Iowa, rooted in now a three-generation seed company, and rooted in the soil. I don't have to explain this to the people from either Idaho or Iowa, but all new wealth comes from the land, and it regenerates itself every year in the form of corn in our neighborhood and soybeans and potatoes in Mr. SIMPSON's neighborhood.

When you see where their origin of wealth comes every year, and you see the families that came across the prairie and turned the sod for the first time and maybe built their house out of it and put their roots down into that soil, and then took the family farm that raised the wealth and boiled that out of there and over from the farm to the town to the city, and you see a family business with multiple brothers engaged in it, and three generations now, you know that they are tied to the heart of the heartland and the good of what is good about Iowa and America.

That is what TOM LATHAM brought to the political arena from the State Central Committee to a primary and to the United States Congress in 1994, and then catching that wave, that 1994 wave and being elected to the United States Congress 20 years ago.

I take a look at him now, and I think he is no worse for wear. It is the same TOM LATHAM that came here 20 years ago that is going off into retirement today, or shortly here at the end of this Congress, and he hasn't lost his enthusiasm.

Here is what I see—this is a STEVE KING perspective, Madam Speaker—and that is that everybody that comes to this place has their own style and their own way of getting things done.

But the people that have worked with TOM LATHAM for these years know that it isn't always an issue that is run up the flagpole. It doesn't come necessarily with lights and blaring horns, but it gets done. It gets done in a quiet way, it gets done, sometimes with just a slow persuasion. It gets done with building a network of people that want to help and want to get things done.

So when I was elected to come to this Congress in 2003 and inherited a lot of the real estate that had formerly been represented and the constituents that had formerly been represented by TOM LATHAM, I noticed that there were ribbon-cutting ceremonies taking place in my district, and I wasn't necessarily the lead guy when it came to the ribbon-cutting because TOM LATHAM had laid the groundwork for that for years, and they knew it, and they still know it.

The friends and the relationships that were built by doing a good job of representing constituents throughout those years are still there. They still exist. And it has been an easy thing for me to step into that neighborhood because they were well taken care of and well represented.

So, now, after moving from Agriculture over to the Appropriations Committee, I would just remind the body that TOM LATHAM, today, is the only Iowa member on the House Appropriations Committee. He has done a good number of things with projects, not only the transportation projects, but the Iowa National Guard, ag, economic development, small business development, and he is currently chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, and he serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug, and also on Homeland Security.

That is an influential footprint in this Congress, and the people that arrive here as freshmen and sophomores recognize that.

But I recognize, also, this man that is rooted in Iowa soil, who is the continuation of the family farm and the family business that relies upon the very foundation of our economy, that all new wealth comes from the land, and that there is a core of family and faith and neighbors and neighborhood that TOM LATHAM has brought to this Congress.

Wherever he ends up in his retirement, we all want to congratulate him and say to TOM LATHAM, ''Congratulations, you have earned it. You have picked your time, you have done it your way.''

There are only about three ways to leave this Congress: one of them is to get beat, one of them is to die in office, and the other one is to choose your time to retire.

I am glad that you are fit and vigorous and prepared for a fit and vigorous retirement.

But it wouldn't be appropriate, Madam Speaker, for me to conclude my portion of this without saying into this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a deep and heartfelt thank you to Kathy Latham. It is from me personally, as well as, for a lot of reasons, across this Hill that with the work that she has done, you got, oftentimes, two for the price of one with TOM and Kathy Latham.

She sacrificed a number of times and made my life easier and made things work better for Iowa, for the House of Representatives, and for this country, and I think that the best interests of all of us have always been what made the decisions in the Latham family, which, by the way, now ranks up in about the top three of Iowa political families.

So pay attention, Madam Speaker, to the Latham family going forward. They are not done yet, but they do have a patriarch that is going to ride off into retirement.

Thank you a lot, TOM LATHAM, for serving our country. God bless you.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman from Iowa.

Let me say, Madam Speaker, that Mr. KING just mentioned the difference between Iowa and Idaho. I will tell you a funny story.

When I was first elected, TOM had been here for 4 years. When I got elected, they used to have a function with a lot of the D.C. reporters and political reporters in town at the Washington Hilton, and they would select a freshman Republican and Democrat from both the House and the Senate to give little speeches, and they were supposed to be kind of funny speeches and stuff.

So I didn't know what to do. They selected me as one of them. So I decided

that I was going to explain the difference between Iowa and Idaho because there is a difference. So I went through all the differences in Idaho and Iowa.

Of course I recorded it, and I got home and turned it on to see how I had done. Underneath, and this is on C–SPAN, underneath it said, Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, Republican, Ohio. So we not only get mixed up with Idaho and Iowa also, but also between Ohio and Idaho and Iowa. So that has always made it a little more challenging.

But TOM and I have served together on the Appropriations Committee for, I guess the last 12 years that I have been on it, and he was on it before that. He has been, as was mentioned, the chairman of the Transportation Committee and chairman of the Energy and Water Committee, both committees very important to both Idaho and Iowa and to the country. We have been able to work cooperatively to try to address issues that affect the country and our respective States.

The thing I have always noticed most about TOM, and both speakers have already mentioned it, is the way he works, the way he gets things done. I have always noticed that TOM takes the job that he was elected to do very seriously, but he never takes himself too seriously, which is an important characteristic, I think.

Others have enjoyed working with him on both sides of the aisle. I have certainly enjoyed working with him. And again, we are going to miss him.

At the end of the each session, some people, as STEVE KING mentioned, decide that it is time to retire, and TOM has decided that. Not only are we, in Congress, as friends, going to miss him but, frankly, the country is going to miss him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES).

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Idaho, my good friend. I just want to echo what you were saying, Mr. SIMPSON, that TOM LATHAM actually is a guy who came here, doesn't seek the limelight, but seeks to get things done.

It is tough for me to say this about him because he is my good friend and he is going to rib me about this later. But he really does try to get things done. You don't see him running out to the TV, to the news shows. You don't see him running out holding press conferences. But what you do see is someone who works.

I can tell you that when I first arrived here in Washington, TOM was one of the first people who came up to me and talked to me about—asked if he could help me in any way. He was a farmer from, obviously, the great State of Iowa, and he knew that I was a farmer from the great State of California. We shared what we had in common, and then he asked how he could be helpful.

From day one, TOM has been one of my best friends here, and I don't think there has ever been a day that we have been in Congress that I haven't spoke to TOM. And then, we always talk over the time that we are not here also.

□ 1715

I have had numerous times when TOM has come out to California to visit my district and to do some good, quality work in meeting with some of my constituents. At the same time, in talking about TOM's work ethic, TOM has had me out to his district in Iowa several times. Typically, you think you are going to do a short, little meeting with some folks, but I can tell you that, when I went out there, TOM actually put me to work. We had to spend a full day working.

I remember, TOM, that you put on a conference for all of your community leaders—your business leaders and your government leaders. You had people from all over the State of Iowa who came there for a full day's session about how your office, its being the last link to the Federal Government, could better serve your constituents.

That is really what this is about, Madam Speaker. TOM worked very hard for his constituents. He didn't try to get press out of it, and he didn't try to make a big deal about it; but you could tell, when I was on the ground there—the several times I was there—that it was about working. It was about working with people, working with his constituents, and about trying to represent them here in Washington the best way that he could. I know the people of Iowa will miss him.

I think you have represented almost the entire State of Iowa at one point or another.

His district has moved around so much over the years.

TOM's family, obviously, great people. His wife, Kathy, deserves a lot of praise for having to deal with him over all of these years that he has been in Washington, traveling back and forth. It takes a special person, and Kathy really is a special, special person to not only deal with TOM but also to put up with having to deal with the tough things that people say. Mr. LATHAM has been through many tough elections, and it takes a very tough person to have to deal with the things that come out in political campaigns, as we are all familiar with.

I know TOM is very proud of his children and grandchildren, and I know that is part of the reason he is leaving us—because he has served his country, and he did the best that he could do for the time that he was here. I think he has a long tradition of serving the people of Iowa—just like his parents, who were community leaders in northern Iowa there, and also his brothers.

I think you had at least one or two brothers who served with distinction in Vietnam, as I remember. I have met all of them, I think, over the years.

Anyway, Madam Speaker, it is kind of a sad day for me to be down here on the floor of the House but also, I think, a happy day for TOM and his family because he will be able to spend time with his children and grandchildren, which we know, when we are here in Washington, is tough to do.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman from California.

The gentleman from California mentioned something that is very important that a lot of people don't realize: it takes a special individual and a special relationship with your spouse, be it husband or wife, to be able to serve in this place. Most people don't realize how many nights you spend away from your family when you are here. I am certain that with most spouses—when I look at mine and when I look at TOM's Kathy—this was not something that they had planned on when they got married. To be able to, I want to say, put up with that and the separation that it causes and the pressure it puts on a family is extremely difficult. Kathy is, truly, a person who is special and has put up with him for 20 years in the House and 39 years of marriage. She has really put up with him for a long time, and we are honored to have spouses like that who support us and keep us going.

The reason I asked for unanimous consent at the first of this Special Order—for people to insert their comments—was that tonight is the White House Christmas reception for Members of Congress, so there are going to be a lot of people getting ready to go down to the White House. Now, one of those individuals who had some responsibilities tonight but who wanted to be here was the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, who is one of TOM's best friends. They have been together ever since I have come, and, consequently, I have been allowed to associate with him—I don't know why—but we have gotten along and have done some great things.

We are going to miss TOM, but this process goes on. People will get elected—whether it is any of us—who will replace us, and they will step up to the plate and do the job. It is an amazing system that we have been given by our forefathers.

At this point, I yield to my good friend from Iowa, TOM LATHAM.

Mr. LATHAM. First of all, I will say ''thank you'' to Mr. SIMPSON—a great, great friend—for doing this this evening; to Mr. NUNES, who is still on the floor here; to STEVE KING and DAVE LOEBSACK, who were down here. I am not going to sing—we will pass that by—but, again, thank you very, very much for the honor you have bestowed on me and for the kind words here tonight.

Madam Speaker, I will just say the thing I will miss most are my good friends here. That part of it really is hard because it becomes an extended family over time—people whom you know, whom you work with, whom you trust on a day-to-day basis. I will miss that. Now, there is a lot of other stuff I won't miss here, but I will miss the personal relationships and friendships.

Mr. SIMPSON mentioned the Speaker. I will just tell you that there is no one who could be a better friend and someone I owe so much to. John and Debbie Boehner, Kathy and I owe them so much. They are great, great friends. We love them, and we will continue that friendship as we will with all of the colleagues here we have come to know and love.

Anyone who does this job for any period of time understands you are never going to be successful or accomplish anything without the great work of your staff. I have been blessed both in Iowa and here in Washington with tremendous people who have worked so hard for me, who have committed themselves to the people of Iowa—to the service to them and to this country. All of them are very, very special to me. One person, my chief of staff, James Carstensen, who happens to be in the Chamber tonight, has been with me since day one—actually, a year before I got elected, working on the campaign. So 21 years he has had to put up with me.

Thank you very much.

Thanks to all of the members of my staff. It has been a pleasure for me—a great, great honor to have the privilege of serving with them—because we have all done it on a cumulative basis, and we have tried to do the best job possible for the people of Iowa.

I have to say ''thank you,'' obviously, to the Iowans. As Mr. NUNES said, I have represented a lot of the State in having the different districts, starting with the Fifth District, then the Fourth District, and now the Third District—moving from northwest Iowa to northeast Iowa to southwest Iowa. It is the honor of my life to serve the people of Iowa and to have that opportunity to be their Representative in Washington to try to accomplish things for their good and for the good of the country. Again, I just say ''thank you.''

Everybody who is in Congress knows the sacrifice of your family. My parents, who were such great role models for me, taught me so much. They are gone now. I have got four brothers and their families. I have my son, Justin; Lynnae; Emerson and Jack; my daughter Jennifer; her husband, Brian; and Keaton, Mason, and Carson; and my daughter Jill and her husband, Nick, and their son, Will. I love them, and what they have done to support me over the years is tremendous and will always be appreciated.

Obviously, there is one person. You could never be successful if you didn't have the support of your spouse. Kathy has been just exceptional in putting up with all the back-and-forth—having two residences and having had to travel here and keep everything going at home while I am away. For the first 19 years we were married, I was on the road with our family business. For the last 20 years, I have been gone, being in Congress. So, obviously, her love and her support has meant everything in the world to me.

Thank you, Dear.

Let me just say, in closing, that it has been an amazing ride for 20 years. For a kid, like Mr. SIMPSON said or Mr. KING said, who grew up in Alexander, Iowa—who grew up on a farm outside of a big town of 168 people—to come to Washington to be able to represent Iowa here is, obviously, a huge, huge honor from that background.

I will honestly say to any Member listening, if you ever get to the point when you walk across the street and don't look up at that dome and get that chill up your spine about something much bigger than you are, you probably should go home. Now, I still get that chill, but I think it is time for me and my family to go a different course.

I am extraordinarily proud to have served here. This is a great, great body. It is something that is an incredible institution. It is truly a slice of America when you come here and you meet the different folks and all you learn about this great country. Having to take into consideration a lot of different views and constituencies from all over the country is an amazing experience. I am very, very proud of that, and I will always feel that my time was well spent here. More so today I am excited about the future because we are going to have an opportunity to spend more time with the family—with Kathy, with the kids and grandchildren. We are going to be able to do some things we have never been able to do before. So I am proud of the past and am excited about the future, and I just thank God that I have had the opportunities I have had to grow up in a State like Iowa and in a community like I grew up in, with parents like I had and brothers and the support of the family.

This is the greatest country in the world. It will always be because of our system of government. As hard as it is to get something done, it is very difficult, but it is the right way to do things, and we need to get back to everyone listening to each other. There is one thing I will say: I never learn a thing when I am talking. You learn things when you are listening to other folks. I think we should all, maybe, step back and listen to each other more, and I think, maybe, we would be better off.

With that, I will just say ''thank you'' to everyone. It is a great country. God bless America. I am excited about the future.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman.

Again, TOM, we are going to miss you. We have become good friends. Don't become a stranger. You still have another week or two to serve before we sine die, and there are some important votes to cast.

Now that you qualify for Medicare, I wish you and Kathy the best in the next part of this journey of life, and I am sure you will do fantastic. Make sure you get out to Idaho when you get an opportunity, and we will take some famous Idaho potatoes and some famous Iowa corn, and we will put them together with some steak and have a little barbecue.

I thank you for your service to this institution, to the State of Iowa, and to the country. We will miss you.

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

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, let me offer my congratulations to those who have served our country in the Congress who now will be retiring and moving on. All of us will get there sometime.

This is a noble job if we make it such, and many people who have served here have done great things for the United States of America. Why? Because they, number one, believe in the principles of the United States, what were set down by our Founding Fathers. Even more than that, what we have had here and what we need more of in America are leaders who care specifically about the American people and what impact they are having on the American people and what impact those policies that they advocate will have on the American people.

□ 1730

All too often, people come to Washington, and pretty soon, what they care about is this or that specific special interest. Or they have a special idea, special interest or special ideas. They have a philosophy. They have a vision that goes beyond what the benefit to the American people is, what they are going to establish because of this philosophical commitment to some ideal.

Well, both of those are enemies of the well-being of the people of the United States. If people who are elected by the population come here and are loyal to special interests that have to make a profit in a specific area, even though it might be detrimental to the American people as a whole, or people come here and they don't care about the American people—they want to see their dream come true, their intellectual and philosophical ideal put into place—well, the American people get left out with that type of leadership.

And what we are doing today, one of the most important issues that we have been facing for almost a decade now, with constant pressure to do something about—what? About immigration policy in the United States. And what we do, what we finally do on this issue will tell us whom we care about and what are our ideals and who we care about more. Do we care about special interests? Do we care about some ideal notion that is not so tangible? Or do we care about what policy

will do specifically to the American people?

For years—and especially on this election year—we have heard repeatedly about the plight of the people who are here in this country illegally, over and over again about how these poor souls, how we need to give them legal status. We need to reach out and do something for them because they are in a bad situation. And, yes, they came here because there was a desperate situation in that land from which they came.

Unfortunately, when you hear people constantly talking about how we are going to help these illegal immigrants who are here in our midst, you don't hear about how what is being recommended to help the illegal immigrants will impact the American people. This is what we should be talking about. This is what needs to be discussed. The people elected by the American people should talk about what is going to happen to the American people if this policy that is being recommended is put into place.

Yes. We would like to help people who have come here illegally, and we would like to help people all over the world. There is no reason not to, if we care about the people who have come here illegally, thumbing their nose at our law, but they are human beings, and we care about them.

By the way, they are also people whom we can identify with because if we were in their spot, we would do the same. We care about them.

But you know what? We have to care more about the American people. We have to care about them if they care about the things that we are doing here. Or maybe they will just write off their government because their government is more concerned about a foreigner who has come here illegally than about the well-being of the American family and the American working people.

We hear this word ''comprehensive.'' Over and over again, we have heard, We have to have comprehensive immigration reform. ''Comprehensive immigration reform,'' what does that mean? Why do we hear that over and over again?

Because they can't use the word ''amnesty.'' And they know that, really, comprehensive immigration reform means one thing and one thing only because there is really not any type of a real argument about making our system better. But to them, when they say ''comprehensive immigration reform,'' they mean changing the status, legalizing the status of those millions of people who are here illegally.

They claim that there are 11 million. That is an old number, and that number has not been updated. And almost everyone I talk to believes that it is more like 20 million illegals who are here, not 11 million.

So there is not any real problem on our part with the idea of ''comprehensive reform,'' if we were to say, let's make the system more effective. Yes, we need border control, for example, and we need to restructure the visa system because there are a lot of people who are not only coming across the border illegally but who come here and overstay their visas. In fact, the largest number of illegals now—people keep thinking that we are talking about just people from Latin America. No. We have got people coming in from all over the world—many of them on visas, many of them sneaking across the border—who have come here illegally and are currently residing here. That number of people have an impact on the well-being of the American people.

So, yes, let's make the system better. But let's realize that we are not talking about things that we disagree on. It has all been about whether you legalize the status of people who are here illegally.

But let's just note this: We have no apologies to make about the generosity of the American people with our current system of immigration. Yes, it needs to be reformed and made more efficient. But we provide for over a million immigrants to come into our country legally every year.

To put that into perspective, that is more than all of the legal immigration into other countries, into every country of the world, combined. So we permit more legal immigration than every other country of the world combined. But yet over and over again, we are made to feel guilty, that we in some way should feel guilty about our immigration system and about the fact that you have people who are here illegally and we won't legalize their status.

Well, what would legalizing their status do? What would it do? We know what it would do for them. These people who are here illegally, if they have illegal status, they would then be able to perhaps be eligible for government programs, maybe as part of that. Certainly their relatives would be or their children would be.

Right now, even the people who are here illegally are the recipients of government benefits. Of the people who are here receiving—for example, their children have health care, emergency health care. And then, of course, an emergency becomes anything that someone is sick with. And they also, of course, are here, and their children are educated here. And we have government benefits that people have managed, if they end up coming here illegally and have one child—one child then justifies a wide variety of Federal assistance and other welfare assistance programs to these individuals who are basically here illegally.

Well, what does that mean? At a time when we are $500 billion more in debt every year, we are borrowing money from overseas in order to take care of these people who have come here illegally? That doesn't make any sense at all. And it especially doesn't make any sense when we know that our own government programs, our own government programs today, we are struggling to make ends meet, to make sure these programs stay vital, to make sure that they have money to function and do their jobs efficiently.

The Veterans Administration, we have heard so many problems about how the Veterans Administration had not been doing its job. Well, the money that we spend on people who come here illegally comes right out of the pool of money that should be going to Americans or should at least be going to reduce our debt so that in the future, our American children aren't going to have to pay it off.

Now, we have nothing to be ashamed of in terms of the overall number of people coming here legally. But even now, when the people who are here illegally, their impact is incredibly detrimental, as I just said, in terms of how much money is being spent by the government on services to them rather than services to the American people.

And we also know that illegals, of course, do take jobs. They are working at jobs, most of them. And they are hardworking, good people. But what impact are they having on the jobs that American people want?

They have actually taken jobs that should be—well, let's say Americans wouldn't want to work at that pay level. But the pay level that we are talking about is the pay level that happens when you have tens of millions of illegals in the country willing to work for a pittance. They have come to our country and bent down the wages of America's lower-income people. They have bent them down and taken jobs that should have gone to Americans.

For example, I know that the hotel and restaurant industry is very upset with the idea of not legalizing the status of these people. And let me just note that once you legalize the status of these 20 million illegals that are in our country, well, what will happen, of course, is that they aren't going to work for the pittance wages anymore. And they will start making more wages. And then there will be another wave of illegals that will come in and underbid them. So these particular people will earn more money, but the American people will earn less and less.

And right now, there are many women in the United States who are single mothers, many urban women who have families and live around big hotels, but the hotels hire people who have come here illegally to clean the rooms when there are many thousands of single mothers who would love to drop their child off at school, clean that room in the middle of the day—which are the hours that they need them at the hotel—and come back by the end of the day to pick up their child. But they are not willing to do it now because those people who work in those hotels, if they are illegals, are paid a pittance. And the American people—no, they won't work for a pittance. And they shouldn't.

And it will be a good thing if it increases the price of a hotel room by $10 a night in order to make sure that we have American citizens who are paid well and are able to take care of their families. Yes, that is the policy we should have.

We shouldn't have a policy that, instead, brings down the cost of that hotel room by a certain amount, increases the profit of the hotel by a certain amount, and is paid for by the fact that American women no longer can take those jobs because there isn't enough being paid for them to take care of their family.

Now, of course, if you live as many illegals live—three or four families to a home—they might be able to succeed or at least survive. That is not the kind of society we need to build here. That is not what America was all about. And what our policy should be is aimed at people who are American citizens who would like those jobs. And if we don't permit this illegal flood into our country, wages will go up, as compared to if we don't. And, yes, we should be happy that American people are making more money.

Over the last 20 years, we have actually seen the wages of the American people in real terms go down as we have had illegals pouring into our country. Well, whose side are we on? Who do we care for? And that is what this is all about. We are being told that we are heartless because we don't care enough about the people who are illegally in our country to legalize their status when, in fact, we need to make sure that we are not doing anything that will hurt the American people who are struggling right now.

And what will happen if we legalize the status of those people who have come here illegally? What will happen? Let's say there are 20 million here. I know officially it is only 11 million. But every one of those people that we legalize the status for are then going to be eligible for family reunification. There are tens of millions of others who are going to pour in.

It is estimated, from just the legal people coming in after the amnesty, that we are talking about 40 million new people, mainly poor foreigners coming to our country. Does anyone think that it is not going to have a huge impact on the economy of our country, on our economic system, on our neighborhoods, on our schools and the well-being of working people? Does anyone think that 40 million foreigners—

And that is what is going to happen.

When you hear ''comprehensive immigration reform,'' think legalizing the status, which will then eventually bring into our country 40 million new foreigners, mainly poor people. Well, that is what this debate is all about.

I would submit that it is not wrong for people, and it is not hateful, it is not being too concerned about money and material things to think in our hearts about our own people before we think about the well-being of foreigners.

What keeps America together? Look, we don't have one race. We don't have one religion. We don't have one ethnic group here. What we have got are people who have come here and are a part of the American family.

□ 1745

We have to care about what happens within the American family because we don't have that sharing of one race or one religion or one ethnic group. What is it going to do if we bring in 40 million foreigners now to those people who are now part of our American family?

Well, someone says that we should expand the American family. Well, yes, we could just say: Hey, anybody in the world who wants to get here, we are going to make them an American and just forget about what that does to the 300 million Americans who are out there depending on their government to watch out for their interests.

What would happen if we have that situation? We will have a very harmful decline in the well-being in their communities, in their jobs, and in the government services that they are able to collect of the American family.

Again, that doesn't mean that illegals who are here are bad people—they aren't—nor are the poor people around the world who will flood into our country—because, if we legalize the status of those who are here, you will see a flood into the country.

Just think about this, just the discussion of what they call this act that was being aimed at legalizing the status of people who were brought here when they were younger, just that discussion of that issue brought 50,0000 to 60,000 people swarming in. They sent their children to the border.

Whatever happened to those kids, by the way? What happened to those 60,000 kids who were down on the border? Well, they are all over the United States now. And do you know what? In schools in California, we have children coming in illegally from other countries, and some of them are carrying diseases. This is a horror story.

Who is watching out for our children? We do care about those 60,000 kids that were there and the millions more kids that will come in if we legalize the status of our own illegal immigrants here. We care about our own kids first, and there is nothing wrong with that. We don't have to apologize about it, and we don't have to apologize also that we have the most generous legal system in the world.

By the way, for those people who always talk about, Well, immigration really helps our country and helps our economy, if you look at the statistics that are being presented, often what you are being told about are the effect of legal immigrants, which is true. They do add, and I personally would like to go on the record in saying that I believe in legal immigration.

I believe that our million people, we can absorb that, 300 million people, we certainly can absorb 1 million more legal immigrants, we should refine our system, so that those legals that are coming in are people that have a means and a skill or an education level, so they will be contributing to the wealth of the country rather than consuming it.

There are a lot of businesses that say they need some specialists. Yes, let's try to structure the legal immigrants in that way so it meets the needs of America, as well as brings in very highly-educated people into our country.

When we bring in people who are not that, when we bring in people who are not producing wealth, but instead are consumers, that means there is less wealth in our society, and that means that especially America's lower-income people are worse off.

Now, when I was a kid, I mowed the lawns in my neighborhood. It was a good thing. You get a work ethic when you are mowing the lawns. I actually painted houses and dug fence posts. I was an ice-cream scooper at Marineland snack bar, and those are the jobs kids did, but today, one of the factors of illegal immigration—and especially if we legalize the status and draw even more illegals in because now, all over the world, they know, Hey, all we have to do is get here, and we can outweigh them—all these entry-level positions, these positions that are actually giving young people a chance to get some work experience, many of these jobs are being taken by people who are here illegally.

They are willing to work at a very low level, and they don't just become entry-level jobs. That is the job they stick with. That means that job is no longer available to an American kid who wants to get some experience in the workplace, a box boy or someone who works at a fast-food restaurant or something like that.

We are actually hurting our young people, we are hurting our poor people, the people at the lowest end of the scale, and of course, we are hurting the people who are dependent on government programs.

Before I go on to that, there are a group of people in our country that would like to be self-sufficient. They have skills, but they have some sort of physical disability. Those people are struggling to come out and have some self-dignity in earning their own living.

Those people are being replaced by people because, Oh, well, we will just hire this illegal, even if we can hire a disabled person, we can get an able-bodied illegal in here for the same amount, so why have someone who has a physical disability?

The people at the very lowest level—where is unemployment the highest? In our black community and in the Hispanic American community. These are the people who will be the worst hit if we legalize the status of those who are here illegally.

If there are tens of millions more who pour into our country—and as I

say, it will be at least 40 million—and then when the word goes out all over the world that we have this surrender of our borders, you can bet there will be even more than that. It will be a massive betrayal of the regular people and lower-income people in the United States, of American citizens—again, the disabled people, lower-income people.

What about those people who have worked all of their lives for government, who made sure that they pay their taxes, knowing that the government is going to have certain things to back them up as they got older or whether there are things that they would need in cases of emergency, or how about the education of their family and things such as that?

No, these programs will have so many tens of millions of more illegals come in because we have legalized the status of those who are already here, those programs now which are suffering, some of them will break down.

So how can, with a straight face, people in this body say they are backing the President's efforts to provide 5 million—this is his first step now—5 million work permits to people who are here illegally?

This is at a time of high unemployment. We are defining who we care for. We have already defined who we are as a Nation on how we have set down a rule of law and whether we try to be fair. We are an imperfect society. We know that. We know we have got some real problems we have to solve and work together on.

We are a multiracial, multiethnic society, but our society as it is will disintegrate if we have tens of millions of illegals pouring into our country. That is just the way it is.

Again, the poorest of the poor will be hurt, and when we give 5 million work permits at a time when we have such high unemployment, when we give 5 million work permits to people who are here illegally, we are actually betraying the American people who are struggling at the lower end of the economic scale. We are betraying them. It is something we all need to think about.

We need to say to the American people: we are on your side, and we want to do things that are right for you. I have been dismayed by that element of just sort of, not disdain, but a frivolous overlooking of the well-being of the American people when those people are advocating comprehensive immigration reform.

Let us also just note that immigration is something that is on our agenda. We keep hearing about it, but there are special interests at stake here. The reason why it is being pushed is not just this humanitarian special ideal, this humanitarian philosophical thing which I say we have to make sure that those special ideas that they think they become more human, to give our money away to various peoples of the world, that it doesn't hurt Americans, but there are also special interests who are profiting from this.

It is not only a bad idea and a bad ideal that is driving this toward these decisions, but we have special interests that want cheap labor. We have people in the business community that want cheap labor. Now, don't tell me that Americans can no longer work as carpenters or as plumbers or as roofers. The construction industry slowly, but surely, now is evolving into where they are hiring illegals. That is wrong. There are people who can do these jobs, but they will take the lower pay alternative—of course they will.

There are people that claim that they have to hire illegals because they can't hire Americans at that. No. If people were being paid more money, they could hire Americans at those jobs, but we have special interests that want lower pay, and we have special interests on that side of the aisle who want political pawns to come into this country to serve them when election day comes in the future and you have got 40 million new people here over a 20-year period that they will be voting for their political party.

That is just how cynical it is. Low wages and political pawns are being pushed. That is the factor that is pushing this comprehensive program that will be dramatically harmful to the well-being of the American people.

I would hope that we postpone any decision on that until next year when we Republicans can debate this issue, go to the American people, and get their guidance on what policy that they want our country to have when it comes to immigration into our country.

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

SENATE BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A bill and a joint resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1447. An act to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

S.J. Res. 45. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on House Administration.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4812. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5108. An act to establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 4, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2203. 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.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

8163. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-78; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2014-0051; Sequence No. 6] received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8164. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; CFR Update [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0747; FRL-9919-83-Region 5] received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8165. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 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 [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0475; FRL-9919-66-Region 3] received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8166. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 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 [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0690; FRL-9919-65-Region 3] received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8167. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation

of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; 2014 Iowa State Implementation Plan [EPA-R07-OAR-2014-0550; FRL-9919-87-Region 7] received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8168. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Availability of Data on Allocations of Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Allowances to Existing Electricity Generating Units [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0491; FRL-9919-91-OAR] received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8169. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule: 2014 Revisions and Confidentiality Determinations for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems; Final Rule [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0512; FRL-9918-95-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR96) received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8170. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Hazardous Waste Management System; Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste; Final Exclusion [EPA-R07-RCRA-2014-0452; FRL-9919-72-Region 7] received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8171. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Texas [EPA-R06-OAR-2008-0074; FRL-9919-74-Region 6] received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8172. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final rule — Rulemaking to Amend Dates in Federal Implementation Plans Addressing Interstate Transport of Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0491; FRL-9919-71-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS40) received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8173. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13637, Transmittal No. 13-14, informing the Congress of the Department's intent to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Communications and Information Organisation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8174. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to the Taiwan Relations Act, agreements concluded by the American Institute and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3311(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8175. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8176. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's semiannual report to the Congress on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8177. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting 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 April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8178. A letter from the Acting Chief Management Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8179. A letter from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to the Congress for the period April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8180. A letter from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a separate management report for the period April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8181. A letter from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the semiannual report to the Congress on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8182. A letter from the Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's report entitled ''Federal Student Loan Repayment Program CY 2013''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4309. A bill to amend the Sikes Act to make certain improvements to the administration of cooperative agreements for land management related to Department of Defense readiness activities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–647 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4489. A bill to designate memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces and World War I, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–648 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4402. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to establish a surface danger zone over the Guam National Wildlife Refuge or any portion thereof to support the operation of a live-fire training range complex; with an amendment (Rept. 113–649 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5683. A bill to ensure appropriate judicial review of Federal Government actions by amending the prohibition on the exercise of jurisdiction by the United States Court of Federal Claims of certain claims pending in other courts (Rept. 113–650). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 4309. The Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

H.R. 4402. The Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

H.R. 4489. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration. Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 5803. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. CARTER):

H.R. 5804. A bill to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing hazardous humanitarian services in West Africa to combat the spread of the 2014 Ebola virus outbreak shall be entitled to tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 5805. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to expanding access for breakthrough drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 5806. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent certain expiring provisions related to charitable contributions; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. GERLACH):

H.R. 5807. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to States to improve delivery of high quality assessments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 5808. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act in order to strengthen rules applied in case of competition for diabetic testing strips, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 5809. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require State licensure and bid surety bonds for entities submitting bids under the Medicare durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) competitive acquisition program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND (for himself, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 5810. A bill to amend the United States Cotton Futures Act to exclude certain cotton futures contracts from coverage under such Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H. Res. 772. A resolution directing the House of Representatives to bring a civil action for declaratory or injunctive relief to challenge certain policies and actions taken by the executive branch relating to immigration; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H. Res. 773. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that localities should observe Halloween on the last Saturday of October and communicate to the public that trick-or-treating and other public observances of the holiday will take place on that day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. WATERS):

H. Res. 774. A resolution honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Louis Zamperini and expressing condolences on his passing; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:

H.R. 5803.

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

Article IV; Section 3: the Authority of Congress to make all rules regarding the territories.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 5804.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress ''to provide for the common Defence'', ''to raise and support Armies'', ''to provide and maintain a Navy'' and ''to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces'' as enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 5805.

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

Article I, Sec. 8: ''The Congress shall have Power To . . . regulate Commerce . . . among the several States . . .''

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 5806.

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

Article 1, section 8, clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 5807.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 5808.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 5809.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 5810.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (''The Congress shall have the power To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States'')

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (''To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes'')

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (''To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof'')

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 310: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 366: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1074: Mr. REED.

H.R. 1250: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1339: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 1761: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1816: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 1981: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2224: Mr. CLEAVER and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2955: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2994: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 3116: Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 3571: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLAY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HIMES, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Ms. WATERS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MENG, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MORAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. HAHN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. BASS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 4077: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 4551: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 4740: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 4837: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 4957: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 5033: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 5059: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 5178: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 5185: Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 5403: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 5505: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 5589: Mr. POLIS, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. FATTAH,

H.R. 5644: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 5646: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 5655: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 5656: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 5741: Mr. COOPER and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 5764: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. REED, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 5768: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 5778: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 5781: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 5783: Ms. FUDGE.

H. Res. 109: Mr. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. HIGGINS.

H. Res. 711: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. LEWIS.

H. Res. 757: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014 *No. 148*

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the source of our being, on yesterday, December 7, we remembered how You sustain us even through unexpected tragedies. We recall the deaths, injuries, heroism, doubts, disbelief, and patriotism on that date that will live in infamy.

Lord, continue to guide this land we love on its labyrinthine path to greatness. Protect it from dangers seen and unseen as You unite it for the common good. Use our Senators for Your glory as our Nation seeks to bring deliverance to captives and to let the oppressed go free.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2014, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT–59 or S–123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Tuesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 31, 2014, and will be delivered on Monday, January 5, 2015.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at http://webster/secretary/cong__record.pdf, and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at https://housenet.house.gov/legislative/research-and-reference/transcripts-and-records/electronic-congressional-record-inserts. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT–59.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the *Congressional Record* may do so by contacting the Office of Congressional Publishing Services, at the Government Printing Office, on 512–0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 this afternoon.

At 5:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to three rollcall votes on the confirmation of Jeffery Baran to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Lauren McFerran to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board; and Ellen Williams to be Director of

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

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the Advanced Research Projects Agency at the Department of Energy.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

CARL LEVIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am very happy to be here today to talk about a couple of my friends—I should say the Senate's friends. I have received a lot of gifts while I have been here. My colleagues, over the years, have given me things here in the Senate, but one gift stands out really strongly in my mind. On my desk, not far from here, I have this big painting—it is a very famous painting from the National Portrait Gallery of Mark Twain.

Mark Twain, I tell people, was born in Nevada, which is really true. Samuel Clemens wasn't, but Mark Twain was. Orion Clemens was chosen as the Territorial Secretary of Nevada, and he told his younger brother Samuel: Come West and I will find you a job. Samuel had been fighting, which he didn't like, in the Civil War, so he came West to join his brother. But his brother couldn't find him a job, so Samuel Clemens bummed around for quite a while.

Without belaboring the story too long, the fact is, Mark Twain finally went up to Virginia City, which was booming at the time, and he went to the Territorial Enterprise newspaper and got a job as a reporter. This was a stunningly good and important start for his first writing that he had done. That is where he started his fame.

He would have stayed in Nevada longer, but someone challenged him to a duel for some of the things he wrote. So being the smart man he was, he didn't want to duel so he left town, went to California, where he wrote two best-selling books, ''The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County'' and ''Roughing It,'' which was about his experience in bumming around Nevada until he found a job. These were best sellers. These were great books.

The point of the story, though, is he went to Virginia City as Samuel Clemens and took the name Mark Twain. That is where the name came from.

This means a lot. It is a story I tell many times to people who come to my office. So CARL LEVIN, the wonderful, kind, thoughtful man that he is, said: Can I come and see you? And I said: Sure. He brought to me I guess it is one of the rare double signatures of Samuel Clemens. There may be others, I just have never heard of one. This was done at a club in Hannibal, MO. The club's name was Labinnah—Hannibal spelled backwards—and Mark Twain, in 1902, because of how famous he was, signed Samuel Clemens, Mark Twain, and wrote through the whole—he didn't want anybody else's name there. He wanted just his. So that is the gift he gave me.

That was so fitting. It fits my office perfectly, and it means a lot to me. CARL LEVIN brought with him this handwritten note: ''I got this at an auction 10 yrs. ago not knowing why. It just dawned on me! Best on the New Year, CARL.''

That was so nice of him to do that, and it is so hard to explain my appreciation, although I am trying to do that here by outlining what a wonderful human being CARL LEVIN is. What he did for me is an example of who CARL LEVIN is and how he thinks of people. He remembered the story I told him about Mark Twain, and he said, I am sure, to himself: I have this thing I got 10 years ago; I will give it to the Senator, my friend. So he gave me that plaque just because that is who he is.

He has always been attentive to the interests of the people of Michigan and our country. He is the longest serving Senator in the history of the State of Michigan—36 years. His legislative accomplishments are significant. I would say they are unmatched by almost anyone.

CARL LEVIN has stood his ground on controversial issues, and that is an understatement. He has fought to give average Americans a fair shot at what is going on in the world. He has always spoken with a clear voice, speaking for justice, equality, and fairness.

(Mr. MURPHY assumed the Chair.)

The Presiding Officer is a lawyer, I am a lawyer, but I am not sure I would be the best person, if you gave me a document, to look it over and make sure there was everything in that document you wanted in it, but CARL LEVIN is the person you want. I call him my nitpicker. He is so good at making sure everything is right; that every i is dotted, every t is crossed. Bring in CARL LEVIN if you have something and you really need someone to look at it and think it through.

CARL was a prominent lawyer, as was his dad, in Michigan. His dad served as a member of the Michigan Corrections Commission. After graduating from high school, his father worked as an assembly line worker. CARL LEVIN also knew how to work with his hands, but he followed in his father's footsteps by being an extremely hard worker. He attended college at Swarthmore and received a bachelor of arts degree there. Then he attended Harvard Law School and received his juris doctorate from Harvard.

He practiced in the private sector for a while. He began his public career as the first general counsel for the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. He was elected in 1968 to the Detroit City Council, and he served there until 1977. He was elected to the Senate in 1978. CARL has functioned in this body as a levelheaded mediator who is guided by the protection of people in Michigan and our country.

In the past 36 years, CARL has cast over 12,000 votes. Some of those votes were hard, and not always popular, but they were CARL LEVIN votes. He did what he thought was right. When General Motors and Chrysler, in the last few years, faced a potential collapse, he recognized their bankruptcy would devastate the people of Michigan and have a detrimental—effect and that is a gross understatement—on this country. He pressed the incoming Obama administration to support the companies with loans. There was a hue and cry from people who opposed that, saying that is the wrong thing to do, Levin is wrong, Obama is wrong. But they were right. Look what it has done to energize, revitalize the State of Michigan, the whole Detroit metropolitan area and our country, with tens of thousands of new jobs as a result of his advocacy. As I said, it wasn't a popular position at the time, but CARL knew what was good for Michigan and good for our country and he has been vindicated a hundred times over.

CARL has been chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations for 10 years. During that period of time, he has done some unusually important things for our country through this committee. Corporate money laundering—1999. He delved into that very deeply.

CARL LEVIN is not a headline hunter. CARL LEVIN is a substantive legislator. He could have held a lot more hearings, but he held them about every 6 months because he wanted his hearings to be CARL LEVIN hearings where, I repeat, every i was dotted, every t was crossed, and they were very powerful hearings.

Gasoline price manipulation, the Enron scandal—he delved into that very deeply.

Misconduct in the United Nations oil-for-food program, tax haven banks and offshore corporate tax evasion—he has talked about that and talked about that. Very notable legislation as a result of the work he has done: Wall Street reform, the Consumer Protection Act, the Credit Card Act, the PATRIOT Act.

CARL LEVIN is a very fine legislator. He fought for Wall Street reform when others were afraid to do so, and he helped restore the broken financial system that held powerful institutions accountable for their actions. CARL's persistence earned him a slot in Time magazine's list of America's 10 best U.S. Senators. They called him the ''Bird-Dogger.''

Well, that is what he is. Put him on an issue and he will come back with the prey. He is very good. He never stops. He is a sharp-eyed overseer of U.S. defense policy. He has spent his entire career promoting defense policy that protects America's interests at home and abroad while safeguarding the men and women who serve.

CARL is the Chair of the Senate Defense Committee. During the Nation's most trying of diplomatic times he has done a remarkable job to make sure the military is protected.

Even though he was Chair of this big powerful committee—the Defense Committee—he felt so strongly and he foresaw what a lot of us didn't see. He saw the disaster that would accompany an

invasion of Iraq. Accordingly, he talked about how bad it would be and voted against it. CARL LEVIN was right and a lot of us were wrong. I have said before on the Senate floor, of all the votes I have cast during the time I have been in government, the worst was voting for the Iraq war. But I did. CARL LEVIN did not.

But for all of his accomplishments in Congress, his greatest achievements reside in his home. CARL and his wife of over 50 years, Barbara, have three beautiful daughters: Kate, Laura, and Erica. Landra and Barbara are good friends. They are part of a book club. They have had a wonderful relationship over these many years. So as CARL retires from the Senate, I know he is going to cherish the time he is going to spend with his family.

But also CARL and I have had a long, long ongoing conversation. He and his brother SANDER own about 100 acres. They have had it for a long time. CARL LEVIN is not a man of wealth, but he and his brother bought this 100 acres that has nothing on it but trees. He calls it his tree farm. He has shown me pictures of it. I have not seen it lately, but I have had for 15 or 20 years a hat he gave me—a green baseball-type cap—that says ''tree farm'' on it. I used to tell him I still have that cap. And I still have that cap, CARL.

He will be missed here in Washington. He will be missed in the Senate by all of us. But he will be missed more by his older brother SANDY, who is the ranking member on the Ways and Means Committee in the House. They have served together in Congress for 32 years.

I have said this on the floor before, and I will say it again. I will remember CARL LEVIN for a lot of things, but when I was in the House, I came over to visit with him. I was thinking about running for the Senate. I said: CARL, I came to the House with your brother SANDY. He looked up at me and said: SANDY is not only my brother, he is my best friend. That speaks well of the person who CARL LEVIN is.

It has really been a privilege and an honor to serve with CARL. I will miss him so very, very much. I will miss having somebody to take the difficult issues to, to get his view as to what we should do, how we should handle it.

His voice will be missed here in the Senate. I congratulate him on his incomparable career in the Senate, and I wish him the very best.

JAY ROCKEFELLER

Mr. President, it is said that you do not choose your family, and that is true. We are born into our families. We have no way to determine the family we are born into. Yet as a 27-year-old JAY ROCKEFELLER chose to make the people of West Virginia his family. How did that happen? How did JAY ROCKEFELLER, born in New York to one of the most famous American families, one of the great dynasties in the history of this country, end up in West Virginia?

He was an undergraduate student at Harvard. He decided he did not like some of the things Harvard was doing, and so he left. He dropped out of school and went to Japan. He spent 3 years in Japan. He became an interpreter. He knows the Japanese language extremely well. He loves the Japanese people. He started out at Harvard. As I indicated, after his junior year, he left for Japan. He was there for 3 years. He came home, returned to Harvard, and finished his degree.

JAY ROCKEFELLER, as a 27-year-old, could have done anything, gone anyplace, gotten any education, started any business, or he could have sat around at a home on one of the beaches around the world and just done nothing. But that is not JAY ROCKEFELLER. He wanted to do something. He did not know what he wanted to do. This ROCKEFELLER wanted to do something that was different.

A friend of his published here for many years a magazine called the Washington Monthly, a guy by the name of Pete Peters. He was a man-about-town. Everybody liked him very much, but he was very close to JAY ROCKEFELLER. So JAY talked to him one day trying to find what he should do in life. Here he was, one of the wealthiest men in America. He had a Harvard degree.

''What should I do?''

Pete Peters told him: ''What you should do is go someplace and work with poor people.''

''Where should I go?''

''Why not West Virginia?''

''West Virginia?''

''West Virginia.''

So he joined AmeriCorps. As a VISTA volunteer, he moved to the small mining community of Emmons, WV. That was in 1964. This man of means, this man of stature, this man of notoriety went to this small little town in West Virginia.

It was not easy for JAY ROCKEFELLER to suddenly find himself in a setting he had never imagined. In the first 6 months he was there, he could hardly get anyone to talk to him. He is kind of an intimidating man. His name is ROCKEFELLER. He is 6-foot-7. But eventually his goodness came through. The people of Emmons, WV, started talking to him, and they really liked the man. From 1964 when he moved there, he knew he wanted to identify with poor people, and that is what he has done since 1964.

In 1966 he was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates assembly.

In 1968 he was chosen to serve as the secretary of state in the State of West Virginia.

He then became the president of West Virginia Wesleyan College and served there for 3 years.

He then was twice elected Governor of the State of West Virginia. He served from 1976 to 1984.

Governor ROCKEFELLER became Senator ROCKEFELLER in 1985. From the time he first stepped onto the Senate floor, he made it clear he was here for one reason: to fight for the people of West Virginia. Senator ROCKEFELLER fought to provide his constituents with health care. He was an architect of CHIP, a children's health program. It is an insurance program. The Children's Health Insurance Program is one of the most important health initiatives in America's history for kids. He fought to protect Medicaid for half a million West Virginians but for millions and millions of Americans.

He has been a senior member of the Committee on Finance, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, and chairman of the Intelligence Committee. What a remarkable career he has had. He fought very hard to protect the American people from President Bush's efforts to privatize Social Security. He has protected retirement disability benefits by doing that for millions and millions of Americans.

His efforts to help West Virginia have not been confined to this building. As the senior Senator from West Virginia, this big man—I repeat, 6-foot-7—with a very, very long reach, has used that reach to bring jobs to his home State as Governor and as Senator. Because of his recruiting, there are thousands and thousands of West Virginians employed at the Toyota factory in Buffalo; Hino Motors in Williamstown; and at the Kureha plant in a town called Belle. Thousands and thousands of jobs. Diamond Electric, Nippon Thermostat, and NGK Spark Plugs are all companies Senator and Governor ROCKEFELLER helped bring to West Virginia.

The people of West Virginia have been blessed to have Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER as a family member for the last 50 years. They have been blessed to have a person of his integrity and tenacity looking out for them in the Senate.

My respect for JAY ROCKEFELLER is unlimited. He has been my colleague for the entire time I have been in the Congress—32 years. Now, as his time in the Senate comes to an end, he will be sorely missed.

I am sure JAY is looking forward to spending more time with Sharon, this wonderful, wonderful woman—and by the way, whose father was a U.S. Senator—and their children John, Valerie, Charles, and Justin, and their six grandchildren.

I so admire this good man. I congratulate him on a very distinguished career, including five terms in the U.S. Senate, two terms as Governor. I wish him the very best in life.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for debate only until 5:30 p.m., with the time equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Utah.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I have only heard two of the comments of the majority leader—one for the distinguished Senator from Michigan and one for the distinguished Senator from West Virginia. I have to say that both of those Senators deserve a lot of commendation for the service they have given to the Senate. They are both friends of mine.

CARL LEVIN

Senator LEVIN has been a terrific, solid performer for the Democrats in the U.S. Senate, and he is an honest—totally honest—decent, honorable man.

JAY ROCKEFELLER

Senator ROCKEFELLER is on the Finance Committee with me. He is one of the senior people on that committee and certainly one of the people I have enjoyed working with. We worked a number of years ago on the CHIP bill, the SCHIP bill, and he was of inestimable help there. I have to say he has been a wonderful member of the very important Finance Committee.

I will miss both of these brethren and wish them the very, very best in their lives as they go through the remaining years of their lives, and hopefully they and their families will have a wonderful, wonderful time together.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S IMMIGRATION EXECUTIVE ORDER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as the Appropriations Committees prepare to release the product of their negotiations on a spending bill this afternoon, I rise today to discuss the troubling development that has made their work all the more challenging: President Obama's immigration Executive order. By circumventing Congress, the President has dispensed with the duly-enacted law of the land in a unilateral attempt to alter the legal status of millions of immigrants.

Unfortunately, this issue of Executive overreach is not a new one. Over the past year, I have come to the Senate floor repeatedly to lay out my objections to President Obama's lawlessness—from the release of Guantanamo detainees to ObamaCare, from his purported recess appointments to Benghazi. Today I come to discuss this latest astonishing instance in the area of immigration.

Immigration is a complex and divisive issue, and Americans hold a wide variety of views on the matter. But one thing that should not be controversial is the President's duty to place fidelity to the Constitution over partisan politics.

The Constitution vests lawmaking authority with Congress, not the President. And the Framers specifically sought to end centuries of abuses by the English monarchs, who claimed the power to dispense with the laws of the land, by requiring the President to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. The Constitution does not suggest or invite the President to enforce the law; it obligates him to do so.

The President and his executive branch, of course, exercise prosecutorial discretion—the discretion to choose not to prosecute certain cases. But that power stems from considerations of fairness and equity in particular cases. Instead of requiring individualized determinations in specific cases, the President's latest Executive order claims the power to sweep up millions of people based on only a few broad, widely shared criteria.

The President is also within his rights not to prosecute when there are not sufficient resources to do so, but the Obama administration has never explained how the Executive order would save money. In fact, the administration's own policy advisers have acknowledged that a work permitting program will be expensive and will take away resources from law enforcement. While no one disagrees that capturing and removing violent criminals should be our highest immigration priority, President Obama has gone much further and made current immigration law essentially a dead letter for millions of illegal immigrants.

President Obama cannot credibly claim that he is attempting to execute immigration law faithfully when ICE agents were forced to release 68,000 potentially deportable aliens last year alone, when the administration took disciplinary action against ICE officers for making lawful arrests, and when the President of the National ICE Council felt compelled to testify before Congress that although ''most Americans assume that ICE agents and officers are empowered by the government to enforce the law . . . nothing could be further from the truth.''

Moreover, despite the administration's claim to the contrary, President Obama's action is not comparable to the Executive actions taken by President Reagan or even President George H.W. Bush. Even the Washington Post's editorial board found that claim by the White House to be ''indefensible.'' Presidents Reagan and Bush simply implemented the enforcement priorities established in laws that Congress actually passed. By contrast President Obama has sought to change the law before Congress has acted, so he cannot rely on Congress's authority to enforce the policy he prefers. Here President Obama has acted directly in the face of congressional opposition, and we should call his Executive order what it is: an attempt to bypass the constitutionally ordained legislative process and rewrite the law unilaterally.

We are all sometimes disappointed and even angry about the outcomes of the legislative process. I have certainly felt that way many times over the course of my 38 years here. But the right response is to redouble our efforts to get it right, not to try to subvert our constitutional system.

The President should heed his own wisdom from as recently as last fall when he said that by broadening immigration enforcement carve-outs ''then essentially I would be ignoring the law in a way that I think would be very difficult to defend legally. So that is not an option. . . . What I've said is there is a path to get this done, and that's through Congress.''

Even beyond the legal and constitutional problems with the Executive order, the President's approach is also bad policy. His Executive order greatly undercuts the chances for lasting immigration reform because it undermines our confidence that the President will live with any compromises we agree to forge through the legislative process. The Executive order is even bad for those who are currently here illegally—those who are supposed to benefit from it. Instead of temporary half measures, they need the certainty that only legislation can provide.

Last month, in an election in which President Obama insisted that all of his policies were on the ballot, the American people delivered the President a decisive rebuke. Many of us from Congress took the right message from the election—that it is time for us to come together to find areas of agreement and to govern like adults.

Apparently President Obama missed that message. To announce this Executive order after the defeat at the polls displays shocking arrogance. Given how the White House and its allies in the media keep raising the specter of a shutdown or impeachment, it is clear the President is attempting to goad Congress into a fight rather than work with us in the difficult job of actually legislating.

Unlike President Obama, I am committed to making real progress toward implementing lasting immigration reform. I supported the Senate's comprehensive immigration bill last year. Even though the bill was far from perfect, I voted for it because I believe in working together to get something done on this vitally important issue. As I have long argued, the way to get real immigration reform back on track is not for the President to insist on his ''my way or the highway'' approach, either by trying to enact his preferred policy unilaterally or even for him to demand an all-or-nothing comprehensive bill. Instead we should consider individual immigration reform measures that can win broad support and help rebuild trust in our country. Only by doing so will we clear a path forward for other more far-reaching reforms.

Take the area of high-skilled immigration. We face a high-skilled worker shortage that has become a national crisis. In April for the second year in a row the Federal Government reached its current H–1B visa quota for workers just 5 days after accepting applications. Employers submitted 172,500 petitions for just 85,000 available visas, so

American companies were unable to hire nearly 90,000 high-skilled workers essential to help grow their domestic businesses, develop innovative technologies at home rather than abroad, and compete internationally. Keep in mind most of these folks we have educated in our colleges and universities. They could be of great help to us.

I have been trying to get H–1B expansion through here for a number of months. I think we will get it through honorably. In response to this crisis I worked with my friends Senators KLOBUCHAR, RUBIO, and COONS to introduce the bipartisan immigration innovation or the I-Squared Act. Our bill provides a thoughtful, lasting legislative framework that would increase the number of H–1B visas, based on annual market demand, to attract the highly skilled workers and innovators our economy so desperately needs.

Unilateralism is not the way forward on immigration. If the President is serious about enacting meaningful immigration reform, he can choose to take the first essential step. Even in the current partisan climate there is a widespread consensus and real opportunity for bipartisan, bicameral reform for our outdated visa system for economically essential high-skilled immigrants.

The concrete legislative victory where there is already considerable consensus would help build trust and good will among those who disagree sharply over other areas of immigration policy and would mark a critical first step along the path to broader reform.

For the life of me I cannot understand why the President doesn't accept this hand we are extending to him, knowing that we educate these people, get them their college degrees, their master's degrees, their doctoral degrees, their Ph.D.s, and then we push them out of the country when they want to stay and help us in the continually evolving and impressive high-tech world. It is mind-boggling to me that we do this.

Canada even advertises in California and in the States south of the Canadian border: Come to Canada. You are welcome here. I commend Canada for having the brains and guts and ability and the political instincts to attract these very highly educated—educated in the United States—people, to help them in their high-tech world, in their engineering world, in their mathematical world, in their science world. Of course we can name a whole host of other areas where they are now helping Canadians when they were educated here, wanted to stay here, wanted to be part of America, and we could not provide a means whereby these people could help us and at the same time an intelligent means that people in our society could accept.

That is the not the only action we could take. Naturally we should work together as Democrats and Republicans to do real immigration reform. We have 11 million or more people here who aren't going to go back to their countries. Many of them have never been in their countries, such as the children who were born here and young children who were brought here and never knew anything about their parents' former country. We have to solve these problems, and we don't do it by unilateral actions by a President who basically doesn't seem to give a darn, except for his own unilateral approach to things. That is not what the Presidency should be.

There are three branches of government. They are coequal. The President should enforce laws that are enacted only by Congress. The Supreme Court should interpret laws that are enacted by Congress if there are reasons for doing so. In this case we have a President who basically is ignoring the law, just acting on his own, as though Congress doesn't mean a thing, even though it means everything in these areas.

I counsel the President to change these ways and work with us. I think there will be more people willing to work with him should he do so, and we can solve these problems—we can solve them—not in some stupid, unilateral way that is going to create more problems than it solves but in a way the American people will accept.

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

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

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in the waning days of the 113th Congress it is a bittersweet moment as many of us are saying goodbye—although not on a permanent basis but at least in terms of our official relationships working together as Senators—to so many of our good friends and valued colleagues. Every other December we find ourselves bidding farewell to some of the most admired and respected Members of this Chamber. Today I want to say a few words about three of these esteemed Members, starting with my good friend, the senior Senator from Georgia.

SAXBY CHAMBLISS

SAXBY CHAMBLISS and I arrived in the Senate at the same time following the 2002 elections. At the time, the war on terrorism, as we all know, was barely a year old, and it was by far and away the biggest issue on the minds of Americans across the country and in the Halls of Congress. Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS immediately established himself as one of the Senate's most important leaders on national security issues, which came as no surprise to anyone who watched his career in the House of Representatives. Indeed, in his capacity as chairman of the House Intelligence Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security, he oversaw the first official investigation of the 9/11 attacks. It is hard to believe it has now been more than 13 years since that fateful day, but Senator CHAMBLISS has never lost sight of the continuing threat posed by radical Islamic terrorists and he has never stopped working to uphold bipartisan support for strong national security policies. He has been a consistent leader on important pieces of legislation such as the PATRIOT Act and on the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay. He has also been a leader on the Armed Services Committee on the annual Defense authorization bill which we will be taking up later this week and on controversial but important topics such as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Most recently on the campaign to destroy the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, Senator CHAMBLISS again has been one of the leading voices helping us find our way to the right strategy and the right policy. In short, name any high-profile national security issue and there is a good chance SAXBY CHAMBLISS has been driving the debate and working to move the United States in the right direction. I know he is also especially proud of his efforts to improve current retirement policies for members of the National Guard and military Reserves.

Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS comes from a State where agriculture is the single largest industry and he spent 6 years as chairman or ranking member of the Senate agriculture committee. He was one of the first Members of our class in 2002 to serve as a chairman of any standing committee, something we were all a little bit envious of, early on in his first term of office. But he has worked on several tough farm bills during the time he has been in Congress and he has been our go-to Member on all related issues.

In fact, Senator CHAMBLISS understands these issues almost better than anyone on both sides of the aisle, which is another way of saying he understands the challenges facing American farmers better than almost anyone here. That understanding allowed him to play a key role in reforming Federal crop insurance.

Folks down in Georgia have been justly appreciative of Senator CHAMBLISS's work on agriculture policy, and they also appreciate his efforts to accelerate the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project through a Federal-State partnership, which was officially signed back in October. It is an impressive list of accomplishments, and I know I speak for all of our Members on both sides of the aisle and staffers alike, when I say that SAXBY CHAMBLISS will be missed as much for his warmth and friendship as for his policy work.

As a diehard Atlanta Braves and Georgia Bulldogs fan, he is equally at ease discussing baseball, football, quail hunting or national security. He is unfailingly kind, thoughtful, and considerate to everyone with whom he works in this Chamber—whether Senator, staffer or casual visitor.

SAXBY is now preparing for his life's next great chapter, which he will spend with his wife Julianne, to whom he has been married for nearly half a century, their two children, and six grandchildren, which I know bring them a lot of joy.

I wish my good friend all the best in his retirement, and I wish the entire Chambliss family a never-ending supply of health and happiness.

MIKE JOHANNS

Next, I would like to turn to my colleague from Nebraska, the senior Senator MIKE JOHANNS. Even if MIKE JOHANNS had never been a Senator, he would have compiled an extraordinary career of public service. It started with a stint on the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners and continued with 2 years on the Lincoln City Council, followed by 8 years as mayor of Lincoln, NE.

In 1999 MIKE left the mayor's office and moved over to the Nebraska State Capitol, where he served for 6 years as Governor. He said one of his proudest gubernatorial accomplishments was enacting a mental health reform law that helped improve the lives of some of Nebraska's neediest and most vulnerable residents. That to me tells a lot about his character and sense of compassion.

Born and raised as a farm boy, MIKE was named America's 28th Secretary of Agriculture in 2005. Over the next 3 years, he held more than 50 separate forums on the farm bill—more than 50. Not surprisingly, he continued to work on agriculture-related issues when he joined the Senate. Indeed, he has been a true leader, fighting passionately to defend the rights and livelihood of farmers and ranchers everywhere—especially in Nebraska.

These are issues that are vitally important to millions and millions of Americans, including MIKE's constituents, but they are not the kind of issues that help land you prime time appearances on cable news. Luckily for us, MIKE doesn't care about media attention, but what he does care about is doing the right thing for his State and for our country.

He understands something that many of us too quickly forget—that taxes and regulations should be forced to pass a simple cost-benefit test. That is why MIKE worked so hard to block the national energy tax known as cap and trade, and that is why he has consistently demanded that the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal agencies demonstrate how their proposed rules would affect American jobs and American workers.

It is also why he has so aggressively pushed to abolish the IRS 1099 reporting requirement in ObamaCare, which would have placed a costly new burden on America's small-business owners and indirectly on the jobs that they create. MIKE did more than anyone else to help highlight the problems with this requirement and to demand its repeal. Thanks in large part to his efforts, 81 Members of this Chamber voted to abolish it back in 2011.

There is an old cliche in politics that there are two types of politicians—the show horses and workhorses. MIKE has never sought the limelight, and has certainly done more than his fair share of the work. But he has done so in a very quiet and thoughtful manner. He is someone who has kept a low profile while working behind the scenes, building bipartisan consensus and being infallibly polite and gentlemanly in the process.

He is the type of Senator who is universally admired and respected by all of our colleagues. His accomplishments here in the Senate—I have just mentioned a few—have been manifold. Yet I am quite certain his proudest accomplishments are his family—his wife Stephanie, their two children, and five grandchildren. They have been generous enough to share MIKE with us for the past 6 years, and now it is time for MIKE to be with the people he cares about the most. We will miss him a whole lot, but he is moving on to perhaps the most rewarding chapter of his life.

MIKE, thanks for all you have done. Thanks for your service, your guidance, and most of all for your friendship.

TOM COBURN

I will close my remarks today on our retiring colleagues by paying tribute to Dr. TOM COBURN. He is someone we have all come to know and admire over 20 years as a relentless fighter for limited government and conservative values here in the Congress.

TOM can be a very charming guy, but I know he can also be a pain in our side when he is determined to make sure he gets a chance to get a vote on an important matter here in the Senate. I think he is comfortable in both of those roles. In fact, I know he is.

TOM COBURN is a man of strong principle, a man of great integrity, and, perhaps just as importantly, a man of remarkable humility. Our country has benefited greatly from the wisdom and leadership TOM has provided during his service in Congress—first in the House and then in the Senate. I have been in the Senate now for a little more than a decade, and during that time our colleague from Oklahoma has done more than anyone else in this Chamber to eliminate wasteful spending, expose fraud and abuse in the Federal budget, and get our entitlement programs on a sustainable path. TOM would be the first one to say that job has just begun, but he has certainly given it everything he has.

He has educated our Nation on the fiscal threat we live under and what it means for our children and grandchildren, and he has worked tirelessly to correct it.

He has done a remarkable job as the ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, as well as his service on the intelligence and banking committees.

Furthermore, TOM has been an unyielding force for protecting liberty and improving access to affordable health care by proposing positive patient-oriented alternatives, and for these reasons and many more I am grateful for his service.

But perhaps the thing he does not want to be remembered for—but that has made such a profound impression on many of us—is his courage and ability to deal with the fact that he is a three-time cancer survivor. Even last week, I know he was receiving treatment for this most recent flare up, but he will be back here today. He will be doing what he does best, and that is fighting for his principles and perhaps causing more than a little bit of turbulence in the process in this otherwise stayed Chamber.

I know I speak for this entire Chamber when I say it is an honor to serve with a man such as TOM COBURN. I know this to be true because Tom is well respected on both sides of the aisle.

In fact, when Time magazine named TOM one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2013, a friend of TOM's and former Democratic Senator wrote:

> The people of Oklahoma are lucky to have someone like Tom representing them in Washington—someone who speaks his mind, sticks to his principles, and is committed to the people he was elected to serve.

The friend I am referring to who made those remarks is none other than our President, Barack Obama, when he served with TOM in the Senate. When the President said that, he found out that TOM received a number of angry letters from constituents that said he and President Obama looked a little too chummy together, to which TOM replied—and this is classic TOM COBURN: ''What better way to influence someone than to love them.''

This serves as a testament to his character. You see, TOM has an extraordinary ability not just to win the respect of those who agree with him but the admiration and respect of those who disagree with him as well. That is a rare thing in politics and especially in today's society.

Nevertheless, TOM has spent his career promoting what is good for the country while never wavering from his personal conversations. Along the way he has racked up a lengthy list of accomplishments that protect taxpayers and increase transparency in government.

TOM's résumé proves he has been a leader not only in Congress but in every aspect of his life. For example, I think many of our colleagues don't realize he had a distinguished career in

business and medicine before he got here. TOM served as president of the school of business student council while getting his accounting degree at Oklahoma State University. Later he went back to law school—excuse me, that was a Freudian slip he wouldn't be happy with. Later he went back to medical school, where he trained to become a physician and served as president of his class at the University of Oklahoma medical school.

TOM has a lot to be proud of about his service in the House and in the Senate. But, again, like all of us, he is most proud of his family. He has been married to the former Miss Oklahoma for nearly 50 years, and he and Carolyn have three daughters and seven grandchildren. Meanwhile, in his career as a physician, he has delivered more than 4,000 babies, which perhaps explains the vote totals in some of his elections, because I am sure many of them have grown up to vote for him.

The things that I mentioned are only a few of TOM COBURN's long list of notable achievements. Knowing TOM and his work ethic, I have no doubt he will be giving 110 percent right up until the last minute he serves in the 113th Congress on January 3, 2015.

I wish TOM and his family the very best as they enter the next season of life.

I yield the floor and 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. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

MARK PRYOR

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, in just a few moments one of my best friends in the Senate is going to give his farewell address. Senator MARK PRYOR of Arkansas, a former State legislator, former attorney general, and two-term Senator, was caught in this tidal wave in the last election that caused those of us in the Democratic Party in the former old Confederacy, now known as the South—and of course parts of the South these days don't look anything like the old Confederacy. As a matter of fact, my State of Florida is a good example. It is a compendium of people from all over the United States because folks from all over the country have moved to Florida, and thus it is a microcosm of the country.

Arkansas is a State where the Pryor family has served with great distinction and enormous public service for decades. Although it temporarily comes to an end with Senator PRYOR leaving the Congress in January, that is not the end of his public service. His mom and dad served so ably for years and years in the Governor's mansion, as well as the Senate, serving the people of this country and Arkansas. MARK and his family served our country so ably over the years and that public service will continue.

JAY ROCKEFELLER

I reflect back just a few days ago when Senator ROCKEFELLER gave his farewell speech. He is another extraordinary public servant who has demonstrated selfless public service. He is a Senator who, because of his family heritage, could have done anything he wanted, but he chose—after a life of privilege, growing up as a young man, and after having spent time abroad—to go to one of the poorest States in the Union. He first was a volunteer to the poor and later developed a distinguished record of public service that included secretary of state, Governor, and now a five-term Senator. I will speak later about other colleagues who are leaving.

These are just two examples. Senator ROCKEFELLER and my seatmate Senator PRYOR are extraordinary public servants who when you talked to them and when you looked in their eyes, if they gave you their word, that was it. You didn't have to worry about it.

Some say it is a throwback to the old days. The old days is a throwback that we ought to go to, when if a Senator gave you his or her word, that was it, when there was civility among Senators, when there was not an avalanche of outside money that came in to try to define you with statements that were not true.

We see what has happened to our politics in America today with exceptional millions of dollars coming into a State, buying up television, to create a statement in 27 seconds often that is not true and that fact checkers say is not true, factcheck.org and Politifact.

Yet when we talk to the TV stations and the broadcast stations and show them the fact checkers, they will still run the TV ads. But rather than talk about the mistakes that were made with the Citizens United Supreme Court case and missing by one vote in this Chamber several years ago—we had 59 votes and we needed 60 to cut off debate so we could get to the DISCLOSE Act, a DISCLOSE Act that did not counter the Supreme Court decision, it just said if you are going to spend all this money, you are going to have to say who it is that is doing the contribution.

Of course, if we had been able to pass that, then all of this money would not be flowing because it is hiding behind this masquerade of the Committee for Good Government or the ABC committee for whatever. So they masquerade behind that veil to spend all of that money in order—for their ultimate purposes.

It caught a number of our people. Just look at what happened in the runoff election this last Saturday. Look at the imbalance of the spending on TV that occurred since the general election and the runoff in the State of Louisiana.

I will speak about Senator LANDRIEU, Senator UDALL, Senator BEGICH, and Senator KAY HAGAN later.

I wanted particularly to talk about Senator ROCKEFELLER, our chairman of the commerce committee, and Senator PRYOR, one of the finest public servants I have ever had a chance to serve with.

''ORION'' SPACECRAFT

Mr. NELSON. I want to speak about a very uplifting topic in more ways than one. Friday morning I was at the Cape. We call it the Cape. It is technically known as the Kennedy Space Center. America is going to Mars. The first test flight, the spacecraft *Orion*, put upon another rocket—in this case, a heavy-lift rocket called the Delta IV—twice orbited around the Earth. On that second orbit it was boosted up way beyond low-Earth orbit to 3,600 miles, and then with a ballistic reentry simulating 80 percent of the forces, the stresses on the spacecraft, the Gs, as well as the heat shield heating up to 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit in a spacecraft totally instrumented to check out the integrity of the spacecraft and the effectiveness of the heat shield as part of it—an ablative heat shield that burns off upon reentry—and it was a fantastic success.

I talked about this last week ahead of time just to give folks an idea of how large this is. The *Apollo* spacecraft was 12 feet in diameter. It looked like a similar kind of shape, a capsule. That was over four decades ago, 12 feet. *Orion* is 16½ feet and totally new technology, a new heat shield and up-to-date instrumentation that will carry four astronauts on our goal of our journey to the planet Mars in the decade of the 2030s.

This is what I wanted to share. Friday night after the launch with the extensive coverage that the news media gave, I was at a totally unrelated charity event for a children's hospital. I had people coming up to me and saying we didn't know that we had a space program. It is simply because they associated the shutdown of the space shuttle with the last flight of 135 flights—they associated that with the shutdown of the space program in the last flight of 2011 of the space shuttle.

They now see what has been happening behind the scenes all along, where indeed we are in a dual track in America's manned space program, the one track going to Mars way beyond low-Earth orbit where we have been for the last 40-some years. This is a low earth orbit that services the International Space Station where 6 humans are right now, about 250 miles above the Earth doing research in the program of going out and exploring the heavens. The second track of the dual track is, in fact, building American rockets, which is being done in a commercially viable way to go to and from

the space station as they are right now with cargo, but making those spacecraft safe with the escape systems for humans. That is the dual track. Therefore, as a result, we end up with NASA exploring the heavens again. We are back in the human space business.

The great Senator from the State of Arkansas is here. He does not know I have just spoken about him. It is going to be my privilege to listen to his remarks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I have to begin today by saying one thing, that is, to God be the glory. I will finish with that too. But first let me say a few words.

Since election night I have had many Arkansans come up to me and thank me for my service. I appreciate that. But I need to thank them for allowing me to do this for the last 12 years. It sounds like a cliche, but it is not. Serving in the Senate has been the greatest honor of my life. It truly has been. I have loved it. I have always done it with a cheerful heart. When I go back to my beloved Arkansas, I have to thank the people of Arkansas for allowing me to work for you. But I must confess I will miss waking up every morning and thinking, how can I make a difference for Arkansas and for America today? Those years were momentous in so many ways, for our country and for our world. I had a front-row seat to making history, and I hope I made a little bit of it myself.

On a personal level, those years were filled with family and friends, a remarkable staff, my Senate colleagues, and a whole series of rich, once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

The Lord has given me two wonderful children who are now in college. I know many of you all saw them for the first time when they were in elementary school. I am very proud, and their mother is very proud, of Adams and Porter Pryor. I am very excited about their future.

God has also brought an old sweetheart back into my life, Joi. She and I attended the sixth and seventh grades together. So when I say God has brought joy in my life, I mean it, literally.

Many of you know my parents. Of course, I would be nothing without them. Dave and Barbara Pryor have touched so many lives. They continue to do so.

For the last 8 years, I have lived with my brother David and Judith and Hampton Pryor in Washington, when I am here in Washington. I will always be grateful for their love and hospitality.

Scott and Diane and Devin Pryor in New York have been a great inspiration to me as well.

My staff is simply awesome. I love them all and they are all part of my family too. There are too many to mention, but words such as talent, commitment, public service, effectiveness, all come to mind whenever their names come up. I have said this many times about my staff, and they keep telling me not to say it, but I am going to say it one last time: They do 99 percent of the work and I get 99 percent of the credit. So I want to acknowledge them for a job well done. They should all hold their heads high for the difference they have made. I ask unanimous consent that a list of their names be printed in the RECORD.

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

Lisa Ackerman, Adrianna Alley, Ronnie Anderson, Suzanne Bartolomei, Tim Bass, Frank Bateman, Jason Bockenstedt, Patrice Bolling, Cathy Bozynski, Zac Bradley, Becca Bradley, Ruth Bradley, Rachel Brown, Sonya Bryant, LaRonda Bryles, Tamara Buchholz, Britton Burnett, Margery Buzbee, Macio Cameron, Lauren Carter, Rachel Colson, Kim Cooper, Paul Cox, Laura Culver, Emily Culver, Olivia Dedner, Shiloh Dillon, Martine Downs, Wes Duncan, Michael Fangue, William Feland, Greg Feldman, Jeff Fitch, Sherry Flippo, Bradford Foley, Derrick Freeman, Conor Frickel, Bess Ginty, Terri Glaze, Andrew Grobmyer.

Russell Hall, Beth Hallmark, Julie Hamilton, Megan Hargraves, Ruth Hargraves, Jacob Hargraves, Justin Harper, Ehren Hartz, Tonya Hass, Mary Grace Hathaway, Whitney Haynes, Brigit Helgen, Larry Henderson, Lauren Henry-Cowles, Hannah Herdlinger, Carrie Hern, Tate Heuer, Gene Higginbotham, Brandon Hirsch, Emily Hoard, Sarah Holland, Greg Holyfield, Vincent Insalaco, Susie James, Mark Johnston, Louis Keller, Hank Kilgore, Caroline Kobek Pezzarossi, Shannon Lane, Stephen Lehrman, Autumn Lewis, Sam Losow, Shannon Lovejoy, Stan Luker, Scott Macconomy, Amanda Manatt-Story, Elizabeth Manney, Randy Massanelli, Eric May, Madra McAdoo, Nathan McCarroll, Lauren McClain.

Marietta McClure, Audrey McFarland, Valerie McNeese, Rodell Mollineau, Melissa Moody, Reed Moody, Brook Mumford, Callie Neel, Eric Nelson, Wayne Palmer, Allison Pearson, Mia Petrini, Brad Phelan, Jim Pitcock, Marisa Pryor, Walter Pryor, Hayne Rainey, Candace Randle, Kris Raper, Robbie Reed, Mary Renick, Erin Ridgeway, Jenny Robertson, Kirk Robertson, Bob Russell, Paul Sanders, Amy Schlesing, Kymara Seals, Kristin Sharp, Ashley Shelton, Ashely Simmons, Jason Smedley, Haley Smoot, Kate Melcher, Lucy Speed, Brandon Spicher, Jeffrey Stein, Arthur Stokenbury, Michelle Strikowsky, Kelvin Stroud, Kelsey Stroud, Richard Swan, Frances Tate, Michael Teague, Jennifer Thompson, Courtney Van Buren, Joan Vehik, Crystal Waitekus, Brad Watt, David West, Preston Weyland, Libby Whitbeck, Deke Whitbeck, Marco White, Amanda White, Quinten Whiteside, Elizabeth Wilson, Andy York, Mary Claire York, Julie Zelnick.

Mr. PRYOR. My colleagues. What can I say about my colleagues that has not been said before? Or maybe I could say, what can I say about my colleagues that they have not said about themselves before?

You know, politics is about people; not just the people out there, but the people in here, the people the people elect. I have served with some greats and some giants. Robert C. Byrd, Ted Kennedy, Daniel Inouye, Ted Stevens are at the top of the list. But the truth is that every single Senator I have served with is a giant.

I have served with about 175 other Senators, so there are too many to single out. But I have made lifelong friendships here. We have done a lot of good things together. This is what I will remember: all the personalities, all the times when we came together to do the right thing, and all the successes we had together.

While in the Senate, I had more than 70 initiatives signed into law. Almost all of those have been bipartisan. I ask unanimous consent to have that list printed in the RECORD.

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Opened a New Opportunity for the Forestry Industry. Allowed domestic forestry products to be recognized by USDA as biobased, leveling the playing field with imports and ensuring such products can be procured by the federal government and sold as a greener alternative to consumers, P.L. 113–179

Funded Critical Agriculture Needs as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture. Crafted and passed $20 billion annual spending measure that allocates funds for agriculture programs, P.L. 113–76

Ensured Veterans Could Collect Retirement Benefits without Gimmicks. Restored the full retirement pay promised to disabled veterans and their survivors, P.L. 113–76

Honored Former Senator Dale Bumpers for his Conservation Efforts. Renamed the White River National Wildlife Refuge to the Senator Dale Bumpers White River National Wildlife Refuge, P.L. 113–76

Ensured Patients Have Access to Lifesaving Medical Treatment. Allowed the FDA to access industry-paid user fees that had been blocked by sequestration, P.L. 113–76

Ensured Disabled Veterans are Treated with Dignity During Airport Security. Ensured the dignity of wounded and severely disabled service members and veterans during airport security screenings, P.L. 113–27

Protected Food Safety Inspections from Sequestration. Ensured USDA food inspectors were not furloughed, protecting 500,000 industry jobs at meat, poultry, and egg production facilities, P.L. 113–6

Sought Greater Employment Opportunities for Veterans. Allowed states to accept military training as fulfilling credentials or certifications for special skills required for certain civilian jobs, P.L. 112–239

Protected Consumers from International Scams. Extended the FTC's ability to coordinate investigation efforts with foreign counterparts and obtain monetary consumer redress in cases involving Internet fraud and deception, P.L. 112–203

Expanded the Safety Mission at the National Center for Toxicological Research. Allows the FDA to focus on the health and safety implications of nanomaterials, P.L. 112–144, P.L. 112–55

Kept Fatigued Truck Drivers Off the Road with Electronic Logging Devices. Required truckers to use electronic logging devices to more accurately monitor hours on the job, P.L. 112–141

Prevented Dangerous Drivers from Driving Big Rigs with National Drug Database. Established a national database of drug testing information for commercial drivers to ensure they can't bypass the law, P.L. 112–141

Stepped Up Vehicle Safety Following Numerous Recalls. Updated safety and compliance standards, and increased resources at DOT to conduct additional research and address emerging technologies, P.L. 112–141

Reduced Distracted Driving, Established a grant program for states to enact and enforce laws discouraging distracted driving, P.L. 112–141

Provided Flexibility in Pension Plan Payments. Allows certain companies to invest in growth opportunities instead of setting aside millions to cover certain pension payments, P.L. 112–141

Protected Homeowners from Buying Unnecessary Flood Insurance. Defeated a mandate that would force families and businesses behind certified levees, dams and other protection to purchase unnecessary flood insurance, P.L. 112–141

Stabilized Arkansas Funding for Rural Schools Program. Authorized USDA to allocate federal dollars for road projects in the state despite a missed deadline, P.L. 112–141

Expanded Possibilities at the U.S. Marshals Museum. Enabled the sale of coins to raise $5 million to enhance exhibits at the U.S. Marshals Museum, P.L. 112–104

Ensured Military Families Receive Death Benefits. Provided death benefits to a family should a Reservist die at home during training, P.L. 112–81

Facilitated Camp Robinson Land Exchanges to Improve Training and Safety. Twice waived a statute to allow the National Guard to gain land more conducive for training and for an aviation support facility, P.L. 112–81, P.L. 109–13

Enabled First Responders to Help Neighboring States During a Disaster. Secured $2 million for a program enabling first responders to help their neighbors in times of emergency, P.L. 112–74

Fixed FEMA'S Errors in Disaster Assistance Repayment Process. Used legislative privileges to stop FEMA from recouping disaster aid from an elderly couple who did nothing wrong, and granted FEMA the clear authority to waive debt in cases of FEMA error, P.L. 112–74

Leveraged Funds for Economic Development in the Delta. Increased the Delta Regional Authority's budget by nearly $2 million, P.L. 112–74

Expanded Environmentally-Friendly Options for Military Construction Projects. Encouraged DoD to recognize all American National Standards Institute approved building ratings and certification systems, P.L. 112–74

Provided Community Access to Health Care. Provided HHS with the authority to issue a waiver and preserve funding for Arkansas Health Education Centers, P.L. 112–74, P.L. 112–10

Promoted Exports Abroad. Required the Commerce Department to develop an outreach plan to strengthen export promotion entities such as the Arkansas World Trade Center, P.L. 112–55

Expanded Science Parks. Enables the government to make loan guarantees and grants to create or expand science parks, P.L. 112–55

Protected Taxpayer Dollars from Prisoner Fraud. Required federal and state prison systems to share information on inmates with the IRS. This step allows the IRS to cross reference tax returns with the list of inmates to determine if a legitimate return is filed, before tax refunds are paid, P.L. 112–41

Expanded Environmentally-Friendly Options for Military Construction Projects. Encouraged DoD to recognize all American National Standards Institute approved building ratings and certification systems, S. Rept. 112–29

Modified Product Safety Law to Reflect Lead Limit Capabilities. Allows flexibility for certain manufacturers and charities in complying with new lead limits, P.L. 112–28

Weeded Out Border Corruption. Required applicants for law enforcement positions within U.S. Customs and Border Protection to receive a polygraph exam before they are hired, P.L. 111–376

Spurred Innovation in Technology through Monetary Prizes. Enables federal agencies to hold competitions with monetary prizes in order to encourage innovation in research and technology, P.L. 111–358

Improved Investments to Advance U.S. Manufacturing. Required the National Science and Technology Council to identify priorities for R&D programs and address challenges in those programs, P.L. 111–358

Incorporated Entrepreneurship into STEM Activities. Requires lessons in innovation and entrepreneurship be taught as part of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education activities, P.L. 111–358

Improved Technology Access for Blind and Deaf. Ensures all Americans are able to fully utilize online devices, regardless of disability, P.L. 111–260

Prevented Excessive Financial Regulation of Non-Banks. Ensured banks and financial companies receive a higher threshold of review by the Federal Reserve, but that companies who were not part of the fiscal crisis, like Home Depot, do not have to undergo additional supervision, P.L. 111–203

Empowered Consumers to Make Informed Choices When Selecting Health Plans. Ensured consumers have an easy-to-use Internet tool to select the best plan on the health care exchange, P.L. 111–148

Retired Certain C–130Es. Retired outdated C–130Es and saved taxpayers millions of dollars in maintenance and storage costs, P.L. 111–84

Streamlined DoD Research Requirements. Eliminated a duplicative report to Congress on DoD development programs to allow the Pentagon to spend more time on research and less time on paperwork, P.L. 111–84

Blocked Unreasonable Regulation to End Pocketknife Sales. Prevented Customs and Border Patrol from banning certain pocket knives, bringing relief to consumers and the 20,000 employees that could have been impacted, P.L. 111–83

Preserved President Clinton's Birthplace for Future Generations. Designated the former president's home as a National Historic Site and unit of the National Park System, P.L. 111–11

Helped Parents Protect Children from Inappropriate Content on the Internet. Required the FCC to fulfill its obligation to continuously review and implement blocking technology as it is developed, P.L. 110–452

Fixed Housing Contract Problems for Military Families. Requires DoD to investigate and prevent base housing problems, P.L. 110–417

Fought for Fairness for Military Pilots. Directed the Air Force and Navy to review pilot assignments to non-flying duties, and the effect of these assignments have on these officers' eligibility for flight pay, P.L. 110–417

Ensured Farmers Access to Ammonium Nitrate Fertilizer. Required DHS to ensure that any person who produces or sells ammonium nitrate (AN) registers their facility and maintains records of sales. Buyers are checked against a terrorist screening database, which keeps AN out of the wrong hands without placing an undue burden on farmers, P.L. 110–329

Protected Consumers from Toxic Toys and Other Dangerous Products. Overhauled the Consumer Product Safety Commission and established strong product safety safeguards that cut fatalities in half and dramatically reduced toy-related recalls, P.L. 110–314

Fought for Fairness in the Tax Code for Military Families. Enabled men and women in uniform to collect combat pay and other tax benefits, such as the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, P.L. 110–245, P.L. 108–311

Provided Relief to Military Families Affected by Landlord Foreclosures. Allowed the military to move household goods for members of the Armed Forces who are forced to relocate when the housing they are renting goes into foreclosure, P.L. 110–289

Advanced Investment in Cellulosic Biofuel. Required USDA to conduct a nationwide analysis of where the greatest potential for development of cellulosic biofuel exists, P.L. 110–234

Updated Regulations for Private-Public Partnerships Following Disrupted Rice Exports. Improves quality control standards for university and private sector research, P.L. 110–234

Ensured Soldiers Receive Fair Time for Rest and Recuperation. Offered additional leave for troops serving extended tours, P.L. 110–181

Kept the Do Not Call List Free. Permanently kept the Do Not Call program free, simple and effective, P.L. 110–188

Improved Medical Care for Wounded Warriors. Increased personnel and resources available to treat wounded warriors, with an emphasis on training health care workers on identifying and treating PTSD and TBI, P.L. 110–181

Made Swimming Pools Safer for Children. Requires drain covers to meet anti-entrapment safety standards, P.L. 110–140

Improved Fuel Economy Standards. Negotiated an agreement that overcame 30 years of deadlock on fuel economy standards, P.L. 110–140

Maintained Training for First Responders. Secured funding for the Domestic Preparedness Equipment Technical Assistance Program, a nationwide training program for first responders, P.L. 110–53, P.L. 109–295

Tapped an Arkansas Center to Head Rural Transportation Security Research. Designated the Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center at the University of Arkansas as a ''National Center of Excellence for Transportation Security,'' P.L. 110–53

Expanded Online Education Opportunities for Minorities. Established a pilot program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities to develop online courses, P.L. 110–16

Improved Energy Efficiency in Military Housing. Directed DoD to consider products that meet Energy Star specifications in order to reduce the military's energy bill, P.L. 109–364

Cracked Down on Foreign Truck Drivers Entering the U.S. Illegally. Directed DOT and DHS to comply with measures that eliminate fraud in the Commercial Drivers License process and verify citizenship, P.L. 109–347

Put the FEMA Mobile Homes to Good Use. Ensured that mobile homes purchased by FEMA in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina went to serve the public good, P.L. 109–295

Removed Unnecessary Obstacles for a Local Manufacturing Company. Eliminated a 4.5 percent tariff on Crotonaldehyde for Eastman Chemical Corporation, P.L. 109–280

Kept Local Manufacturer Globally Competitive. Eliminated a 4.5% tariff on LCD display panels in order to reduce production costs for Sanyo, P.L. 109–280

Funded the Completion of the Little Rock Central High School Museum and Visitors Center. Secured more than $5 million to complete the Center, P.L. 109–146, P.L. 109–54

Identified Gasoline Price Gouging. Requires the FTC to determine if and where gasoline price gouging occurs in the supply chain, P.L. 109–108

Prioritized Cleburne County for Water Infrastructure Assistance. Encouraged the Agriculture Secretary to prioritize Cleburne

County, Arkansas for Rural Utilities Service water and waste water loans and grants, P.L. 109–97

Improved Medical Care to Soldiers. Increased funding for mobile medical shelter prototypes, and later urged FEMA to use up to $10 million to acquire a mobile medical system for evaluation, P.L. 109–90, P.L. 108–287

Prevented Moving Companies from Holding Goods Hostage. Requires movers to release goods if a customer pays the estimate, P.L. 109–59

Promoted the Commercialization of Biodiesel and Hythane. Requires DOE, in conjunction with universities throughout the country, to prepare reports that would evaluate how to best deploy biodiesel and hythane and create an infrastructure to support their potential, P.L. 109–58

Protected Soybean Industry. Directed the USDA to initiate a stronger response to combat Asian Soybean Rust, which resulted in a $1.2 million for the effort, P.L. 109–13

Established Tracking System for Wounded Service Members. Ensures families receive timely information when loved ones are wounded, P.L. 108–375

Mr. PRYOR. I do not do very many press conferences, as you all know, and I have always been first in line to work with any and all of my colleagues to try to get things done. The Senate is a special place. On a personal level, we talk about the Senate family. It is a family. When people mention the Senate to me, I think of other Senators, of course, and I think of legislation, but usually the first thing that comes to mind is the people who work here: the Parliamentarians, the clerks, the doormen, the Capitol Police. I am appreciative of the other Senators' staffs and the committee staffs, and even to my House colleagues—most of them, anyway. No, even to my House colleagues.

But I have always been mindful of the people who really make this place run: the janitorial staff, the folks in the restaurants, the maintenance guys, the painters, the carpenters, the tech people. The list goes on and on. All of them contribute to make the Senate what it is. We work here together. We go through life and budget cuts and changing political winds together. There is a bond we all feel because we all have been in the Senate together.

Please give me just a few moments of your time to make this next point. As great an institution as the Senate is, the Senate is broken. The American people know it. In fact, this is an area where the American people are way ahead of Washington. The people around our Nation look at Washington and they shake their heads. We sometimes cannot see the forest for the trees because we get bogged down in personalities or perceived wrongs or whatever the case may be.

This is not a Barack Obama problem, this is not a George Bush problem. In fact, all recent Presidents have gone through periods of deep unpopularity. This is an ''all of us'' problem. The political environment today grinds the trust and confidence out of our system. Let me tell you, that is not good for anybody.

The Republicans have a great opportunity in 2015 and 2016. They convinced the voters they are the party that can govern. Now it is time for them to turn off the rhetoric and turn on the governing. In the Senate, if the new Republican majority will run the Senate the way they have said it should be run, then this is a very good start. If we can replay the tape over the last 2 years, we will hear Republican Senators time and again clamor for an open amendment process and for regular order. They were caustic when the Democratic majority changed the rules—a change, by the way which I did not support. So let's change the rules back to what they were. Let's govern the way we know we ought to.

Democrats—this is an important message—Democrats should help the Republicans govern. The rules are not the problem around here. We are the problem, all 100 of us. Hyperpartisanship has gotten the best of us. When things get too partisan, good judgment and common sense go out the window. The biggest and most serious problem facing our Nation today is the dysfunction in our political system within Washington. America has incredible potential, but we cannot reach it unless Washington starts to work again for all of us. If we are to continue to be the greatest Nation on Earth, we must work together. That is, after all, the American way. That is our history. This country was created, this country was forged. The great melting pot is just that, a melting pot. E pluribus unum actually means something: Out of many, one. We have many differing viewpoints, many philosophies, many backgrounds, many priorities. So we have the pluribus part down pat. That is not the problem. No, the challenge comes with the unum.

From my perspective, I see the ultimate question as a question of loyalty. Who are we loyal to? I just mentioned that we have many different viewpoints, philosophies, and agendas. But if we have different loyalties, then we are a divided nation. That will only lead to bad things. When each of us takes our oath of office, we swear allegiance to the Constitution, not a party, nor a President, nor an interest group. We do not swear allegiance to those who pay for our campaigns or to a certain agenda. We need to hash out our differences in the Senate in committee and on the floor, then hash them out with the House, but at the end of the day, produce legislation. That is the essence of the legislative branch. We also must exert our authority as article I, the first branch of government.

We have checks and balances. We cannot provide the check or the balance if we are not functioning. Making this place function is part of our oath of office. One thing we should all remember: The Senate is bigger than we are. We do not have to look farther than our own desks to see that. Look inside your desk and you see the names written in the drawer. In my desk I see Senator Gronna, elected in 1911 from North Dakota. Names such as Everett Dirksen and George Mitchell, David Pryor, Joe Lieberman and CARL LEVIN—these men molded history. These are Senators who shaped world events. These Senators were good stewards of what our Founding Fathers created for us. We should be too, each and every one of us.

The Father of our Country had a lot to say about partisanship. In his Farewell Address, he warns us of the ''continual mischiefs'' and ''ill-founded jealousies'' caused by parties. We should take heed. It is the greatest mistake of our time to allow these prophesied mischiefs and jealousies to divide us and damage the American political character.

Abraham Lincoln once famously said, ''A house divided against itself cannot stand.'' That is so true. His voice is echoing down through the halls of history to us. If we are divided, we cannot stand. We will not stand a chance in the future. Let Lincoln's words be a clarion call to all Members of Congress. That includes all Senators.

Look at what is happening to us. The Congress is getting more liberal and more conservative. Look at the wild swings in regulations that have occurred from President Clinton to President Bush to President Obama. No wonder we are seeing a sluggish economic recovery.

Washington is creating uncertainty and instability. The private sector cannot make investments or take risks with confidence. It should be the opposite. The Federal Government should be fostering economic growth. This country needs Washington to function. That starts in this Chamber.

One thing I like to say in meetings is this: ''Don't just bring me the problem, bring me the solution.'' So I have identified a big problem here this afternoon. It is fair for you to ask about the solution. Regardless of your political philosophy, bipartisanship is the answer. Let's take off the red jersey and take off the blue jersey and let us all put on the red, white, and blue jersey. Our Nation's challenges, large and small, require us to get on the same team; that is team USA.

Remember, I mentioned Abraham Lincoln saying that, ''A house divided against itself cannot stand.'' Well, he was actually quoting an itinerant Jewish rabbi who said that about 2,000 years ago. Jesus was right then and He is right now. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Good government is good politics. Although there are short-term gains to be had by political division, the long-term consequences are bad for the country. It is time for the giants of the Senate to emerge. Jesus has offered us some advice. Probably the best practical advice of wisdom He left us here in the Congress is called the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. If we applied that around here, about

three-quarters of our problems would vanish. Poof.

Is that impossible? Not at all. Most of us claim to have a Judeo-Christian faith, so why not apply what we know to be true? The first step in this process is another one of Jesus's admonitions—forgive one another.

I know each Senator, from time to time, feels betrayed, let down, slighted, or somehow wronged. We need to forgive one another and let the healing begin.

I am not trying to combine religion and politics, but I think most everyone in the world agrees that Jesus is one of the greatest moral teachers of all time. He has a lot to say about how we should treat one another.

There are and there will be 100 Senators. Healing the Senate and getting it to function as it did for two centuries is up to each individual Senator. That means doing the right thing but also persuading others to do the right thing. It is not about us, it is about our country, our children, and our grandchildren. It is about being good stewards.

In closing, let me say I loved my time with you. I will always remember you with fondness and I will always be cheering for you. I expect great things from you because I know you are capable of doing great things. God bless the Senate and the work we do, and God bless the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

Mr. NELSON. 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.

Ms. COLLINS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are.

Ms. COLLINS. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for not longer than 5 minutes.

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

TRIBUTES TO MARK PRYOR

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to give a tribute to Senator PRYOR, whose remarks we have just heard.

Through nearly a quarter of a century of dedicated public service, Senator MARK PRYOR has established a strong reputation as the voice of reason.

From an Arkansas legislator and attorney general to a U.S. Senator, Senator PRYOR has always put the people first. To me, he has been an admired colleague, a great collaborator, and a treasured friend. Working with Senator PRYOR during his service in the Senate, I know that he acquired his voice of reason the old-fashioned way: He is such a good listener.

All of us are pretty good talkers, or we wouldn't be here, but Senator PRYOR has the distinction of being a good listener. Whether debating colleagues on the Senate floor or interacting with his guests on his Pryor-Side Chats back home, he has consistently demonstrated that he is one of those special individuals who can disagree without ever being disagreeable. He always sticks to his principles, yet he respects the principles of those with whom he disagrees. He is well informed but always open to new information.

It has been a particular pleasure to work with Senator PRYOR on the homeland security committee for many years and on the Committee on Appropriations. His work ethic, his attention to detail, his willingness, once again, to listen to alternative views have been great assets in addressing the challenges we face in our country.

He has been a diligent fiscal watchdog for the Nation's taxpayers. To me, Senator PRYOR's approach to public service is best defined by the crucial role he played in ending the government shutdown in the fall of 2013 and as a member of the Gang of 14 in 2005. In each case he worked closely with me and with other Members to end a crisis and to achieve a responsible, commonsense solution. In each case he listened and he led.

As a charter member of our Common Sense Coalition last year, Senator PRYOR stepped forward to restore both government operations and help to restore some modicum of citizen confidence in our Senate, in our government.

These certainly were not the only times that Senator PRYOR's bipartisan approach and concern for the well-being of Americans had been evident. In 2007, after a large number of recalls following injuries and deaths that caused parents throughout America to be concerned about the safety of their children's toys—especially those manufactured overseas—he once again stepped forward to lead. After an extensive investigation in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator PRYOR worked with those of us on the Republican side on a bill to strengthen the Consumer Product Safety Commission so that we can now better detect and counter threats to our children's health before these threats even reach the store shelves, and eventually homes, schools, and daycare centers.

From restoring trust in government to protecting our children, Senator PRYOR has proven over and over again that bipartisanship works. It is so significant that his message to us today is that the dysfunction and hyperpartisanship that have characterized the Senate cannot stand.

That is a wonderful parting message, and it is typical of Senator PRYOR that rather than talking about all of his accomplishments, he instead is beseeching the Senate to work together in the interests of all Americans—whether we are Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Greens, or not affiliated with any party at all.

The 2014 election did not produce the result Senator PRYOR had hoped for, but it did reveal another aspect of his extraordinary character. His message to the people of Arkansas and to the new Senator-elect on election night was genuine and it was gracious. To the people of Arkansas, he simply expressed his sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve. But may these words, spoken that evening to us in the Chamber, which he echoed today, be his legacy. He said that night:

> The biggest and most serious problem we are facing in this Nation today is the dysfunction of our political system in Washington. We have incredible potential, but we won't reach it unless Washington starts to work again for all of us.

MARK PRYOR has been an extraordinary individual who always did what he believed was right. He has contributed enormously to our country and served his State well.

I commend him for his service and I thank him for his commitment, his integrity, and, most of us all, for his friendship.

Thank you, MARK.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the great Cesar Chavez once said: ''If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with him . . . the people who give you their food give you their heart.''

That is true. Sometimes they give you more than that. Sometimes they give you an adventure in eating that you will never forget.

That is what happened to me when, in January, I was invited by MARK PRYOR to be his guest at a legendary Arkansas political event. I am talking about the historic, well-known, annual Gillett, AR, coon supper.

Never heard of the Gillet coon supper in Arkansas? It is to Arkansas what TOM HARKIN's steak fry is to Iowa, only it is nonpartisan, it draws about 1,200, and unfortunately they don't serve steak.

Coon is raccoon served in large buckets. Folks just reach inside and pull out a chunk of coon, as they say in Gillett.

I was there that night with MARK PRYOR. I wanted to make sure I had my best manners as a visiting guest. I was certainly appreciative of the invitation to a packed room with the Governor and every walking politician in Arkansas. Bill Clinton had been there over and over again in his terms as Governor. He never missed that supper, and we weren't about to miss it that evening.

I watched as they put these bowls of coon and other meats on the table, and I noticed something interesting. All of the visitors like myself had bowls of coon put in front of them. All the folks

from Arkansas were eating out of the beef platter. It struck me that perhaps this was a delicacy they were saving just for guests. We asked for advice from MARK PRYOR about the proper selection of the cooked coon, and he said: Get one with a big bone because they have the least amount of meat on them.

So we followed his advice, nibbled at the corners, smiled, and said what a great dinner it was. We looked around and saw that only a handful of the local people from Arkansas were actually eating the delicacy of the evening, including one old fellow whom I went up to afterwards to introduce myself to who was wearing a real coonskin cap. He told me he shot the raccoon and this cap had been in his family for a long time. He passed it on to his daughter first, of course, and then to his grandson.

Mark Twain, another Mark, it turns out, loved roasted raccoon as well, but he always kept an open mind when it came to the issues of the day, including the issue of the afterlife.

Mark Twain once said: ''I don't like to commit myself about heaven and hell—you see, I have friends in both places.'' One reason MARK PRYOR has been such a good Senator is that he has friends on both sides of the aisle. We just heard this warm tribute to MARK PRYOR from my friend SUSAN COLLINS of Maine, and I am sure others will join the chorus on both sides.

MARK PRYOR is a man of deep faith who takes seriously the admonition from the book of the prophet Isaiah: ''Come now, let us reason together.''

Like KAY HAGAN and MARK UDALL in our caucus, MARK PRYOR has politics and public service in his bloodstream. MARK LUNSFORD PRYOR is the fifth generation of Pryors to serve in politics in his State. The first three generations served as sheriffs.

MARK PRYOR served 4 years in the Arkansas House of Representatives and 4 years as Arkansas attorney general. In 2002, the people of Arkansas elected him to the Senate, the same seat his father David held in the Senate for 18 years. MARK PRYOR placed on his desk the same motto that his father placed on his. It read, simply: ''Arkansas Comes First.''

But he made his own decisions, and he left a considerable mark in the Senate. Halfway through his freshman term, a new Member himself, MARK PRYOR was called on to join forces with the lions of the Senate—John Warner, Robert C. Byrd, and Danny Inouye—to forge a compromise over judicial nominations that averted a threat to a bigger confrontation. That compromise, MARK said, was the result of perspiration, not inspiration.

I disagree. It involved the inspiration of a young Senator from Arkansas who realized that public service often meant trying to work together and to reason together and to try to break down in your own individual fashion the dysfunction of Washington.

I worked with MARK on so many things over the years. As a whip I went to him many times, and we talked about difficult votes. I always found him to be honest, straightforward, and highly principled. We didn't always come to the same conclusion on the vote, but I respected him every time because I knew he gave thoughtful consideration to both sides. When it came to his vote, he was going to do what was right in his own heart and especially what was right for Arkansas. I knew that would make the final decision when it came to the vote.

I also want to put in a word of thanks to MARK as a grandfather of two 3-year-olds who are anxiously awaiting for the arrival of Santa Claus in just a few weeks. You see, MARK had the responsibility of reforming the Consumer Product Safety Commission. It was an assignment long overdue. That commission was grinding to a halt. It was not exercising its authority, and it wasn't keeping Americans safe, as it should. MARK stepped up, in a bipartisan fashion. He stepped up, and he ended up strengthening the Consumer Product Safety Commission through his efforts on the Senate commerce committee. That will keep toxic toys and harmful products out of stores.

Many people recognize what MARK PRYOR contributed in that effort. Parents magazine applauded MARK PRYOR as one of the three movers and shakers in Washington in the year 2005 for his work on the Consumer Product Safety Commission—work that continues to this day to keep America safer. Consumer protection has always been a hallmark of MARK's service, dating back to his days in Arkansas as attorney general and certainly as a Senator.

Fewer than 2,000 men and women have ever had the privilege of serving in the Senate. In our entire history, with hundreds of millions of people in our population, fewer than 2,000 have been sworn in to represent their States in the Senate. In MARK PRYOR we have a person who did an extraordinary job as a Senator for Arkansas and for America. He has been a great friend of mine—someone I am going to miss very, very much, but I hope he will keep in touch. We say that somewhat loosely when people leave here, but I mean it, because MARK PRYOR always brought a smile to my day. I recognize that his work in public service aspired to the highest levels and always will.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I came to the floor without any prepared remarks, but I want to say a few words, if I could, about our colleague MARK PRYOR.

I have affectionately called him ''Hey, man,'' because in Arkansas, when you see one of your friends, you don't just say ''hi, Tom'' or ''hi, Mark,'' you say ''hey, man.'' For the last 12 years, we have been saying a lot of ''hey, man's,'' and hopefully we will do so for a long time to come.

Ten or twelve days ago I was down in Honduras—murder capital of the world—and trying to figure out how to help save a nation that may be a failing nation. They have a lot of gangs down there—gangs involved in extorting money from businesses, a lot of them kidnapping people, trafficking people. Gangs have a bad connotation in Honduras, as they should—here in Washington, DC, and in the Senate, not so much.

Senator COLLINS and Senator DURBIN have talked about some of the ''gangs'' this Senator from Arkansas has been involved in, which I think most of us would say are doing the Lord's work, doing good work. MARK is a man of deep faith, as we know, and he has been a great role model for the rest of us.

MARK has reminded me before—and maybe some others as well—that in the Old Testament, in Proverbs, we are reminded we should always pray for wisdom—always pray for wisdom. That is something I pray for every night—not just for my colleagues, of course, but certainly for me. All I can say is the good Lord has answered his prayer.

One of the reasons he has ended up as a member of these gangs for good is because he has so much wisdom. He is a good listener. He is just a very, very wise human being.

It has been a joy serving with him. He got here in 2003. He raised his right hand here and took the oath of office in 2003. He came through orientation for new Senators, and I talked to him about it later, and I said: How was orientation, MARK? He said: Well, it lasted about that long. It was over. If you are a Democrat, we are going to put you over here, and if you are a Republican, we will put you over here, and it was just like, have at it. He and I talked about it, and we said: That doesn't make much sense.

As an attorney general and a member of the Attorneys General Association, and myself as a former Governor and a member of the National Governors Association, we had a robust orientation program for new attorneys general and for new Governors. The Presiding Officer is a former Governor of Maine, and he recalls that well. I think one of the reasons why the Governors are less partisan and more likely to work across the aisle to get things done together—and the same with the attorneys general—is because of that orientation that occurs a couple weeks after the election. We didn't have anything like that in the Senate. So Senator PRYOR, along with former Governor and Senator Voinovich, former Governor Alexander and myself decided to see if we could get some kind of orientation program here for Senators. Now when people show up a couple weeks after getting elected new Senators, they no longer get put over in one corner as Democrats and one corner as Republicans and are told to go at it. They spend some time together—maybe the most concentrated time they will have together during the

time they are here—with folks of the other party. Those of us who are Senators and spouses and chaplains and so forth go in and provide information and tell them to learn from our mistakes—those of us who have made plenty of them—and you won't make those same mistakes.

One of the things Senator PRYOR is especially good at doing is trying to connect each new Senator with a mentor—a Democratic Member and a Republican Member—and he was dogged in that. Not that everybody needs a mentor, but we all need friends. We need friends on both sides of the aisle, and you will keep those friendships for a long, long time.

I was a naval officer for 23 years. When I was a 17-year-old graduate from high school, I went off to Ohio State to eventually become a Navy midshipman. I did that for 4 years, 5 years as a naval flight officer in a hot war in Southeast Asia, and 18 in the Cold War until I retired in 1991. I started learning about leadership when I was pretty young—something I learned before I became a midshipman. But among the things I learned about leadership is that a leader should be humble, not haughty. A leader should say do as I do, not do as I say. Leaders should have the heart of a servant, and we should come here with the idea of serving. The Scriptures we read say: He who would be a leader must be a servant to all; he who would be first should be a slave to all.

A leader should have the courage to stay out of step when everybody else is marching to the wrong tune. A leader shouldn't ask what is the easy thing to do, the speedy thing to do; they should ask what is the right thing to do. And a leader, as has already been said, a leader should ask the question asked of a rabbi some 2,000 years ago. A rabbi was asked: What is the most important commandment of all? He mentioned what one was, and then he said the second one is love our neighbors as ourselves. I think that is the most important one of all. Leaders are like that. Leaders are like that.

I just wish to say that I think my friend, ''Hey, man,'' also known as Senator MARK PRYOR, personifies that kind of leader. God knows we need more of them. He has demonstrated by his own character and behavior what he believes.

I am tempted to say we are going to miss him, but we are still going to see a lot of him. In the Navy, when somebody has done a great job, we say two words: Bravo Zulu—Bravo Zulu. So I say that to my friend.

We also have this admonition. The Navy has the tradition of hailing farewell on a ship or submarine or aircraft carrier, whatever squadron you are on. When people come in, we have an event called a hail and farewell party. When it is over, for those who are leaving, we say: Farewell and a following sea.

So I would say this: Farewell and a following sea, and we will see much more of you in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank Senator CARPER for those good remarks, and I think they reflect the quality and the character MARK PRYOR has displayed as a Member of this Senate.

I have been asked: Who are some of your favorite people across the aisle, Democratic people whom you respect and like? MARK PRYOR has always been at the top of that list.

We have both served as attorneys general of our States. We have a number of things to talk about. I have been able to commiserate with him over Arkansas football in recent years. We kind of keep up with those things a lot.

I just would wish to say something that I basically said at the National Prayer Breakfast several years ago. Senator PRYOR and I were cochairmen, and I was able to say, with great confidence, that MARK PRYOR is one of the best people I have ever served with in the Senate. He is a man of faith and integrity, and his ego is under control—not always so around this place, and it makes it run better. He is collegial, willing to work with people across the aisle, work within his own party, and not one who has had difficulty making decisions. He has done what he thought was right year after year here in this great Senate.

We had the opportunity to lead the Senate Prayer Breakfast and then the National Prayer Breakfast twice, and it was a special time. MARK really did a great job and spent a great deal of time meeting with people from all over the world. I think the depth of his faith is quite obvious.

To MARK I wish to say that you are special to me. Your service in the Senate has been very special. You have always done what you thought was right for your State and done so in a way that is so pleasant and collegial to work with. I know you will have some great adventures ahead. It looks even like the Razorbacks are coming back. They may give Alabama and Auburn a real hard time next year—who knows. Hope springs eternal. They did pretty well at the end of this year, I have to say. A monster may be arising in Arkansas—who knows.

We do have a great Senate, with less than 2,000 people having served in this body. We have people of talent and ability throughout, but there are people over the period of years that touch you as the genuine article, people whom you respect and admire, and, MARK, you are one of those. God bless you and Godspeed.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I join my colleagues today in all the good words that are being said about my friend Senator PRYOR. I got to know Senator PRYOR best in the commerce committee, where early on he scored a major victory for the children of this country. That was at a time we learned that toys and children's products that contained lead were being brought in from all over the world. We actually had a young child in Minnesota whose mom went out and bought a pair of Reebok tennis shoes, and with the tennis shoes came a little charm. That little child swallowed that charm, and that little child died. He did not die from choking on the charm; he died over a period of days when the lead went into his system. That is just one example. Senator PRYOR was heading up the consumer subcommittee, and we took a major vote to change the standards of lead in children's products, including jewelry and toys, and it was a huge bipartisan vote, a very important bill, what was called one of the most important pieces of consumer legislation in decades. Senator PRYOR got that done.

Later, while he was head of that subcommittee, we had a little girl in Minnesota named Abigail Taylor who died in a swimming pool. All she was doing was playing in a kiddie pool, and she happened to be sitting in the middle of the pool. The pool drain malfunctioned and basically sucked her insides out. She survived for a year. When MARK PRYOR came to Minnesota, he met with that little girl and her dad. She later died after a surgery to try to save her life.

We worked after that to get the bill passed—named after Howard Baker's grandchild, who had also died in a similar circumstance—to make sure that all these public pool drains—from apartments to YMCAs; you name it—were checked. There has been a decrease in the number of deaths. We do not hear about them on the news like we used to, and that is because of MARK PRYOR's work in the Senate subcommittee.

So I know the Taylor family—that was my proudest moment, standing back in the cloakroom and calling them. They believed after they met MARK PRYOR that it would be easy to pass this bill, that we could get this done. It wasn't quite that easy. It took a few months. We had to end up putting it in the Energy bill to get it done. But being able to call Scott Taylor, who never gave up believing Congress could get something done—that is just one more example of the work Senator PRYOR has done. So I thank him for that.

STOP EXPLOITATION THROUGH TRAFFICKING ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I am also here today to address something entirely

different; that is, a bill we would like to get done before the end of the year in the Senate. It is a bill I have with Senator CORNYN, and it is called the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act of 2013. It has 19 bipartisan cosponsors. I note the year is 2013. We have been waiting nearly 2 years to get this done. A version of the bill which is very similar to ours passed the House this summer.

Senator CORNYN and I initially wrote the bill. We worked with all the sex trafficking groups. It is a very important bill, and their No. 1 priority this year is to get it done. I thank Majority Leader REID for his work on this, as well as Senator LEAHY for helping to get the bill to the floor. We have also been working with Senators HEITKAMP and KIRK, and Senator WYDEN has been an incredible partner on these issues. Senator PORTMAN has been supportive. In the House, Congressman PAULSEN called me to sponsor this bill. He took it on and, with the help of Representative Cantor and Representative MCCARTHY and the Speaker, was able to get that bill passed through the House. So this is one of those instances where people have come together and have been moving a very important bill.

We have support from the National Conference of State Legislatures, and Cindy McCain—the wife of Senator MCCAIN—and I and have done a lot of work on this issue. We spoke to their national conference this year. They have endorsed this bill. This bill is supported by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Fraternal Order of Police, Shared Hope International, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, United Methodist Women, and the list goes on.

It is time to get this done. There is a minor error in the House bill that we need to correct, and that is why we need to pass the Senate bill. We basically made the changes that are in the House bill. We also need to pass it in the Senate because this one includes the national sex trafficking strategy.

We have Senator CORNYN working on his side of the aisle. There appear to be no objections. I will explain in a bit the amendments that passed out of Judiciary 18 to 0. That is his portion that is included in this bill. I was actually having trouble getting the bill through on its own, and so we have joined forces on this bill.

Now it appears we could have some objections on our side, which I hope will get cleared up, because people are disappointed that they cannot get other bills on. I can't help people get these other bills through. I don't have that in my power right now. The 27 million people around the world who are victims of sex trafficking cannot help get that done, nor can all of the kids whom we see in Minnesota who get taken into sex trafficking—13 years old is the average age. They cannot do anything. They cannot be pawns in a game.

It is my hope that we will be able to work this out and get this bill passed in the next day or two because then I have to get it over to the House. So I am under a major time constraint.

This is an important bill which makes clear that girls and boys who are victims of sex trafficking should not be treated as criminals. The statistics, as I said, show that more than 27 million people around the world, whether it is Boko Haram—taking those little girls from their beds in the middle of the night in Nigeria, with their parents having nothing but bicycles to try to track down the people who stole them in the middle of the woods; whether it is a young girl on the oil patch in North Dakota—a major case going on there from the U.S. attorney's office; whether it is a young girl in Minnesota—this is happening in our country today.

Over 80 percent of the victims we have in the United States are from the United States. So while we see this all over the world, we know we have our own problems in our own backyard. In terms of the increase, some of it has come because of the Internet. We love the Internet, but it has also provided ways for people to advertise for sex trafficking in ways that make it more difficult to track down. As I said, the average age of a child who is a victim of sex trafficking is 13 years old—not old enough to get a driver's license, not even old enough to go to a high school prom. We have seen problems in our own country. Eighty-three percent of sex trafficking victims in America are U.S. citizens.

Despite all those numbers, we are not here just to talk about this bill. The reason I am going to make an enormous push for it this week, to get this done, is because I don't believe young kids—mostly girls—should be pawns in a political game. We are here because of Tamara Vandermoon. She was only 12 years old—in Minnesota—when she was first sold for sex. She wasn't a teenager. She was just mad at her mom and ran away. A pimp found her and made all kinds of promises—promises that sounded pretty good to a scared kid away from home. She was taken advantage of when she was most vulnerable, before she had a chance to grow up and become an adult. That is why we are doing this bill.

This bill is actually based on a model we have in about a dozen States right now, including Minnesota, that basically says to the States: We would like to incentivize you to use this model which is to help the victims of these sex crimes, which is to help them with services, and which is to not prosecute them as criminals because the only way we are really going to be able to go after the johns, the way we are going to be able to go after the people who lead these kinds of rings is if we are willing to give these victims the help they need to turn their lives around but also to get them to testify.

It has worked very well in our State. In Ramsey County alone, we have had several prosecutions, including a 40-year sentence this last year against a guy who was running a major sex trafficking ring. If you don't think this is going on in towns such as St. Paul, MN, then you need to look in your own communities because it is going on.

One of the main goals in the bill is to make sure kids sold for sex are not treated as criminals. According to a report from Polaris, 15 States across the country already have these State safe harbor laws and another 12 States are starting to make progress in the right direction. So we are not starting from scratch. It is not some crazy idea that someone tried in one State and it wasn't working. We know this works. The Cornyn and Klobuchar bill will give incentives to States when they apply for Federal grants, and they are going to be able to apply for Federal grants after they have a safe harbor bill in place.

Our bill would also create a national strategy to combat human trafficking. Our national strategy will encourage cooperation and coordination among all the agencies that work on this problem—Federal, State, tribal, and local. It is a nationwide problem. I can tell you that these pimps and people running the rings do not care about local boundaries or county boundaries or State boundaries, and we need to be as sophisticated as they are when it comes to tackling this problem.

We also need to be giving sex trafficking victims the right support, such as job training and skills building. The bill allows victims of sex trafficking to participate in the Job Corps program to help them get back on their feet.

I am also pleased to include a provision Senators WHITEHOUSE and SESSIONS have been working on to clarify the authority of the U.S. Marshals Service to assist local law enforcement agencies in locating missing children.

As I said, I have been working closely with Senator CORNYN on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, and this is also a bill with Senator WYDEN which is included in this package.

When you look at this bill, you have to think of the safe harbor provision, the provisions I just mentioned that make it easier for people who are victims of sex trafficking, for kids to be able to participate in job training; then you look at the provision from Senators WHITEHOUSE and SESSIONS regarding the U.S. Marshals; and the last part is the work with Senator CORNYN and Senator WYDEN on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which is included in this bill. It increases the fees and fines of perpetrators and should bring in nearly $30 million each year to pay for victim services. We know we have a lot of need in the States right now because this is a relatively new problem in terms of being on the increase. So shelters could apply for these grants from this fund. We think this is a very good provision, and I thank Senator WYDEN and Senator CORNYN for working on it.

I would also add that this is a provision that went through on an 18-to-0

vote as an amendment, so we know there was support out of the Judiciary Committee for this part of the bill.

As a former prosecutor, I know how important this victim-centered approach can be. Sex trafficking victims are often afraid to talk to law enforcement. It makes sense. They are not sure they are going to help them. Are they going to give them shelter? Are they going to help them turn their lives around and give them a place to sleep? If they don't have this kind of trust, they go back to the pimp and go back to the guy who was giving them money and giving them a place to sleep and probably giving them drugs. If we focus on identifying those victims even though they may not tell us they are being trafficked, then it will help them to come forward, get help, and also to testify against the trafficker, leading to more convictions.

We need to address the needs of the victim and make sure they have the support they need—housing, education, legal issues—to help break this cycle of violence and abuse. We have a great new shelter that opened up in St. Paul this year, and I was proud to be there with Cindy McCain and 180 Degrees—that is what it is called—at Brittany's Place in St. Paul. It provides special services for victims of sex trafficking to help them turn their lives around.

We also need to use the tools available to go after such traffickers. If we cannot get them on the sex trafficking charges, we need to look at money laundering charges or enterprise corruption charges or other charges. While they are not directly related to trafficking, they target traffickers nonetheless. That will be important for law enforcement, and it is the reason State prosecutors are now partnering more with Federal prosecutors.

We need to go after trafficking facilitators. These are people who know what is going on, but they are closing their eyes to it or actually letting it happen. There are some incredible businesses that have gotten out front on this issue. For example, Marilyn Carlson Nelson of Radisson Hotels in Minnesota has done training. There are a number of other hotel chains across our country that are working on this issue. Airlines—Delta, American Airlines, and others—have been doing work in this area, and it is actually exciting because we have businesses willing to say: We are on the frontline. We see when something is going on in our hotel or on our plane, and we are willing to train our employees so they know when to report an incident to law enforcement and stop things from happening on the frontline. This is happening right now in our country.

We passed a similar bill in the House, and we all know we have to make some minor corrections on the Senate side. This is the bill that Senator CORNYN and I originally introduced. We have added some good provisions from Senators Whitehouse and Sessions, as well as Senator WYDEN and Senator CORNYN, and that is what this package is. It is the kind of legislation we should pass.

Again, the victims of these sex trafficking crimes are not the ones who can figure out how we negotiate in the Senate. There are States that have not yet done anything. They may open their eyes if they know they may get a grant if they change their laws a bit and find the best practices and what is working across the country. We should be focused on those victims and not what is going on here. I am supportive of a lot of these bills that people on our side of the aisle want out of the Judiciary Committee, but they are not in my control. What is in my control is this bill.

I have garnered Republican support and passed a version of it in the House, and all I am asking from my colleagues is to be able to go forward with this bill. It would be sad indeed if we were not able to get this bill through because of Democratic objection.

I plan to ask unanimous consent on this bill. If we are not able to work something out, I will keep at it until this session closes. This bill is named the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act of 2013. I think 2 years is enough time. Two years is enough. A young girl's life was ruined at age 18. We can get this bill done.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

PROFILING

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this week I received several requests from international advocate groups to speak out against the injustice that is taking place in other countries with regard to their judicial system. It is not unusual to get a request in the United States to speak out on those matters.

Journalists are in prison solely because they were doing investigative journalism, human rights activists are in prison just because they felt it was necessary to speak out about the injustice in their society, and there are people who have been arrested, harassed or tortured because they disagree with the government and the judicial system of that country is unable to deal with those types of issues.

They understand that one of America's core values is fairness, inclusion, and equal justice under the law; however, recent events have shown that in the United States we are not where we need to be in regard to our judicial system, and we must do more.

Shortly after the tragic death of Trayvon Martin—an unarmed youth killed by an auxiliary police personnel—I convened a group of activists in Baltimore to try and understand what is happening in our community.

I must say that what I observed and learned during that discussion was something that should be very informative to all of us. It was an African-American audience, and they explained to me that if you have a teenaged son in the African-American community, you have to talk to that son about what they need to do in regard to their potential confrontation with police.

It was chilling for me to try to understand the fear that is in our community as to how they have to deal with law enforcement. Law enforcement should be on your side. Yet it sort of ripped me apart to understand how widespread the concern is in minority communities and the widespread number of victims of racial profiling in minority communities. So many families had an example.

There was one young woman who was there, and she told me when she was a young girl she was going to the arena to see a basketball game with her father. Her father was pulled over for no reason other than the color of his skin. He was pulled aside and unable to proceed to the basketball game. It had a huge impact on this young girl at the time and made her think: Is this America? Are these core values we believe in? Is this equal justice under the law?

One of the victims of racial profiling was a young lawyer who was returning home from a funeral he attended. He was stopped by the Maryland State Police solely because of the color of his skin—no other reason. He decided to do something about it. He brought a legal suit against the Maryland State Police Department—Wilkins v. State of Maryland. As a result of that lawsuit, a consent order was entered into where the Maryland State Police committed to stop racial profiling. There were certain practices that had to be established, certain checks that had to be done, certain data that had to be provided, and I believe it became the model example of what law enforcement needs to do to ensure it is not using racial profiling.

I mentioned that case because Robert Wilkins, the young lawyer who brought that case, has been confirmed by the Senate and now sits on the DC Court of Appeals—one of the confirmations we were able to complete in this term of Congress. He is an excellent member of the Court of Appeals for the District.

We get constant reminders of the problems we have in our criminal justice system; for example, the tragic death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO. I am a strong supporter of the independence of our judicial branch of government and the grand jury system, but I think all of us understand the frustration when there were no criminal indictments brought in the Trayvon Martin case, the Michael Brown case, and in the most recent case with Eric Garner. He was the unarmed individual who was choked to death in New York.

Unfortunately, there are many more examples where the criminal justice system does not appear to work for equal justice for all.

In Oakland, CA, the NAACP reported that out of the 45 officers involved in

shootings in the city between 2004 and 2008, 37 of those shot were Black, none were White, one-third of the shootings resulted in fatalities, and although weapons were not found in 40 percent of the cases, no officers were charged. No wonder people are losing confidence that we truly do have a system where all of our citizens are treated equally under the law.

I have to point out that the Department of Justice is investigating the circumstances in the Ferguson and Michael Brown case. We will have to wait and see what happens with the Federal investigation, but the initial suspicions in many of these cases were solely because of the color of a person's skin, and that is why the individuals were stopped. They were not stopped because they were observed in criminal activities or because they had specific information about a crime that fit the description of the individual who was stopped. That is profiling and profiling is wrong.

Profiling is when the police target an individual, start an investigation, and do something because of race, religion or national origin. That is wrong. It does not work. If you have specific information about a crime, obviously you can use identifiers to deal with the investigation, and that is appropriate. But if you don't have specific information, then it is profiling, and profiling is just plain wrong. It is un-American. It is not what we believe in. It is not in our core values. It is a waste of resources because it doesn't help solve a problem. It turns communities against law enforcement, and we need communities working with law enforcement if we are going to have the most efficient law enforcement. As we have seen too frequently in recent years in the United States, it can be deadly. Profiling must end.

The Attorney General issued some guidance on profiling today. There were some things in there that I found helpful. For the first time the Justice Department guidelines will cover new categories, such as national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, and sexual orientation, while closing certain loopholes and narrowing some exemptions.

The guide mandates new data collection which makes it easier to track profiling complaints. It is all positive. For the first time we have specific guidelines against profiling, but it only applies to the Federal agencies. We need to act because only we can make it apply not just at the Federal level but at the State and local auxiliaries. We can close all loopholes so we do not allow profiling to take place in America, as we should, and we can give a private right of action so we can have enforcement of the laws that we pass. That is what we should do.

I have introduced legislation that does exactly that—The End Racial Profiling Act, S. 1038. I am proud to have as cosponsors Senators REID, DURBIN, BLUMENTHAL, COONS, HARKIN, MENENDEZ, STABENOW, LEVIN, MIKULSKI, WARREN, BOXER GILLIBRAND, HIRONO, WYDEN, MURPHY, and WHITEHOUSE.

I am proud to say that in the House of Representatives the lead sponsor is JOHN CONYERS, who has been an iconic figure in the fight for civil rights, H.R. 2851. There are 59 cosponsors on the House bill.

The legislation we authored would provide training and mentoring for police departments so they have what they need. It prohibits all forms of profiling. It provides for data collection. It provides grants to develop best practices. It has broad support, including the support of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, ACLU, NAACP, and the Rights Working Group.

America is a beacon of hope for people all around the world. They embrace our core values because they know what America stands for. It stands for every one of us being treated fairly under our laws. I am proud of our values, and I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish as a nation where we can enjoy religious freedom, where people can speak out however they want to about their government.

Let us take care of business first at home and recognize that we are not where we need to be. Recent events where people have lost their lives show how our system is not working and needs to be corrected. One thing we can do is pass the End Racial Profiling Act. As Senator Kennedy said, civil rights is the great unfinished business of America. We can end profiling by passing legislation.

I encourage my colleagues to work with me so we can end profiling and move one step closer to equal justice under the law for all Americans.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1352

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, as we hurry to finish things late in the year, we are running out of time to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, referred to as NAHASDA. This legislation was first passed in 1996 to consolidate Indian housing programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This block grant replaced 14 different housing programs operating in Indian Country. The law has been previously authorized twice in a bipartisan manner.

The housing needs in Indian Country are staggering. A recent GAO report stated that 5.3 percent of homes on Indian lands lacked complete plumbing. That compares to homes nationwide where less than 1 percent lack plumbing.

Tribal communities also face a serious housing shortage. In some cases, there are up to 20 people living in a single three-bedroom home. That is not by choice, by the way. That is by necessity. These are often extended families with three or four generations under one roof. This is unacceptable. We must do more to honor the trust responsibility the government has to American Indians.

The best tool we have to address this housing shortage is the Indian Housing Block Grant Program authorized by NAHASDA. Not passing this reauthorization places this program in jeopardy, and we should reauthorize it today.

Last year, during Senator CANTWELL's tenure as chair of the Committee on Indian Affairs, she introduced a reauthorization bill. This bill makes a number of positive changes to the law.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 334, S. 1352; that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I prepared an amendment which is at the desk. The amendment I would like to offer would strike just one provision of this bill which is the reauthorization of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act from this large reauthorization bill. The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, in my view, is unconstitutional. It conditions benefits to certain residents of the State of Hawaii on their ancestry; that is, on what race they belong to, like the U.S. Supreme Court, which invalidated similar laws, making membership of a racial group an explicit qualification for certain benefits. I believe this act violates the constitutional guarantee of equal protection. I, therefore, cannot support the reauthorization without an amendment striking that same language. Accordingly, I respectfully request that my distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from Montana, modify his request to adopt my amendment which is at the desk and which would strike section 503.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. TESTER. I object to the modification because of this: Setting aside the fact that Senator Inouye was a very good friend of mine, the Native Hawaiian Homelands Act was passed into law some time ago. As Native people, Native Hawaiians have sacrificed

their lands similar to Native people here and in Alaska. The Native Hawaiians here have similar needs to those whom I just explained.

The cost of housing in Hawaii is a significant barrier for Native Hawaiians. Reauthorizing the Native Hawaiian provisions will provide stability and assurances to keep housing programs for Native Hawaiians moving forward. For these reasons, I object to that modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is an objection to the modification.

Is there a further objection to the original request?

Mr. LEE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TESTER. I am disappointed that we cannot pass this legislation. This bill would not only reauthorize Indian housing programs with HUD but would streamline cumbersome environmental requirements and allow for more flexibility to build more modern, sustainable housing. This legislation would also reauthorize housing programs, as I said, for the Native Hawaiians, where the need exists in a big way.

I should also mention that the exact same provision was included in a bill that passed the Republican-controlled House of Representatives last week on a voice vote.

Finally, this legislation will make the HUD-VASH Program available to tribally designated housing authorities through the Indian housing block grant. These funds will be specifically used for housing assistance for homeless, Native veterans, as well as those who are at risk of becoming homeless.

As many of my colleagues know, American Indians serve at higher rates per capita than any other population in the military and continue to be one of the most underserved groups of veterans.

With all these good things in it, I am extremely disappointed that we cannot get this bill across the finish line. Housing Native people should be a priority for Congress as we wrap up this session.

It is frustrating to see a bill get through the House only to have potentially a couple of Senators here hoping to get a better report card from a group such as the Heritage Foundation.

I am sorry we cannot pass the bill today. This is disappointing for any country and the Senate. I am more than willing to talk about germane changes, but the bottom line is this: Many folks here do not understand the trust responsibilities we have to our Native American people. If we are going to start carving folks out such as the Native Hawaiians, we are going to be making two classes of Native American people in this country. I don't think that is fair to them, nor do I think it is fair to this country.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

FOIA IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am about to propound a unanimous consent request, but I should explain why. It is on the Freedom of Information Act, one of our Nation's most important laws. For nearly 50 years, FOIA has given Americans a way to access government information, ensuring their right to know what their government is doing. Today, the Senate is now poised to build on that important legacy with passage of the bipartisan Leahy-Cornyn FOIA Improvement Act.

The FOIA Improvement Act will codify what the President laid out in his historic executive order in 2009. This legislation will require Federal agencies to adopt a ''Presumption of Openness'', and make it a priority of the people's interest in what their government is doing. Our bill will reduce the overuse of exemptions to withhold information where there is no foreseeable harm. It will make information available for public inspection, and make frequently requested documents available online. It will provide the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), with additional independence and authority to carry out its work. I believe this legislation reaffirms the fundamental premise of FOIA, that government information belongs to all Americans.

Passage of FOIA will help open the government to more than 300 million Americans whom the government is supposed to serve. The bill is supported by 70 public interest groups that advocate for government transparency. The Sunshine in Government Initiative said the Leahy-Cornyn bill ''strengthens government transparency by limiting the ability of agencies to hide decades old documents from the public.''

We reported this legislation out of the Judiciary Committee to the full Senate with unanimous support. Ranking Member GRASSLEY said the FOIA Improvement Act ''opens wide the curtains and provides more sunlight on the Federal Government.'' Senator CORNYN has been my partner for many years on government transparency and noted our bipartisan efforts ''open up the government and make it more consumer and customer friendly.'' I thank them both for their work on this legislation.

Today I ask that the Senate pass S. 2520, the bipartisan FOIA Improvement Act of 2014. We often talk about the need for government transparency, and many also note how rare it is that Democrats and Republicans can come together on any legislation. Today, we can accomplish both of those things but time is running out. We drafted this bill in a bipartisan fashion after a long and thoughtful process of consultation. It has broad support from a range of stakeholders.

I urge all Senators to support passage of this legislation today, so it can be taken up by the House, and sent to the President to be signed into law before the end of this Congress.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 605, S. 2520.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2520) to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 2520

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''FOIA Improvement Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO FOIA.

Section 552 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''for public inspection and copying'' and inserting ''for public inspection in an electronic format'';

(ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

''(D) copies of all records, regardless of form or format—

''(i) that have been released to any person under paragraph (3); and

''(ii)(I) that because of the nature of their subject matter, the agency determines have become or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records; or

''(II) that have been requested not less than 3 times; and''; and

(iii) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (E), by striking ''public inspection and copying current'' and inserting ''public inspection in an electronic format current'';

(B) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking clause (viii) and inserting the following:

''(viii)(I) Except as provided in subclause (II), an agency shall not assess any search fees (or in the case of a requester described under clause (ii)(II) of this subparagraph, duplication fees) under this subparagraph if the agency has failed to comply with any time limit under paragraph (6).

''(II)(aa) If an agency has determined that unusual circumstances apply (as the term is defined in paragraph (6)(B)) and the agency provided a timely written notice to the requester in accordance with paragraph (6)(B), a failure described in subclause (I) is excused for an additional 10 days. If the agency fails to comply with the extended time limit, the agency may not assess any search fees (or in the case of a requester described under clause (ii)(II) of this subparagraph, duplication fees).

''(bb) If an agency has determined that unusual circumstances apply and more than 50,000 pages are necessary to respond to the request, an agency may charge search fees (or in the case of a requester described under clause (ii)(II) of this subparagraph, duplication fees) if the agency has provided a timely written notice to the requester in accordance with paragraph (6)(B) and the agency has discussed with the requester via written mail, electronic mail, or telephone (or made not less than 3 good-faith attempts to do so) how the requester could effectively limit the scope of the request in accordance with paragraph (6)(B)(ii).

''(cc) If a court has determined that exceptional circumstances exist (as that term is defined in paragraph (6)(C)), a failure described in subclause (I) shall be excused for the length of time provided by the court order.'';

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''making such request'' and all that follows through ''determination; and'' and inserting the following: ''making such request of—''

''(I) such determination and the reasons therefor;

''(II) the right of such person to seek assistance from the FOIA Public Liaison of the agency; and

''(III) in the case of an adverse determination—

''(aa) the right of such person to appeal to the head of the agency, within a period determined by the head of the agency that is not less than 90 days after the date of such adverse determination; and

''(bb) the right of such person to seek dispute resolution services from the FOIA Public Liaison of the agency or the Office of Government Information Services; and''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking ''the agency.'' and inserting ''the agency, and notify the requester of the right of the requester to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services.''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(8)(A) An agency—

''(i) shall—

''(I) withhold information under this section only if—

''(aa) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption described in subsection (b) or other provision of law; or

''(bb) disclosure is prohibited by law; and

''(II)(aa) consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible whenever the agency determines that a full disclosure of a requested record is not possible; and

''(bb) take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information; and

''(ii) may not—

''(I) withhold information requested under this section merely because the agency can demonstrate, as a technical matter, that the records fall within the scope of an exemption described in subsection (b); or

''(II) withhold information requested under this section merely because disclosure of the information may be embarrassing to the agency or because of speculative or abstract concerns.

''(B) Nothing in this paragraph requires disclosure of information that is otherwise prohibited from disclosure by law, or otherwise exempted from disclosure under subsection (b)(3).'';

(2) in subsection (b), by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

''(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters that would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency, if the requested record or information was created less than 25 years before the date on which the request was made;'';

(3) in subsection (e)

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and to the Director of the Office of Government Information Services'' after ''United States'';

(ii) in subparagraph (N), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (O), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(P) the number of times the agency denied a request for records under subsection (c); and

''(Q) the number of records that were made available for public inspection in an electronic format under subsection (a)(2).'';

(B) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) Each agency shall make each such report available for public inspection in an electronic format. In addition, each agency shall make the raw statistical data used in each report available in a timely manner for public inspection in an electronic format, which shall be made available—

''(A) without charge, license, or registration requirement;

''(B) in an aggregated, searchable format; and

''(C) in a format that may be downloaded in bulk.'';

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking ''Government Reform and Oversight'' and inserting ''Oversight and Government Reform'';

(ii) by inserting ''Homeland Security and'' before ''Governmental Affairs''; and

(iii) by striking ''April'' and inserting ''March''; and

(D) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6)(A) The Attorney General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate, and the President a report on or before March 1 of each calendar year, which shall include for the prior calendar year—

''(i) a listing of the number of cases arising under this section;

''(ii) a listing of—

''(I) each subsection, and any exemption, if applicable, involved in each case arising under this section;

''(II) the disposition of each case arising under this section; and

''(III) the cost, fees, and penalties assessed under subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of subsection (a)(4); and

''(iii) a description of the efforts undertaken by the Department of Justice to encourage agency compliance with this section.

''(B) The Attorney General of the United States shall make—

''(i) each report submitted under subparagraph (A) available for public inspection in an electronic format; and

''(ii) the raw statistical data used in each report submitted under subparagraph (A) available for public inspection in an electronic format, which shall be made available—

''(I) without charge, license, or registration requirement;

''(II) in an aggregated, searchable format; and

''(III) in a format that may be downloaded in bulk.'';

(4) in subsection (g), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''publicly available upon request'' and inserting ''available for public inspection in an electronic format'';

(5) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: ''The head of the Office shall be the Director of the Office of Government Information Services.'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) identify procedures and methods for improving compliance under this section.'';

(C) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) The Office of Government Information Services shall offer mediation services to resolve disputes between persons making requests under this section and administrative agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation and may issue advisory opinions at the discretion of the Office or upon request of any party to a dispute.''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(4)(A) Not less frequently than annually, the Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the President—

''(i) a report on the findings of the information reviewed and identified under paragraph (2);

''(ii) a summary of the activities of the Office of Government Information Services under paragraph (3), including—

''(I) any advisory opinions issued; and

''(II) the number of times each agency engaged in dispute resolution with the assistance of the Office of Government Information Services or the FOIA Public Liaison; and

''(iii) legislative and regulatory recommendations, if any, to improve the administration of this section.

''(B) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall make each report submitted under subparagraph (A) available for public inspection in an electronic format.

''(C) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall not be required to obtain the prior approval, comment, or review of any officer or agency of the United States, including the Department of Justice, the Archivist of the United States, or the Office of Management and Budget before submitting to Congress, or any committee or subcommittee thereof, any reports, recommendations, testimony, or comments, if such submissions include a statement indicating that the views expressed therein are those of the Director and do not necessarily represent the views of the President.

''(5) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services may directly submit additional information to Congress and the President as the Director determines to be appropriate.

''(6) Not less frequently than annually, the Office of Government Information Services shall conduct a meeting that is open to the public on the review and reports by the Office and shall allow interested persons to appear and present oral or written statements at the meeting.'';

(6) by striking subsections (i), (j), and (k), and inserting the following:

''(i) The Government Accountability Office shall—

''(1) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2014 and every 2 years thereafter, conduct audits of 3 or more administrative agencies on compliance with and implementation of the requirements of this section and issue reports detailing the results of such audits;

''(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2014 and every 2 years thereafter, issue a report cataloging the number of exemptions described in paragraphs (3) and (5) of subsection (b) and the use of such exemptions by each agency;

''(3) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2014, conduct a study on the methods Federal agencies use to reduce the backlog of requests under this section and issue a report on the effectiveness of those methods; and

''(4) submit copies of all reports and audits described in this subsection to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

''(j)(1) Each agency shall designate a Chief FOIA Officer who shall be a senior official of such agency (at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level).

''(2) The Chief FOIA Officer of each agency shall, subject to the authority of the head of the agency—

''(A) have agency-wide responsibility for efficient and appropriate compliance with this section;

''(B) monitor implementation of this section throughout the agency and keep the head of the agency, the chief legal officer of the agency, and the Attorney General appropriately informed of the agency's performance in implementing this section;

''(C) recommend to the head of the agency such adjustments to agency practices, policies, personnel, and funding as may be necessary to improve its implementation of this section;

''(D) review and report to the Attorney General, through the head of the agency, at such times and in such formats as the Attorney General may direct, on the agency's performance in implementing this section;

''(E) facilitate public understanding of the purposes of the statutory exemptions of this section by including concise descriptions of the exemptions in both the agency's handbook issued under subsection (g), and the agency's annual report on this section, and by providing an overview, where appropriate, of certain general categories of agency records to which those exemptions apply;

''(F) offer training to agency staff regarding their responsibilities under this section;

''(G) serve as the primary agency liaison with the Office of Government Information Services and the Office of Information Policy; and

''(H) designate 1 or more FOIA Public Liaisons.

''(3) The Chief FOIA Officer of each agency shall review, not less frequently than annually, all aspects of the administration of this section by the agency to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section, including—

''(A) agency regulations;

''(B) disclosure of records required under paragraphs (2) and (8) of subsection (a);

''(C) assessment of fees and determination of eligibility for fee waivers;

''(D) the timely processing of requests for information under this section;

''(E) the use of exemptions under subsection (b); and

''(F) dispute resolution services with the assistance of the Office of Government Information Services or the FOIA Public Liaison.

''(k)(1) There is established in the executive branch the Chief FOIA Officers Council (referred to in this subsection as the 'Council').

''(2) The Council shall be comprised of the following members:

''(A) The Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget.

''(B) The Director of the Office of Information Policy at the Department of Justice.

''(C) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services.

''(D) The Chief FOIA Officer of each agency.

''(E) Any other officer or employee of the United States as designated by the Co-Chairs.

''(3) The Director of the Office of Information Policy at the Department of Justice and the Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall be the Co-Chairs of the Council.

''(4) The Administrator of General Services shall provide administrative and other support for the Council.

''(5)(A) The duties of the Council shall include the following:

''(i) Develop recommendations for increasing compliance and efficiency under this section.

''(ii) Disseminate information about agency experiences, ideas, best practices, and innovative approaches related to this section.

''(iii) Identify, develop, and coordinate initiatives to increase transparency and compliance with this section.

''(iv) Promote the development and use of common performance measures for agency compliance with this section.

''(B) In performing the duties described in subparagraph (A), the Council shall consult on a regular basis with members of the public who make requests under this section.

''(6)(A) The Council shall meet regularly and such meetings shall be open to the public unless the Council determines to close the meeting for reasons of national security or to discuss information exempt under subsection (b).

''(B) Not less frequently than annually, the Council shall hold a meeting that shall be open to the public and permit interested persons to appear and present oral and written statements to the Council.

''(C) Not later than 10 business days before a meeting of the Council, notice of such meeting shall be published in the Federal Register.

''(D) Except as provided in subsection (b), the records, reports, transcripts, minutes, appendices, working papers, drafts, studies, agenda, or other documents that were made available to or prepared for or by the Council shall be made publicly available.

''(E) Detailed minutes of each meeting of the Council shall be kept and shall contain a record of the persons present, a complete and accurate description of matters discussed and conclusions reached, and copies of all reports received, issued, or approved by the Council. The minutes shall be redacted as necessary and made publicly available.''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

''(m)(1) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall ensure the operation of a consolidated online request portal that allows a member of the public to submit a request for records under subsection (a) to any agency from a single website. The portal may include any additional tools the Director of the Office of Management and Budget finds will improve the implementation of this section.

''(2) This subsection shall not be construed to alter the power of any other agency to create or maintain an independent online portal for the submission of a request for records under this section. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall establish standards for interoperability between the portal required under paragraph (1) and other request processing software used by agencies subject to this section.''.

SEC. 3. REVIEW AND ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each agency (as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code) shall review the regulations of such agency and shall issue regulations on procedures for the disclosure of records under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, in accordance with the amendments made by section 2.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations of each agency shall include procedures for engaging in dispute resolution through the FOIA Public Liaison and the Office of Government Information Services.

SEC. 4. PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE THROUGH RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

Section 3102 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) procedures for identifying records of general interest or use to the public that are appropriate for public disclosure, and for posting such records in a publicly accessible electronic format;''.

SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act or the amendments made by this Act. The requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized or appropriated.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2520), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I see other Senators seeking the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

MCFERRAN NOMINATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I speak in support of the nomination of Lauren McFerran to fill an approaching vacancy on the National Labor Relations Board. I was heartened by the recent cloture vote in support of the McFerran nomination and urge my colleagues in just a short while to vote in favor of her confirmation.

Ms. McFerran is well known to most of us as a senior staffer on the HELP Committee, where she has long served as chief labor counsel and more recently as deputy staff director. She has been nominated to fill a vacancy that will result from the departure later this month of a current Board Member, Nancy Schiffer. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Ms. Schiffer for her dedicated service to the National Labor Relations Board. She has been a highly respected Board Member and I wish her every success in her future endeavors.

I also want to say a word about the previous nominee to the Board, Sharon Block, whose nomination was withdrawn at the insistence of Senate Republicans. Although I have no doubt that Ms. McFerran will serve with fairness and distinction, it is unfortunate that Sharon Block, a dedicated public servant, will not have the opportunity to serve further on the National Labor Relations Board. Ms. Block was an extraordinarily qualified nominee who was widely respected by both Democrats and Republicans alike. Ms. Block's nomination was withdrawn as a result of circumstances wholly beyond her control. But her qualifications and experience are undiminished and untarnished by the circumstances that led to the withdrawal of her nomination.

The National Labor Relations Board is an agency that is absolutely critical to our country, to our economy, and to our middle class. Over 75 years ago, Congress enacted the National Labor Relations Act, guaranteeing American workers the right to form and join a union and to bargain for a better life. That act sets forth a national policy to encourage collective bargaining—to encourage collective bargaining. That is the national policy of this government, and has been since 1935.

Let me read what the act specifically states:

> It is declared to be the policy of the United States to eliminate the causes of certain substantial obstructions to the free flow of commerce and to mitigate and eliminate these obstructions when they have occurred by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment or other mutual aid or protection.

That is the policy of the U.S. Government, to encourage collective bargaining, not to destroy it, not to tear it down, not to throw up roadblocks against collective bargaining, but to encourage it. Those who continually attack the National Labor Relations Board, who try to interfere in its procedures, many times are those who want to throw a monkey wrench into collective bargaining. Well, they are going against the policy of the United States.

I am proud to be a citizen of a country that promotes collective bargaining, to allow workers to negotiate for better wages, better conditions, safe working conditions, a country that protects fundamental rights such as the freedom of association.

The act provides these essential protections for union and nonunion workers alike. It gives workers a voice in the workplace, allowing them to join together and speak up for the very essence of middle-class jobs: fair wages, good benefits, safe working conditions. These rights ensure that the people who do the real work in this country have a shot at joining the middle class and receiving a fair share of the benefits when our economy grows.

The NLRB, the National Labor Relations Board, is the guardian of these fundamental rights. Workers themselves cannot enforce the National Labor Relations Act, but they can turn to the Board if they have been denied the basic protections provided under the law. In short, the Board plays a vital role in vindicating workers' rights.

Get this. Understand this. In the past 10 years, the National Labor Relations Board, the NLRB, has secured opportunities for reinstatement of 22,544 employees who were unjustly fired. Over that same past 10 years, the NLRB has recovered more than $1 billion on behalf of workers whose rights and wages were violated.

The Board also provides relief and remedies to our Nation's employers. A lot of people think the NLRB is just there for the workers. Not so. It is there to help employers too. For example, employers can turn to the Board for relief if a union commences a wildcat strike or refuses to bargain in good faith during negotiations. The NLRB has a long history of helping businesses resolve disputes efficiently.

By preventing or resolving labor disputes that could disrupt our economy, the work the Board does is vital to every worker and every business across the Nation. That is why it is so important that we maintain a fully functional five-member NLRB. I am proud of the fact that just over a year ago, we were able to confirm Members to completely fill the first Board in over a decade. Now we need to fill a soon-to-be-open seat so the Board can continue to function effectively. That is what this vote coming up is all about.

It is unfortunate that some of my friends on the other side of the aisle do not believe in the National Labor Relations Act—not all of them, but a very vocal minority, I would say. They do not agree that it should be the policy of the United States to promote collective bargaining and self-organization in order to prevent disruptions in ''the free flow of commerce'' that can have a detrimental impact on our Nation's economy.

They would like to change the existing law if they could, but they do not have the votes. So, instead, they have attempted to pull every possible lever to slow down the work that goes on at the NLRB. Recently, Republicans in the House of Representatives have held hearing after hearing specifically addressing the NLRB. They passed two bills to amend the NLRA, the National Labor Relations Act, to strip workers of their rights. Republican elected officials have tried to defund the agency, threatening the professional credentials and livelihoods of nonpartisan career employees, and even called on a Republican Board Member to resign in order to incapacitate the agency. You heard me right. Republicans called on a Republican Board Member of the National Labor Relations Board to leave it, and then they would not have enough Members to function.

What most concerns me about this political game-playing is how it affects the everyday lives of workers across America. For workers who are disciplined, penalized, even fired unjustly by employers, it is the NLRB that ensures that workers who are illegally punished, as I mentioned, can get back their jobs and lost wages.

This is exactly why we need to confirm Ms. McFerran today. No one can contest her qualifications. As I said, she currently serves as both chief labor counsel and deputy staff director of the Senate HELP Committee. I am proud to have her as a member of my staff. She has served this committee with excellence and great professionalism, first hired by my predecessor Senator Kennedy. She stayed on after his passing and my assumption of the chairmanship of the committee.

She has a deep knowledge of labor law. She is an incredibly talented lawyer. She is a person of sterling integrity and strong character. She will be a great asset to the Board. It is my hope that by promptly confirming Ms. McFerran's nomination to fill the upcoming vacancy, we can continue the progress that has been made recently and begin a new era where orderly transitions on the NLRB are the norm, where we do not go month after month, year after year, with vacancies, with a board that cannot function.

Instead of letting every vacancy become a political football, with threats to shutter the Board, and pressure for recess appointments, we should set a new precedent of confirming nominees, Democratic and Republican alike, in a timely manner, allowing the dedicated public servants at the Board to stop worrying about making headlines and instead focus on the important work they do every day.

Again, that important work includes assuring that American workers are able to exercise their right to freedom of association. In the workplace, this freedom means collectively bargaining for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. It is enshrined in the National Labor Relations Act and upheld by the NLRB.

I have no doubt that Ms. McFerran will do an excellent job in this important position. I urge my colleagues to support her confirmation later this afternoon.

I yield the floor and 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. LEAHY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

NOMINATION OF LAUREN McGARITY McFERRAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board; and Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy, Department of Energy.

VOTE ON BARAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote on the Baran nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. VITTER. I yield back and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having been yielded back, the yeas and nays are requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

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

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 316 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—40

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

NOT VOTING—8

Blunt	Cruz	Rockefeller
Chambliss	Landrieu	Toomey
Coburn	McCaskill	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MCFERRAN NOMINATION

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

Who yields time?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

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

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 317 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—40

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

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Coburn	Landrieu
Chambliss	Cruz	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON WILLIAMS NOMINATION

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

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy, Department of Energy?

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.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for debate only.

The Senator from Florida.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEARL HARBOR ATTACK

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, yesterday at events all around Florida and across the country, America marked the 73rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor—a day known not only for its tragedy but also for its role in shaping the destiny of what has come to be called the ''greatest generation.'' It is a generation that faced challenges unlike any seen before or since. It saw a decade of widespread prosperity crumble into the deepest depression in American history, and it saw the deepest depression in American history give way to the deadliest war in human history.

The scope of hardship, destruction, and wickedness they faced was exceeded only by the strength and valor with which they responded. Theirs is a generation that truly saved the world. I don't think any other generation at any time can have that said of them with the same bluntness.

Today that generation passes its stories on to us. They are our parents and grandparents, our ancestors and our heritage. Their stories are emblems of strength that inspire us as we meet our challenges in this new century.

Yesterday we honored the almost 2,500 Americans who were killed on that day of infamy 73 years ago—unsuspecting servicemembers, innocent men and women, but today we have a chance to honor the sacrifices made in response to that attack.

It was on this very day 73 years ago that President Roosevelt famously came before Congress to ask for a declaration of war. He expressed his confidence that the American people would rally to defend their Nation, saying: ''The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our Nation.''

He was right. In the days that followed, 5 million Americans dropped everything to volunteer for the Armed Forces. No one asked them to do it; they just did it. Tens of millions more entered the draft or assisted the war effort at home, and the American people became the arsenal of democracy almost overnight.

In the latter years of his life, I had the honor of meeting and working with a man who was at Pearl Harbor. He was in Pearl Harbor that day and fought on foreign battlefields in the years that followed, even losing a limb. I am

speaking, of course, of the legendary leader with whom we are all familiar, Senator Daniel Inouye. He was born and raised in Hawaii and was 17 years old on December 7, 1941. When the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred, he rushed to the scene to help treat the wounded. He enlisted in the Army the first chance he got and went on to receive the Medal of Honor for his valor.

When the smoke of World War II finally cleared, his legacy of service was just beginning. He would go on to serve Hawaii in both the Senate and the House. By the time of his death, Senator Inouye was the second-longest serving Senator in United States history. I was privileged to count him as my colleague, though for too brief a time.

Like Senator Inouye, I also had the privilege of representing many veterans of World War II, including some who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor. At last count, there are over 140 Pearl Harbor survivors living in Florida, and I wish to tell you the stories of three of those men.

One is SgtMajMC William Braddock of Pensacola. I recently had the privilege of hearing his account of what happened that Sunday morning in Hawaii. Major Braddock had joined the Marine Corps the year prior to the attack. That morning he was in the messhall preparing for duty when he heard the first explosion. He ran outside and was met with pandemonium.

Ships that had been stretched out peacefully in the sun moments before were now engulfed in flames, blanketing the harbor in black smoke. He watched a torpedo drop in the water and seconds later explode into the side of the USS *Oklahoma*. He described the stain of oil on the water and the way flames shot up from it, and the horror of watching sailors trapped in the fire. Amidst the confusion and shouting of orders, he recalled how little he could do to save lives and how helpless he felt.

Following the attack, Major Braddock went on to fight bravely in some of the key battles in World War II. He fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima and remembers vividly the day the iconic flag was raised above the island. He was in the occupational forces in Japan after the devastation of the atomic bombs. But despite all the horrors he witnessed, Major Braddock did not retire from the armed services the first chance he got. On the contrary, he went on to 27 years of distinguished service in the Marine Corps.

I can't help but be humbled hearing such a story. Major Braddock is a man who fought out of duty and love of his country. He saw himself as a citizen soldier—even recalling the way his experience hunting rabbits in the fields around his house as a boy actually prepared him for Iwo Jima. He is humbled regarding his role. He says he tries not to give too much thought to it when he doesn't have to.

That same modesty is the hallmark of another story, the story of a Pearl Harbor survivor who lives in Palm Beach County today. His name is Wayne Myrick, and he was a chief machinist's mate on the USS *Blue* at the time of the attack.

Within seconds of the first explosion, Chief Petty Officer Myrick had rushed to gather ammunition and help operate the guns aboard that destroyer. But as a chief machinist, his attention soon turned to other matters. The captain of the USS *Blue* was eager to get the ship out on open water, but the boilers beneath deck were off line.

Under intense gunfire, Chief Petty Officer Myrick and his crew members scrambled to get the boilers working and eventually managed to give the ship the maneuvering speed to move out. With his help, the USS *Blue* was one of the first vessels to make it to open water and was able to down five enemy aircraft and at least one submarine.

Chief Petty Officer Myrick recalled how important his oath was to him that day. He and every one of his shipmates took an oath when they enlisted that commanded them to follow their orders and defend their country from all enemies, and he viewed that oath as a solemn and sacred one because it was a reminder that service to one's country is about more than self. He had a simple but powerful message he wanted me to share today: Be very proud to serve your country.

Finally, I wish to share the story of CDR Hal Sullivan of Jacksonville. Commander Sullivan joined the U.S. Navy when he was 23 years old. He was on the bridge of a destroyer that Sunday morning, tasked with operating the sonar equipment and helping sweep for mines. When the first explosion rocked the harbor, he looked up to see a Japanese plane bank sharply overhead. In fact, it was so close to him, he could see the expression on the face of the pilot. He even recalled wryly that he could have thrown a potato right into the cockpit if he had had one handy.

Before he could process what was happening, gunfire swept over the deck and struck the sailor next to him in the jaw. Commander Sullivan hoisted the man up and helped him to a medic. He spoke of looking up and seeing the USS *Arizona* rolling over with its belly up in flames as flames shot out its side. He saw sailors struggling in the water.

Commander Sullivan insists that his job isn't worthy of fame and that his contribution that day was simply the execution of duty. But through that humility I can't help but see a hero—a man as selfless as he is brave, a man who put the lives of others above his own, not just that day but for decades to come. You see, Commander Hal Sullivan went on to serve in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. He didn't retire from the Navy until almost 30 years after the attack of Pearl Harbor, on the exact same week his son entered West Point.

Even now, at age 96, Hal says he would still be in the Navy if they would let him. I am touched by that because the truth is Hal's country still needs him, maybe not on the deck of a ship, maybe not risking his life in the middle of the Pacific, but we need him all the same. It is through hearing stories such as his that our generation will find the courage to face its challenges—a courage that is uniquely American.

Pearl Harbor was not just a day of infamy; it was also a day that revealed the greatness of our ancestors. People such as Major Braddock, Chief Petty Officer Myrick, and Commander Sullivan—it is their blood that flows in the veins of this county that serves as our heritage and reveals our destiny.

I believe it is true, as Shakespeare famously wrote, that some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. But for the ''greatest generation,'' it was all three.

Pearl Harbor was the day that greatness was thrust upon them, but it was over the years that followed that their greatness was achieved the only way greatness can be achieved—through blood, toil, tears, and sweat.

And their toil did not stop after the war was won. The world still looked to America—to our industrial power, our political leadership, and our military might—to restore global balance and maintain order while the wounds of mankind healed.

As Pope Pius XII said following the war:

> America has a genius for great and unselfish deeds. Into the hands of America God has placed the destiny of an afflicted mankind.

Well, I believe America still has that genius. I believe mankind remains afflicted and that its destiny remains largely in our hands. All around the world, those who yearn for freedom still turn their eyes towards our shores. They wonder if we see their suffering. They wonder if we hear their cries.

I am confident that our own generation will achieve greatness in this century. We will do so by remaining the world's beacon for freedom. That means preserving and extending the promise of the American dream here at home, and it means standing against evil and oppression where it rears its head around the world.

As did the ''greatest generation,'' our men and women in uniform today fight for a greater cause than themselves. Major Braddock said that if he could tell today's troops one thing, it would be: Don't give up, do what is right and, above all else, be proud of the work you are tasked with carrying out.

I second that sentiment because our children and grandchildren will stand on the shoulders of our generation. They will live in the world we leave behind, the same way we live in the world that was left for us.

So as we marked the 73rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, I was grateful for all the tributes that took place throughout Florida over the

weekend. It is my prayer that America will take a moment to reflect on the meaning of that day.

Its meaning is not a relic of the past. It doesn't just belong to the ''greatest generation.'' It belongs to all of us. It was America's solemn call to action—not for a generation but for all time—a powerful reminder of our duty to our Nation, to each other, to our children, and to an afflicted mankind.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, are we in morning business now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I could not be a stronger supporter of efforts to prevent human trafficking. But we must offer comprehensive solutions that provide meaningful and reliable resources to support these survivors.

Just this Congress, I have led the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act—widely recognized as this country's most important tool in combatting human trafficking. The law reasserted the United States as a global leader in fighting trafficking by strengthening tools available to prosecutors and providing services for victims, including those victims here at home.

The Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act also passed this Congress. That bill expanded the availability of grants to support victims of human trafficking, as well as sexual assault and domestic violence.

And now I am working to enact the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act; S. 2646. This bill authorizes the critical resources needed to provide shelter and services for the 1.6 million youth in this country who are homeless. Many of these young people are, or are at risk of becoming, victims of human trafficking.

It is time we put our money where our mouth is. We must reauthorize these existing programs that work. These children, whether in Vermont, Minnesota, or Texas, need a place to stay and be safe. And I will not leave these priorities behind for political reasons.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL B. McCALL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend of mine and a renowned educator in Kentucky, Dr. Michael B. McCall. Dr. McCall has served as the president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, or KCTCS, since 1998, and he recently announced his retirement from that position. It would be difficult to overstate his success at the helm of Kentucky's statewide community and technical college system or the growth by leaps and bounds that KCTCS has seen under his tenure.

KCTCS was created by the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997, which united all of the Commonwealth's community and technical colleges under one system to serve as a gateway to postsecondary education for all Kentuckians. Dr. McCall was named as the founding president in December 1998. Since then, he has overseen 16 colleges located on more than 70 campuses across the Bluegrass State.

Under Dr. McCall's leadership, KCTCS has become the largest provider of postsecondary education in Kentucky, representing 47.1 percent of all undergraduate college students. KCTCS serves over 92,000 students, and since 1998 the KCTCS Board of Regents has ratified or approved more than 700 programs that result in certificates, diplomas, or associate degrees.

KCTCS is also the State's largest provider of workforce training, serving more than 5,300 businesses and 52,000 employees annually. It is workforce training initiatives such as these that help develop Kentucky's labor force and therefore its economy.

KCTCS has also become Kentucky's largest provider of online learning, offering more than 77 online credentials. Thanks to Dr. McCall's virtual learning initiative known as KCTCS Online, online learners can pursue higher education at any time that is convenient for them.

Other KCTCS accomplishments achieved under Dr. McCall's tenure include the establishment of the North American Racing Academy, which is the first college-affiliated horse racing academy in the United States; the Kentucky Coal Academy; the Kentucky Fire Commission; and the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services. It is clear that Dr. McCall has kept the interests and demands of Kentucky's students and businesses in mind while developing these programs.

Dr. McCall has been an educator and served in community and technical colleges for more than 40 years. Throughout his career, he has been recognized for his leadership and dedication to education. He was the recipient of Phi Theta Kappa's prestigious State Community College Director Award of Distinction.

Dr. McCall also received the National Council for Continuing Education and Training's National Leadership Award in 2005. In the same year the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development honored him with their International Leadership Award. In 2004 Kentucky Monthly Magazine named him the ''Kentuckian of the Year.'' Dr. McCall also served as board chair of the American Association of Community Colleges, completing his tenure in 2006.

When KCTCS was first established, it set ambitious goals for improving the level of college attainment for Kentuckians. Thanks to Dr. McCall, KCTCS has met those goals.

Under the leadership of Dr. Michael B. McCall, KCTCS has become a remarkable community and technical college system in the United States, and it will reach even higher in the future. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. McCall and wishing him well upon his retirement. He has certainly proved to be a great educator and a great friend to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

USDA PILOT PROJECT FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF UNPROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, for several years I have envisioned a way to give schools affordable and sustainable access to locally grown foods—a system that would benefit schools, children, and farmers alike. To make this a reality, I introduced the Pilot Project for the Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables as an amendment to the 2014 farm bill. I was very encouraged that the final bill included this pilot project and optimistic that my home State of Oregon could help lead the way—as it often does—by hosting one of the eight programs. That is why I am so pleased to say today Oregon was chosen to participate in the pilot project. This is a win for communities and school districts across Oregon who can now offer meals made with the locally grown produce we are famous for, everything from apples to zucchini, blueberries to tomatoes and everything in between.

This is a win for the local farmers who will gain new customers to buy their fruits and vegetables, and this is a win for the school children who will grow up knowing what fresh produce really tastes like.

This innovative and exciting project establishes a competitive pilot program with up to eight demonstration projects, each representing a different region of the country. These demonstration projects will help schools source healthy, local fruits and vegetables for the breakfasts, lunches, or snacks served to students. It is more important today than ever to ensure America's children have fresh, healthy eating options when they are increasingly exposed to unhealthy, processed foods. The partnerships that the pilot projects will surely grow will put money in the pockets of local farmers while also ensuring that our school kids are eating healthily. I look forward to seeing these projects grow and contribute to the healthy lives of our Nation's young men and women.

RURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION EXTENSION ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I support efforts to provide permanent enhanced conservation tax incentives for family farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who make charitable contributions of land for conservation purposes. As a cosponsor of the Rural Heritage Conservation Extension Act, S. 526, I am a strong supporter of these valuable tools for protecting significant natural and historic resources on privately owned lands.

These incentives expired at the end of 2013 and are among the so-called extenders—tax provisions that are routinely extended each time they expire. Making these provisions permanent would benefit wildlife, enhance hunting, fishing and shooting access, and keep working lands functioning and intact.

Specifically, the Rural Heritage Conservation Extension Act would permanently increase the allowable deduction for charitable contributions of property for conservation purposes. The maximum deduction for individuals would increase from 30 percent to 50 percent of adjusted gross income, AGI. Farmers and ranchers would be allowed a maximum deduction of up to 100 percent of AGI. The bill would also allow any unused deduction to be carried forward for up to 15 years to help donors receive the full benefit of their contribution.

When this incentive was in place, it supported donations of conservation easements in my home State of Maine. In 2012, a landowner donated a conservation easement on a 20-acre property in Machiasport, which is home to centuries-old cultural artifacts, including petroglyphs. In addition to being a spiritual site for Maine's Passamaquoddy tribe, this property allows people to explore the State's precolonial history and provides access for local fishermen to utilize valuable clam flats.

Another success story is from 2013 in Harpswell, where a landowner donated a conservation easement on a 44-acre island property in the heart of Casco Bay. The easement provides public access to a scenic peninsula where visitors can picnic, boat, and kayak. Due to this generous donation, Casco Bay is experiencing increased recreational use while also protecting critical habitats for many species of wildlife including shorebirds, herons, and bald eagles.

Continuing the enhanced conservation tax incentives would assist in the conservation of thousands of additional acres and provide a whole host of community benefits—protecting historical features, securing economic opportunities, enhancing recreational access, and preserving valuable wildlife habitat—in 2014 and beyond.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S UKRAINIAN SERVICE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, for 65 years the Voice of America Ukrainian Service has been a vital source of comprehensive and unbiased information for the Ukrainian people.

During the Cold War, VOA's uncensored, truthful reporting of the news was a beacon of freedom for Ukrainians dominated by Soviet rule. Through VOA and broadcasts by other media outlets such as Radio Liberty, information-starved Ukrainians not only learned about life in the United States and the outside world but also about developments within Ukraine itself.

From VOA, Ukrainians discovered government-sponsored human rights violations taking place throughout the Soviet Union. They became aware of the many courageous Ukrainian human rights activists, including members of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, who languished in Soviet prisons for daring to call upon the Soviet Government to abide by its Helsinki Final Act commitments. And when disaster struck at Chernobyl, Ukrainians looked to VOA to provide the objective information that the Soviet Government stubbornly refused to share.

Since Ukraine regained its independence in 1991, VOA's Ukrainian Service has been able to reach more Ukrainian citizens than ever before. Its daily news program ''Chas-Time'' is seen nightly on Ukraine's respected Channel 5, and its reporting is often featured on other major Ukrainian television channels.

VOA's audience has exploded in the year since the Maidan Revolution for Dignity and Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and aggression in the southeast.

Thanks to its focus on developments in the United States and U.S.-Ukrainian relations, VOA's Ukrainian Service has been instrumental in bringing home to millions of Ukrainians U.S. policy, as well as the perspectives and activities of the Executive Branch, Congress, and NGOs with respect to Ukraine.

Ukraine confronts profound external and internal challenges in its quest for an independent, democratic, European future. As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I commend the ongoing and accelerating role of VOA's Ukrainian service, especially during this historic time.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY NOMINEES

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, the Tennessee Valley Authority, or TVA, is a multibillion-a-year utility—one of the largest in the Nation. It plays a critical role in our economic development efforts in Tennessee by providing low-cost, reliable power that is essential to attracting, retaining, and growing jobs.

Strong, independent leadership at TVA is a priority for all Tennesseans, and the Senate is scheduled to vote tomorrow morning on two nominees to serve on the TVA board.

TVA board members' sole focus should be ensuring ratepayers throughout the Tennessee Valley have affordable, reliable power, and they must be free to operate the entity without undue influence from outside individuals.

While I respect the two nominees currently being considered, I have grown increasingly concerned by the nomination process and the potential influence—or perception of influence—that an outside investor who has proposed a multibillion-dollar project to TVA has had on this process. I have shared those concerns with the White House and the majority leader through several conversations.

I was particularly disappointed the majority leader announced he was moving forward with votes despite being aware of these issues—making it the first time TVA nominations have been confirmed by a rollcall vote since 1987.

While I still believe the selection of TVA board members and their confirmations deserve a closer look moving forward, today I received copies of letters from Virginia T. Lodge and Ronald A. Walter that address the concerns regarding the potential influence of an outside individual who has business dealings with TVA.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of both letters be printed in the RECORD.

The nominees' forthright letters and their decision to recuse themselves helps ensure that there is no appearance of a lack of impartiality, and I plan to support both of their nominations.

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

DECEMBER 8, 2014.

Mr. RALPH E. RODGERS,
Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Designated Agency Ethics Official, Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, Tennessee.

DEAR MR. RODGERS: This supplements my July 30, 2014, letter to you describing steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest, consistent with 5 C.F.R. §2635.502, in the event I am confirmed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

While I have neither made nor been asked to make any commitments on any projects involving TVA, during the pendency of my nomination I have had contact and discussions with Franklin Haney, with whom I am acquainted, and persons associated with him. I am aware that Mr. Haney has had business dealings with TVA in the past and has made significant business proposals to TVA that may extend into the future. In order to avoid even the appearance of a lack of impartiality, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which Mr. Haney or any person on his behalf is a party or represents a party, or in which Mr. Haney, or his family, would have a direct or indirect financial interest.

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA T. LODGE.

DECEMBER 8, 2014.

Mr. RALPH E. RODGERS,
Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Designated Agency Ethics Official, Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, Tennessee.

DEAR MR. RODGERS: This supplements my July 3, 2014, letter to you describing steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest, consistent with 5 C.F.R. §2635.502, in the event I am confirmed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

While I have neither made nor been asked to make any commitments on any projects involving TVA, during the pendency of my nomination I have had contact and discussions with Franklin Haney, with whom I am acquainted, and persons associated with him. I have become aware that Mr. Haney has had business dealings with TVA in the past and has made significant business proposals to TVA that may extend into the future. In order to avoid any appearance of a lack of impartiality, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which Mr. Haney or any person on his behalf is a party or represents a party, or in which Mr. Haney, or his family, would have a direct or indirect financial interest.

Sincerely,

RONALD A. WALTER.

TRIBUTE TO MAX MAXFIELD

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, in his Inaugural Address to the Nation in 2001, President George W. Bush said:

> We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests, and teach us what it means to be citizens. Every child must be taught these principles. Every citizen must uphold them.

In Wyoming, we have a quality leader who has embraced these ideals and is committed to sharing them with future generations. It is a distinct honor to recognize my friend, Secretary of State Max Maxfield, for his lifetime of service as a dedicated public servant. I invite my colleagues to celebrate his contributions as he steps down after sharing over 47 years of experience with the people of Wyoming.

In America, we demand a great deal from our leaders. We expect that they will be wise, altruistic, and that they will carry the hearts of the people with them in all they do. Max has done all of this—and more. He has dedicated his career to helping others and furthering his vision for the success of Wyoming. In doing so, our State has thrived.

Max's career as a public servant is long and distinguished. Max worked for 23 years as the executive director of the YMCA in Casper. He also served as the head of the Wyoming Make-A-Wish Foundation. He then led the Wyoming Recreation Commission and 2 years later the Wyoming Department of Commerce. In 1998 Max was elected as the State auditor for the two terms and then in 2006 as the Wyoming secretary of state for two additional terms. With his passion for excellence and his pride in Wyoming, Max took great responsibility in his commitment to promoting growth and prosperity for all.

It is sometimes thought that talented leaders must sacrifice their own private pursuits for the good of the cause. Max has successfully demonstrated that it is possible to be a strong leader and still remain true to one's passions. Max and his wife Gayla have been lifelong advocates of giving back. Max has served on the boards of numerous charitable organizations. Among them, he is particularly passionate about helping children and animals. He currently serves as a board member of the Cheyenne Animal Shelter and in the past has worked with the Wyoming Congressional Award Program, Special Olympics, the Wyoming Children's Society, and Laramie County United Way. Max and Gayla have touched the lives of and positively impacted every person they have met.

Max Maxfield has long been a trustee for Wyoming, and his leadership has shaped the direction of our State. Indeed, Max and Gayla's contributions have benefited not only the governance of Wyoming but every community they have visited, every nonprofit organization they have supported, every friend and stranger they have met, and certainly every pet for which they have found a home. I trust that in his retirement Max will continue to remain active in the public sphere. While continuing to support causes that are near and dear to their hearts, Max and Gayla will enjoy quality time with their children, grandchildren, and beloved golden retrievers.

My wife, Bobbi, and I are honored to thank him for his service to the great State of Wyoming. Even more, we are blessed to call him our friend. Please join me in thanking Max Maxfield for his decades of service and wishing him the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA HASLAM

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a remarkable Vermonter, Rebecca Haslam, who is the recipient of Vermont's 2015 Teacher of the Year Award.

This award is a testament to Rebecca's dedication to her students' academic success and her work to promote the ideals of tolerance and diversity throughout the Burlington School District. Rebecca's leadership in education has helped encourage intellectual and personal growth in so many students. She has earned the respect of the community through her diligence in the classroom and for her innovative approach to learning.

Ms. Haslam's commitment to her students is unwavering, ''They have such a love of learning and they are joyful when they come to school,'' she explained recently. Rebecca provides a welcoming environment for students to learn, fostering their social, academic, and emotional development.

Ms. Haslam sets high expectations and provides the guidance needed in the classroom to ensure the success of all her students. Rebecca is committed to providing both a rigorous curriculum and a nurturing environment. Her academic expectations inspire students of all backgrounds and learning abilities to thrive.

Over the last few decades, Burlington's schools have welcomed students from all over the world, and for such a small city, the district's classrooms are among the most diverse in the country. Rebecca has drawn from her own childhood experiences in an effort to build bridges of understanding between students, faculty, and community members from different backgrounds. Rebecca serves as the Burlington School District's social studies and equity coach and works with teachers from around the district to incorporate the values of cultural competency in their lesson plans. These professional development sessions have served as valuable tools in capturing the interests of students and preparing them to be engaged citizens who prize equality in our increasingly diverse society.

Rebecca is a role model for all Vermonters. She uses her experiences to forge goals and serve as motivation for her students. The work that Rebecca does to create an atmosphere that is conducive to learning is commendable, and I would like to offer her warm congratulations on her award.•

TRIBUTE TO SIMON ''CY'' VINCENT AVARA

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the Beatles' song ''Penny Lane'' opens with lyrics about ''a barber showing photographs/Of every head he's had the pleasure to know/And all the people that come and go/Stop and say hello.'' They could have been describing my barber for over 30 years, Simon Vincent Avara, or ''Cy,'' as he was known to everyone. Cy passed away this Saturday at the age of 81. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a good friend and amazing man.

One might say that Cy Avara was born to be a barber. His parents Vincent and Mary were working class Italian-Americans. His father was a barber but was killed in a car accident when Cy was just 14. That did not deter Cy from following in his father's footsteps, however. He found an opportunity apprenticing for another West Baltimore barber and by the time he was just 16, he passed the examination to receive his master license. He was one of the youngest barbers in Maryland. While he was still 16, with just one year of high school under his belt, he opened his own barbershop with used equipment in a former funeral parlor. He charged 60 cents for a man's haircut and 40 cents for children.

A short time later, in 1953, Cy was drafted into the U.S. Army and honorably served our Nation in the Korean War. When he returned to civilian life, he attended cosmetology school—the

Baltimore Studio of Hair—to improve his skills when it came to cutting women's hair. As much as he enjoyed cutting and styling hair, however, his greatest satisfaction came from teaching others the same skill and giving people the chance to have a career and support themselves and their families. So Cy opened his own school in 1960, the Avara International Academy of Hair Design and Technology, in his southwest Baltimore neighborhood. That same year—when he was just 26—he also became a member of the Maryland State Board of Barber Examiners. A few years later, he became the youngest person ever elected to be national president of the Barber Examiners. He also served as secretary-treasurer of all union-affiliated barber schools in America and was president and founder of the Maryland Hair Designer's Association. In 1970, Cy opened his second barber school, Avara's Academy Of Hair Design, in Dundalk, MD. The two schools have trained well over 2,000 barber/stylists. In 2011, Cy was inducted into the National Barber Museum and Hall of Fame.

These accolades alone indicate that Cy lived a very successful life. But there was so much more to Cy. As a child, Cy was raised by his parents to appreciate his blessings and to help others who were less fortunate. For instance, his father gave haircuts to people who wanted to make a good impression so they could get a job; his mother provided food to those in need in their neighborhood. Cy never forgot these lessons in generosity. Starting in the mid-1960s, he became involved with St. Vincent's Center for Abused Children. Since then, once every month, he sent his barber students to St. Vincent's Center to cut the children's hair. He has also been a major contributor to the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation, which was started by one of his former barber students, Sam Lamantia, to honor professional football players who have overcome adversity and contributed to the betterment of their community. In the mid-1970s, Cy established a training program at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown under the supervision of a master barber which helped students at the Institution receive credit toward the 1,200 hours required to obtain a license so that once they were released, they would have the opportunity to continue their training and obtain a job in the barber industry. Cy also travelled to Annapolis frequently to lobby on behalf of the integrity of the barber and cosmetology industry.

Cy was such an effective advocate for the industry that some of his children have followed in his footsteps. He saw his profession as a rewarding career opportunity for individuals from all walks of life. The important thing is to like people and to want to work hard. That is a pretty good description of Cy: he worked hard and he liked people, and made us feel welcome in his shop. But it was not hard work to him; it was his passion. He was extraordinarily skilled at his job.

I may have a little bit less hair than I did when I first started going to Cy, but I am going to miss my friend who served his country, community, and family with such devotion. I am going to miss the special banter that may only occur between a barber and his long-time customers. I will take solace in the fact that there are literally thousands of barbers and stylists who were trained at one of Cy's schools and are carrying on the tradition he inherited from his father. On behalf of the entire Senate, I would like to extend my condolences to his wife, Rita T. Avara; his sons, Michael, Thomas, and Lawrence; his daughter, Susan Avara Watson; his sister, Carmelita Silanskas; his eight grandchildren, Lauren, Michele, Rachael, Joshua, Victoria, Jaclyn, Christopher, and Elise; and all the other family and friends of Cy Avara too numerous to mention.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5759. An act to establish a rule of construction clarifying the limitations on executive authority to provide certain forms of immigration relief.

H.R. 5771. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY) announced that on today, December 8, 2014, he had signed the following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

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.

H.R. 43. An act 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''.

H.R. 451. An act 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''.

H.R. 669. An act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.

H.R. 1391. An act 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''.

H.R. 3085. An act 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''.

H.R. 3375. An act 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''.

H.R. 3682. An act 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''.

H.R. 3957. An act 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''.

H.R. 4189. An act 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''.

H.R. 4443. An act 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''.

H.R. 4919. An act 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''.

H.R. 4924. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona.

H.R. 5069. An act to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5106. An act 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''.

H.R. 5681. An act 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.

At 3:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 121. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3979.

The message further announced that the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care

Act, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 6:03 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 bills:

H.R. 4812. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5108. An act to establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

The bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 5759. An act to establish a rule of construction clarifying the limitations on executive authority to provide certain forms of immigration relief.

H.R. 5771. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 8, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

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.

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–8004. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza'' ((RIN0579–AC36) (Docket No. APHIS–2006–0074)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8005. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County Oregon; Modification of Container Requirements'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–14–0046; FV14–945–2 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8006. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Process for Establishing Rates Charged for AMS Services'' ((RIN0581–AD36) (Docket No. AMS–LPS–13–0050)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8007. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mango Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Section 610 Review'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–14–0047) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8008. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Avocados Grown in South Florida and Imported Avocados; Clarification of the Avocado Grade Requirements'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–13–0069; FV13–915–3 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8009. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8010. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the permanent reduction of sizable numbers of members of the Armed Forces at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8011. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8012. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict), transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2014 annual report on the Regional Defense Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8013. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on Efficient Utilization of Department of Defense Real Property''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8014. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on Proposed Obligations for Cooperative Threat Reduction''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8015. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA–2014–0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8016. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Financial Market Utilities'' (RIN7100–AE09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8017. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Aging Management of Loss of Coating or Lining Integrity for Internal Coatings/Linings on In-Scope Piping, Piping Components, Heat Exchangers, and Tanks'' (NRC–2014–0004) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8018. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) Test Sale 2014''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8019. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''American Energy Manufacturing Technical Corrections Act of 2012—Section 8 Best Practices for Advanced Metering''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8020. 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 ''Eligibility for Minimum Essential Coverage Under Pregnancy-Based Medicaid and CHIP Programs'' (Notice 2014–71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8021. 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 ''Qualified Transportation Fringe'' (Rev. Rul. 2014–32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8022. 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 ''Medicaid Program; Disproportionate Share Hospital Payments—Uninsured Definition'' (RIN0938–AQ37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8023. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Requirements for the Medicare Incentive Reward Program and Provider Enrollment'' ((RIN0938–AP01) (CMS–6045-F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8024. 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 ''Application of One-Per-Year Limit on IRA Rollovers'' (Announcement 2014–32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8025. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary

of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8026. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the text of an agreement between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8027. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program for 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8028. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014–0147—2014–0161); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8029. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8030. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–112); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8031. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–064); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8032. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–109); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8033. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–102); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8034. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–107); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8035. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–122); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8036. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Food Labeling; Calorie Labeling of Articles of Food in Vending Machines'' ((RIN0910–AG56) (Docket No. FDA–2011–F–0171)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8037. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Food Labeling; Nutrition Labeling of Standard Menu Items in Restaurants and Similar Food Establishments'' ((RIN0910–AG57) (Docket No. FDA–2011–F–0172)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8038. 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; Thornyhead Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD626) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8039. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Mexico'' (RIN0648–XD610) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8040. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfly Fishery; Notification of Butterfish Quota Transfer'' (RIN0648–XD603) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8041. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer'' (RIN0648–XD584) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8042. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648–BE59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8043. 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; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD624) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8044. 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 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD588) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8045. A communication from the Chief of the Policy and Rules Division, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Provide Spectrum for the Operation of Medical Body Area Networks'' ((ET Docket No. 08–59) (FCC 14–124)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8046. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Western Pacific Pelagic Fisheries; U.S. Territorial Catch and Fishing Effort Limits'' (RIN0648–BD46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8047. A communication from the Chief of the Policy and Rules Division, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions'' ((ET Docket Nos. 13–26 and 14–14) (FCC 14–157)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8048. 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; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD623) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8049. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8050. A communication from the Deputy Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8051. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8052. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administrator's Semiannual Management Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8053. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8054. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8055. A communication from the Chief Operating Officer and Acting Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8056. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8057. A communication from the Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8058. A communication from the Chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8059. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Transportation's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8060. A communication from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8061. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8062. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8063. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Endowment's Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8064. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2014 Agency Financial Report for the Department of Labor; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8065. A communication from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8066. A communication from the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8067. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Technical Amendment: Boarding of Vessels at CBP Ports'' (CBP Dec. 14–11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8068. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''ANC 1A Did Not Fully Comply with All Legal Requirements''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8069. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8070. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Incorporation by Reference'' ((RIN3095–AB78) (Docket No. OFR–2013–0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8071. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8072. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Office of the General Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Management, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8073. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8074. A communication from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8075. A communication from the Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's annual financial audit and management report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8076. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary (International Markets and Developments), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8077. 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 ''Endangered and Threatened Species; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Distinct Populations Segments of Yelloweye Rockfish, Canary Rockfish and Bocaccio'' (RIN0648–BC76) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8078. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Department of the Treasury'' (5 CFR Part 3101) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8079. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary (Domestic Finance), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8080. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Investment and Innovation, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Investment Companies—Investments in Passive Businesses'' (RIN3245–AG57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2014; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–8081. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on Adjustments of Status Granted Under Section 13 of the Act of September 11, 1957''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–8082. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to expenditures from the Pershing Hall Revolving Fund for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–363. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to direct the Comptroller General to complete a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the federal reserve banks; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 395

Whereas, Created more than a hundred years ago, the Federal Reserve is an independent federal agency. As leaders of the central bank of the United States, the Federal Reserve's board of governors have enacted monetary policy that influences our nation's money and credit conditions, supervised and regulated banks and other financial institutions, and provided financial services to the U.S. and foreign governments. Through these powers, and with the help of the federal reserve banks, this agency has considerable influence on the well-being of our nation's economy, the economy of the world, and the day-to-day lives of people everywhere; and

Whereas, American citizens have entrusted the Congress of the United States with overseeing all federal agencies, and Congress must hold the Federal Reserve accountable. However, under the current law, the Comptroller General may audit the Federal Reserve only if written consent has been given,

and even then, the purview of audits of the board of governors and federal reserve banks is limited. Under the direction of the Comptroller General, any General Accountability Office audit is prohibited by law from auditing the board or federal reserve banks' transaction history with foreign nations or information related to monetary policy decisions, including discount window operations, open market operations, securities credit, and interest on deposits; and

Whereas, The American public should receive the accountability and transparency they deserve from their government. Providing the Comptroller General the authority and directive to thoroughly audit the Federal Reserve will allow for better oversight and lift the cloak of secrecy off this highly-profitable and influential government institution. Congress must take the actions necessary to fulfill its oversight responsibility: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the Congress of the United States to direct the Comptroller General to complete a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the federal reserve banks; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2946. A bill to provide improved water, sanitation, and hygiene programs for high priority developing countries, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–286).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 2520, a bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act (Rept. No. 113–287).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 429. A bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 1014. A bill to reduce sports-related concussions in youth, and for other purposes.

S. 2022. A bill to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, and for other purposes.

S. 2094. A bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

S. 2482. A bill to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Tokyo on February 24, 2012, and for other purposes.

S. 2484. A bill to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Auckland on November 14, 2009, and for other purposes.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2485. A bill to implement the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, as adopted at Lisbon on September 28, 2007.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2777. A bill to establish the Surface Transportation Board as an independent establishment, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. SANDERS for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

*Leigh A. Bradley, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

*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 Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2987. A bill to expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 2988. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to establish a Federal regulatory budget and to impose cost controls on that budget, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2989. A bill to promote Federal-State partnerships for developing regional energy strategies and plans to mitigate risks in changing energy systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. Res. 595. A resolution recognizing Nobel Laureates Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai for their efforts to end the financial exploitation of children and to ensure the right of all children to an education; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 1249

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

S. 2176

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2176, a bill to revise reporting requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to preserve the privacy of individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2581

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2581, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 2660

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2660, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the special rules for accident and health plans of certain governmental entities, and for other purposes.

S. 2723

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) 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. 2964

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2964, a bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 38

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S.

Con. Res. 38, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Warren Weinstein should be returned home to his family.

S. RES. 578

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) 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.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 595—RECOGNIZING NOBEL LAUREATES KAILASH SATYARTHI AND MALALA YOUSAFZAI FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO END THE FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND TO ENSURE THE RIGHT OF ALL CHILDREN TO AN EDUCATION

Mr. HARKIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 595

Whereas on October 10, 2014, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize to Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai;

Whereas the International Labour Organization estimates that, worldwide, 168,000,000 children are exploited financially, with 85,000,000 children working in very hazardous environments and deprived of an education;

Whereas the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization estimates that 121,000,000 children are not in school;

Whereas Kailash Satyarthi has personally rescued more than 82,000 children from the worst forms of child labor;

Whereas Malala Yousafzai has promoted education for girls in Pakistan since she was 11 years old and is an advocate for worldwide access to education;

Whereas Kailash Satyarthi has endured threats on his life as a result of such rescue efforts; and

Whereas the Taliban attempted to kill Malala Yousafzai on October 9, 2012, as a result of her efforts to encourage more girls to attend school: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Nobel Laureates Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai as symbols of peace and advocates for ending the financial exploitation of children and for the right of all children to an education;

(2) commends all individuals working around the world to end the scourge of child slavery and to advance education for all children;

(3) recognizes the challenges that remain in ending the financial exploitation of children and providing access to an education for all children;

(4) urges all governments, civil society organizations, businesses, and individuals to unite in the common purpose of protecting children from losing their childhoods as well as their futures; and

(5) recognizes the dedication and commitment to freedom, the rights of children, and the endurance of the human spirit, demonstrated by all individuals who make sacrifices to build a more peaceful world.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3974. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2142, to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

SA 3975. Mr. REID (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COBURN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2521, to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security.

SA 3976. Mr. REID (for Mr. PAUL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1281, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3974. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2142, to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Central Bank of Venezuela and the National Statistical Institute of Venezuela stated that the annual inflation rate in Venezuela in 2013 was 56.30, the highest level of inflation in the Western Hemisphere and the third highest level of inflation in the world behind South Sudan and Syria.

(2) The Central Bank of Venezuela and the Government of Venezuela have imposed a series of currency controls that has exacerbated economic problems and, according to the World Economic Forum, has become the most problematic factor for doing business in Venezuela.

(3) The Central Bank of Venezuela declared that the scarcity index of Venezuela reached 29.4 percent in March 2014, which signifies that fewer than one in 4 basic goods is unavailable at any given time. The Central Bank has not released any information on the scarcity index since that time.

(4) Since 1999, violent crime in Venezuela has risen sharply and the Venezuelan Violence Observatory, an independent nongovernmental organization, found the national per capita murder rate to be 79 per 100,000 people in 2013.

(5) The international nongovernmental organization Human Rights Watch recently stated, ''Under the leadership of President Chàvez and now President Maduro, the accumulation of power in the executive branch and the erosion of human rights guarantees have enabled the government to intimidate, censor, and prosecute its critics.''.

(6) The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013 of the Department of State maintained that in Venezuela ''the government did not respect judicial independence or permit judges to act according to the law without fear of retaliation'' and ''the government used the judiciary to intimidate and selectively prosecute political, union, business, and civil society leaders who were critical of government policies or actions''.

(7) The Government of Venezuela has detained foreign journalists and threatened and expelled international media outlets operating in Venezuela, and the international nongovernmental organization Freedom House declared that Venezuela's ''media climate is permeated by intimidation, sometimes including physical attacks, and strong antimedia rhetoric by the government is common''.

(8) Since February 4, 2014, the Government of Venezuela has responded to antigovernment protests with violence and killings perpetrated by its public security forces.

(9) In May 2014, Human Rights Watch found that the unlawful use of force perpetrated against antigovernment protesters was ''part of a systematic practice by the Venezuelan security forces''.

(10) As of September 1, 2014, 41 people had been killed, approximately 3,000 had been arrested unjustly, and more than 150 remained in prison and faced criminal charges as a result of antigovernment demonstrations throughout Venezuela.

(11) Opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez was arrested on February 18, 2014, in relation to the protests and was unjustly charged with criminal incitement, conspiracy, arson, and property damage. Since his arrest, Lopez has been held in solitary confinement and has been denied 58 out of 60 of his proposed witnesses at his ongoing trial.

(12) As of September 1, 2014, not a single member of the public security forces of the Government of Venezuela had been held accountable for acts of violence perpetrated against antigovernment protesters.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ANTIGOVERNMENT PROTESTS IN VENEZUELA AND THE NEED TO PREVENT FURTHER VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States aspires to a mutually beneficial relationship with Venezuela based on respect for human rights and the rule of law and a functional and productive relationship on issues of public security, including counternarcotics and counterterrorism;

(2) the United States supports the people of Venezuela in their efforts to realize their full economic potential and to advance representative democracy, human rights, and the rule of law within their country;

(3) the chronic mismanagement by the Government of Venezuela of its economy has produced conditions of economic hardship and scarcity of basic goods and foodstuffs for the people of Venezuela;

(4) the failure of the Government of Venezuela to guarantee minimal standards of public security for its citizens has led the country to become one of the most violent and corrupt in the world;

(5) the Government of Venezuela continues to take steps to remove checks and balances on the executive, politicize the judiciary, undermine the independence of the legislature through use of executive decree powers, persecute and prosecute its political opponents, curtail freedom of the press, and limit the free expression of its citizens;

(6) Venezuelans, responding to ongoing economic hardship, high levels of crime and violence, and the lack of basic political rights and individual freedoms, have turned out in demonstrations in Caracas and throughout the country to protest the failure of the Government of Venezuela to protect the political and economic well-being of its citizens; and

(7) the repeated use of violence perpetrated by the National Guard and security personnel of Venezuela, as well as persons acting on behalf of the Government of Venezuela, against antigovernment protesters

that began on February 4, 2014, is intolerable and the use of unprovoked violence by protesters is also a matter of serious concern.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD VENEZUELA.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to support the people of Venezuela in their aspiration to live under conditions of peace and representative democracy as defined by the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States;

(2) to work in concert with the other member states within the Organization of American States, as well as the countries of the European Union, to ensure the peaceful resolution of the current situation in Venezuela and the immediate cessation of violence against antigovernment protestors;

(3) to hold accountable government and security officials in Venezuela responsible for or complicit in the use of force in relation to antigovernment protests and similar future acts of violence; and

(4) to continue to support the development of democratic political processes and independent civil society in Venezuela.

SEC. 5. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person, including any current or former official of the Government of Venezuela or any person acting on behalf of that Government, that the President determines—

(1) has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering or otherwise directing, significant acts of violence or serious human rights abuses in Venezuela against persons associated with the antigovernment protests in Venezuela that began on February 4, 2014;

(2) has ordered or otherwise directed the arrest or prosecution of a person in Venezuela primarily because of the person's legitimate exercise of freedom of expression or assembly; or

(3) has knowingly materially assisted, sponsored, or provided significant financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the commission of acts described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of an alien determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a), denial of a visa to, and exclusion from the United States of, the alien, and revocation in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other documentation of the alien.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under paragraph (1)(A) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(4) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interest of the United States; and

(2) on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

(e) TERMINATION.—The requirement to impose sanctions under this section shall terminate on December 31, 2016.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admitted'' and ''alien'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''financial institution'' has the meaning given that term in section 5312 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means a person that is not a United States person.

(4) GOOD.—The term ''good'' has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(5) KNOWINGLY.—The term ''knowingly'', with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(6) MATERIALLY ASSISTED.—The term ''materially assisted'' means the provision of assistance that is significant and of a kind directly relevant to acts described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a).

(7) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 6. REPORT ON BROADCASTING, INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION, AND CIRCUMVENTION TECHNOLOGY DISTRIBUTION IN VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (in this section referred to as the ''Board'') shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a thorough evaluation of the governmental, political, and technological obstacles faced by the people of Venezuela in their efforts to obtain accurate, objective, and comprehensive news and information about domestic and international affairs;

(2) an assessment of current efforts relating to broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela, by the United States Government and otherwise; and

(3) a strategy for expanding such efforts in Venezuela, including recommendations for additional measures to expand upon current efforts.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the current level of Federal funding dedicated to broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela by the Board before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) an assessment of the extent to which the current level and type of news and related programming and content provided by the Voice of America and other sources is addressing the informational needs of the people of Venezuela; and

(3) recommendations for increasing broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela.

SA 3975. Mr. REID (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COBURN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2521, to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. FISMA REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking subchapters II and III and inserting the following:

''SUBCHAPTER II—INFORMATION SECURITY

''§ 3551. Purposes

''The purposes of this subchapter are to—

''(1) provide a comprehensive framework for ensuring the effectiveness of information security controls over information resources that support Federal operations and assets;

''(2) recognize the highly networked nature of the current Federal computing environment and provide effective governmentwide management and oversight of the related information security risks, including coordination of information security efforts throughout the civilian, national security, and law enforcement communities;

''(3) provide for development and maintenance of minimum controls required to protect Federal information and information systems;

''(4) provide a mechanism for improved oversight of Federal agency information security programs, including through automated security tools to continuously diagnose and improve security;

''(5) acknowledge that commercially developed information security products offer advanced, dynamic, robust, and effective information security solutions, reflecting market solutions for the protection of critical information infrastructures important to the national defense and economic security of the nation that are designed, built, and operated by the private sector; and

''(6) recognize that the selection of specific technical hardware and software information

security solutions should be left to individual agencies from among commercially developed products.

"§ 3552. Definitions

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsection (b), the definitions under section 3502 shall apply to this subchapter.

''(b) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subchapter:

''(1) The term 'binding operational directive' means a compulsory direction to an agency that—

''(A) is for purposes of safeguarding Federal information and information systems from a known or reasonably suspected information security threat, vulnerability, or risk;

''(B) shall be in accordance with policies, principles, standards, and guidelines issued by the Director; and

''(C) may be revised or repealed by the Director if the direction issued on behalf of the Director is not in accordance with policies and principles developed by the Director.

''(2) The term 'incident' means an occurrence that—

''(A) actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of information or an information system; or

''(B) constitutes a violation or imminent threat of violation of law, security policies, security procedures, or acceptable use policies.

''(3) The term 'information security' means protecting information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction in order to provide—

''(A) integrity, which means guarding against improper information modification or destruction, and includes ensuring information nonrepudiation and authenticity;

''(B) confidentiality, which means preserving authorized restrictions on access and disclosure, including means for protecting personal privacy and proprietary information; and

''(C) availability, which means ensuring timely and reliable access to and use of information.

''(4) The term 'information technology' has the meaning given that term in section 11101 of title 40.

''(5) The term 'intelligence community' has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

''(6)(A) The term 'national security system' means any information system (including any telecommunications system) used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency, or other organization on behalf of an agency—

''(i) the function, operation, or use of which—

''(I) involves intelligence activities;

''(II) involves cryptologic activities related to national security;

''(III) involves command and control of military forces;

''(IV) involves equipment that is an integral part of a weapon or weapons system; or

''(V) subject to subparagraph (B), is critical to the direct fulfillment of military or intelligence missions; or

''(ii) is protected at all times by procedures established for information that have been specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order or an Act of Congress to be kept classified in the interest of national defense or foreign policy.

''(B) Subparagraph (A)(i)(V) does not include a system that is to be used for routine administrative and business applications (including payroll, finance, logistics, and personnel management applications).

''(7) The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

"§ 3553. Authority and functions of the Director and the Secretary

''(a) DIRECTOR.—The Director shall oversee agency information security policies and practices, including—

''(1) developing and overseeing the implementation of policies, principles, standards, and guidelines on information security, including through ensuring timely agency adoption of and compliance with standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(2) requiring agencies, consistent with the standards promulgated under such section 11331 and the requirements of this subchapter, to identify and provide information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of—

''(A) information collected or maintained by or on behalf of an agency; or

''(B) information systems used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency;

''(3) ensuring that the Secretary carries out the authorities and functions under subsection (b);

''(4) coordinating the development of standards and guidelines under section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) with agencies and offices operating or exercising control of national security systems (including the National Security Agency) to assure, to the maximum extent feasible, that such standards and guidelines are complementary with standards and guidelines developed for national security systems;

''(5) overseeing agency compliance with the requirements of this subchapter, including through any authorized action under section 11303 of title 40, to enforce accountability for compliance with such requirements; and

''(6) coordinating information security policies and procedures with related information resources management policies and procedures.

''(b) SECRETARY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall administer the implementation of agency information security policies and practices for information systems, except for national security systems and information systems described in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (e), including—

''(1) assisting the Director in carrying out the authorities and functions under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) of subsection (a);

''(2) developing and overseeing the implementation of binding operational directives to agencies to implement the policies, principles, standards, and guidelines developed by the Director under subsection (a)(1) and the requirements of this subchapter, which may be revised or repealed by the Director if the operational directives issued on behalf of the Director are not in accordance with policies, principles, standards, and guidelines developed by the Director, including—

''(A) requirements for reporting security incidents to the Federal information security incident center established under section 3556;

''(B) requirements for the contents of the annual reports required to be submitted under section 3554(c)(1);

''(C) requirements for the mitigation of exigent risks to information systems; and

''(D) other operational requirements as the Director or Secretary, in consultation with the Director, may determine necessary;

''(3) monitoring agency implementation of information security policies and practices;

''(4) convening meetings with senior agency officials to help ensure effective implementation of information security policies and practices;

''(5) coordinating Government-wide efforts on information security policies and practices, including consultation with the Chief Information Officers Council established under section 3603 and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

''(6) providing operational and technical assistance to agencies in implementing policies, principles, standards, and guidelines on information security, including implementation of standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40, including by—

''(A) operating the Federal information security incident center established under section 3556;

''(B) upon request by an agency, deploying technology to assist the agency to continuously diagnose and mitigate against cyber threats and vulnerabilities, with or without reimbursement;

''(C) compiling and analyzing data on agency information security; and

''(D) developing and conducting targeted operational evaluations, including threat and vulnerability assessments, on the information systems; and

''(7) other actions as the Director or the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, may determine necessary to carry out this subsection.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than March 1 of each year, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of information security policies and practices during the preceding year, including—

''(1) a summary of the incidents described in the annual reports required to be submitted under section 3554(c)(1), including a summary of the information required under section 3554(c)(1)(A)(iii);

''(2) a description of the threshold for reporting major information security incidents;

''(3) a summary of the results of evaluations required to be performed under section 3555;

''(4) an assessment of agency compliance with standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40; and

''(5) an assessment of agency compliance with data breach notification policies and procedures issued by the Director.

''(d) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.—Except for the authorities and functions described in subsection (a)(5) and subsection (c), the authorities and functions of the Director and the Secretary under this section shall not apply to national security systems.

''(e) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SYSTEMS.—(1) The authorities of the Director described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) shall be delegated to the Secretary of Defense in the case of systems described in paragraph (2) and to the Director of National Intelligence in the case of systems described in paragraph (3).

''(2) The systems described in this paragraph are systems that are operated by the Department of Defense, a contractor of the Department of Defense, or another entity on behalf of the Department of Defense that processes any information the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of which would have a debilitating impact on the mission of the Department of Defense.

''(3) The systems described in this paragraph are systems that are operated by an element of the intelligence community, a contractor of an element of the intelligence community, or another entity on behalf of

an element of the intelligence community that processes any information the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of which would have a debilitating impact on the mission of an element of the intelligence community.

''(f) CONSIDERATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the responsibilities under subsection (b), the Secretary shall consider any applicable standards or guidelines developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and issued by the Secretary of Commerce under section 11331 of title 40.

''(2) DIRECTIVES.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) consult with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology regarding any binding operational directive that implements standards and guidelines developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

''(B) ensure that binding operational directives issued under subsection (b)(2) do not conflict with the standards and guidelines issued under section 11331 of title 40.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as authorizing the Secretary to direct the Secretary of Commerce in the development and promulgation of standards and guidelines under section 11331 of title 40.

''(g) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.—To ensure fiscal and policy consistency, the Secretary shall exercise the authority under this section subject to direction by the President, in coordination with the Director.

''§ 3554. Federal agency responsibilities

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall—

''(1) be responsible for—

''(A) providing information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of—

''(i) information collected or maintained by or on behalf of the agency; and

''(ii) information systems used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency;

''(B) complying with the requirements of this subchapter and related policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines, including—

''(i) information security standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(ii) operational directives developed by the Secretary under section 3553(b);

''(iii) policies and procedures issued by the Director; and

''(iv) information security standards and guidelines for national security systems issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President; and

''(C) ensuring that information security management processes are integrated with agency strategic, operational, and budgetary planning processes;

''(2) ensure that senior agency officials provide information security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets under their control, including through—

''(A) assessing the risk and magnitude of the harm that could result from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of such information or information systems;

''(B) determining the levels of information security appropriate to protect such information and information systems in accordance with standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40, for information security classifications and related requirements;

''(C) implementing policies and procedures to cost-effectively reduce risks to an acceptable level; and

''(D) periodically testing and evaluating information security controls and techniques to ensure that they are effectively implemented;

''(3) delegate to the agency Chief Information Officer established under section 3506 (or comparable official in an agency not covered by such section) the authority to ensure compliance with the requirements imposed on the agency under this subchapter, including—

''(A) designating a senior agency information security officer who shall—

''(i) carry out the Chief Information Officer's responsibilities under this section;

''(ii) possess professional qualifications, including training and experience, required to administer the functions described under this section;

''(iii) have information security duties as that official's primary duty; and

''(iv) head an office with the mission and resources to assist in ensuring agency compliance with this section;

''(B) developing and maintaining an agencywide information security program as required by subsection (b);

''(C) developing and maintaining information security policies, procedures, and control techniques to address all applicable requirements, including those issued under section 3553 of this title and section 11331 of title 40;

''(D) training and overseeing personnel with significant responsibilities for information security with respect to such responsibilities; and

''(E) assisting senior agency officials concerning their responsibilities under paragraph (2);

''(4) ensure that the agency has trained personnel sufficient to assist the agency in complying with the requirements of this subchapter and related policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines;

''(5) ensure that the agency Chief Information Officer, in coordination with other senior agency officials, reports annually to the agency head on the effectiveness of the agency information security program, including progress of remedial actions;

''(6) ensure that senior agency officials, including chief information officers of component agencies or equivalent officials, carry out responsibilities under this subchapter as directed by the official delegated authority under paragraph (3); and

''(7) ensure that all personnel are held accountable for complying with the agencywide information security program implemented under subsection (b).

''(b) AGENCY PROGRAM.—Each agency shall develop, document, and implement an agency-wide information security program to provide information security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency, including those provided or managed by another agency, contractor, or other source, that includes—

''(1) periodic assessments of the risk and magnitude of the harm that could result from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of information and information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency, which may include using automated tools consistent with standards and guidelines promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(2) policies and procedures that—

''(A) are based on the risk assessments required by paragraph (1);

''(B) cost-effectively reduce information security risks to an acceptable level;

''(C) ensure that information security is addressed throughout the life cycle of each agency information system; and

''(D) ensure compliance with—

''(i) the requirements of this subchapter;

''(ii) policies and procedures as may be prescribed by the Director, and information security standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(iii) minimally acceptable system configuration requirements, as determined by the agency; and

''(iv) any other applicable requirements, including standards and guidelines for national security systems issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President;

''(3) subordinate plans for providing adequate information security for networks, facilities, and systems or groups of information systems, as appropriate;

''(4) security awareness training to inform personnel, including contractors and other users of information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency, of—

''(A) information security risks associated with their activities; and

''(B) their responsibilities in complying with agency policies and procedures designed to reduce these risks;

''(5) periodic testing and evaluation of the effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices, to be performed with a frequency depending on risk, but no less than annually, of which such testing—

''(A) shall include testing of management, operational, and technical controls of every information system identified in the inventory required under section 3505(c);

''(B) may include testing relied on in an evaluation under section 3555; and

''(C) shall include using automated tools, consistent with standards and guidelines promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

''(6) a process for planning, implementing, evaluating, and documenting remedial action to address any deficiencies in the information security policies, procedures, and practices of the agency;

''(7) procedures for detecting, reporting, and responding to security incidents, which—

''(A) shall be consistent with the standards and guidelines described in section 3556(b);

''(B) may include using automated tools; and

''(C) shall include—

''(i) mitigating risks associated with such incidents before substantial damage is done;

''(ii) notifying and consulting with the Federal information security incident center established in section 3556; and

''(iii) notifying and consulting with, as appropriate—

''(I) law enforcement agencies and relevant Offices of Inspector General and Offices of General Counsel;

''(II) an office designated by the President for any incident involving a national security system;

''(III) for a major incident, the committees of Congress described in subsection (c)(1)—

''(aa) not later than 7 days after the date on which there is a reasonable basis to conclude that the major incident has occurred; and

''(bb) after the initial notification under item (aa), within a reasonable period of time after additional information relating to the incident is discovered, including the summary required under subsection (c)(1)(A)(i); and

''(IV) any other agency or office, in accordance with law or as directed by the President; and

''(8) plans and procedures to ensure continuity of operations for information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency.

''(c) AGENCY REPORTING.—

''(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall submit to the Director, the Secretary, the Committee on Government Reform, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the appropriate authorization and appropriations committees of Congress, and the Comptroller General a report on the adequacy and effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices, including—

''(i) a description of each major information security incident or related sets of incidents, including summaries of—

''(I) the threats and threat actors, vulnerabilities, and impacts relating to the incident;

''(II) the risk assessments conducted under section 3554(a)(2)(A) of the affected information systems before the date on which the incident occurred;

''(III) the status of compliance of the affected information systems with applicable security requirements at the time of the incident; and

''(IV) the detection, response, and remediation actions;

''(ii) the total number of information security incidents, including a description of incidents resulting in significant compromise of information security, system impact levels, types of incident, and locations of affected systems;

''(iii) a description of each major information security incident that involved a breach of personally identifiable information, as defined by the Director, including—

''(I) the number of individuals whose information was affected by the major information security incident; and

''(II) a description of the information that was breached or exposed; and

''(iv) any other information as the Director or the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, may require.

''(B) UNCLASSIFIED REPORT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

''(ii) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The head of an agency shall ensure that, to the greatest extent practicable, information is included in the unclassified version of the reports submitted by the agency under subparagraph (A).

''(2) OTHER PLANS AND REPORTS.—Each agency shall address the adequacy and effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices in management plans and reports.

''(d) PERFORMANCE PLAN.—(1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (c), each agency, in consultation with the Director, shall include as part of the performance plan required under section 1115 of title 31 a description of—

''(A) the time periods; and

''(B) the resources, including budget, staffing, and training,

that are necessary to implement the program required under subsection (b).

''(2) The description under paragraph (1) shall be based on the risk assessments required under subsection (b)(1).

''(e) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Each agency shall provide the public with timely notice and opportunities for comment on proposed information security policies and procedures to the extent that such policies and procedures affect communication with the public.

''§ 3555. Annual independent evaluation

''(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Each year each agency shall have performed an independent evaluation of the information security program and practices of that agency to determine the effectiveness of such program and practices.

''(2) Each evaluation under this section shall include—

''(A) testing of the effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices of a representative subset of the agency's information systems;

''(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of the information security policies, procedures, and practices of the agency; and

''(C) separate presentations, as appropriate, regarding information security relating to national security systems.

''(b) INDEPENDENT AUDITOR.—Subject to subsection (c)—

''(1) for each agency with an Inspector General appointed under the Inspector General Act of 1978, the annual evaluation required by this section shall be performed by the Inspector General or by an independent external auditor, as determined by the Inspector General of the agency; and

''(2) for each agency to which paragraph (1) does not apply, the head of the agency shall engage an independent external auditor to perform the evaluation.

''(c) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.—For each agency operating or exercising control of a national security system, that portion of the evaluation required by this section directly relating to a national security system shall be performed—

''(1) only by an entity designated by the agency head; and

''(2) in such a manner as to ensure appropriate protection for information associated with any information security vulnerability in such system commensurate with the risk and in accordance with all applicable laws.

''(d) EXISTING EVALUATIONS.—The evaluation required by this section may be based in whole or in part on an audit, evaluation, or report relating to programs or practices of the applicable agency.

''(e) AGENCY REPORTING.—(1) Each year, not later than such date established by the Director, the head of each agency shall submit to the Director the results of the evaluation required under this section.

''(2) To the extent an evaluation required under this section directly relates to a national security system, the evaluation results submitted to the Director shall contain only a summary and assessment of that portion of the evaluation directly relating to a national security system.

''(f) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Agencies and evaluators shall take appropriate steps to ensure the protection of information which, if disclosed, may adversely affect information security. Such protections shall be commensurate with the risk and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

''(g) OMB REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—(1) The Director shall summarize the results of the evaluations conducted under this section in the report to Congress required under section 3553(c).

''(2) The Director's report to Congress under this subsection shall summarize information regarding information security relating to national security systems in such a manner as to ensure appropriate protection for information associated with any information security vulnerability in such system commensurate with the risk and in accordance with all applicable laws.

''(3) Evaluations and any other descriptions of information systems under the authority and control of the Director of National Intelligence or of National Foreign Intelligence Programs systems under the authority and control of the Secretary of Defense shall be made available to Congress only through the appropriate oversight committees of Congress, in accordance with applicable laws.

''(h) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall periodically evaluate and report to Congress on—

''(1) the adequacy and effectiveness of agency information security policies and practices; and

''(2) implementation of the requirements of this subchapter.

''(i) ASSESSMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Comptroller General may provide technical assistance to an Inspector General or the head of an agency, as applicable, to assist the Inspector General or head of an agency in carrying out the duties under this section, including by testing information security controls and procedures.

''(j) GUIDANCE.—The Director, in consultation with the Secretary, the Chief Information Officers Council established under section 3603, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and other interested parties as appropriate, shall ensure the development of guidance for evaluating the effectiveness of an information security program and practices.

''§ 3556. Federal information security incident center

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure the operation of a central Federal information security incident center to—

''(1) provide timely technical assistance to operators of agency information systems regarding security incidents, including guidance on detecting and handling information security incidents;

''(2) compile and analyze information about incidents that threaten information security;

''(3) inform operators of agency information systems about current and potential information security threats, and vulnerabilities;

''(4) provide, as appropriate, intelligence and other information about cyber threats, vulnerabilities, and incidents to agencies to assist in risk assessments conducted under section 3554(b); and

''(5) consult with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, agencies or offices operating or exercising control of national security systems (including the National Security Agency), and such other agencies or offices in accordance with law and as directed by the President regarding information security incidents and related matters.

''(b) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.—Each agency operating or exercising control of a national security system shall share information about information security incidents, threats, and vulnerabilities with the Federal information security incident center to the extent consistent with standards and guidelines for national security systems, issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President.

''§ 3557. National security systems

''The head of each agency operating or exercising control of a national security system shall be responsible for ensuring that the agency—

''(1) provides information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of the information contained in such system;

''(2) implements information security policies and practices as required by standards and guidelines for national security systems, issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President; and

''(3) complies with the requirements of this subchapter.

"§ 3558. Effect on existing law

''Nothing in this subchapter, section 11331 of title 40, or section 20 of the National Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) may be construed as affecting the authority of the President, the Office of Management and Budget or the Director thereof, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or the head of any agency, with respect to the authorized use or disclosure of information, including with regard to the protection of personal privacy under section 552a of title 5, the disclosure of information under section 552 of title 5, the management and disposition of records under chapters 29, 31, or 33 of title 44, the management of information resources under subchapter I of chapter 35 of this title, or the disclosure of information to the Congress or the Comptroller General of the United States.''.

(b) MAJOR INCIDENT.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

(1) develop guidance on what constitutes a major incident for purposes of section 3554(b) of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a); and

(2) provide to Congress periodic briefings on the status of the developing of the guidance until the date on which the guidance is issued.

(c) CONTINUOUS DIAGNOSTICS.—During the 2 year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, with the assistance of the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall include in each report submitted under section 3553(c) of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), an assessment of the adoption by agencies of continuous diagnostics technologies, including through the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation program, and other advanced security tools to provide information security, including challenges to the adoption of such technologies or security tools.

(d) BREACHES.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall ensure that data breach notification policies and guidelines are updated periodically and require—

(A) except as provided in paragraph (4), notice by the affected agency to each committee of Congress described in section 3554(c)(1) of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, which shall—

(i) be provided expeditiously and not later than 30 days after the date on which the agency discovered the unauthorized acquisition or access; and

(ii) include—

(I) information about the breach, including a summary of any information that the agency knows on the date on which notification is provided about how the breach occurred;

(II) an estimate of the number of individuals affected by the breach, based on information that the agency knows on the date on which notification is provided, including an assessment of the risk of harm to affected individuals;

(III) a description of any circumstances necessitating a delay in providing notice to affected individuals; and

(IV) an estimate of whether and when the agency will provide notice to affected individuals; and

(B) notice by the affected agency to affected individuals, pursuant to data breach notification policies and guidelines, which shall be provided as expeditiously as practicable and without unreasonable delay after the agency discovers the unauthorized acquisition or access.

(2) NATIONAL SECURITY; LAW ENFORCEMENT; REMEDIATION.—The Attorney General, the head of an element of the intelligence community (as such term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)), or the Secretary of Homeland Security may delay the notice to affected individuals under paragraph (1)(B) if the notice would disrupt a law enforcement investigation, endanger national security, or hamper security remediation actions.

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) DIRECTOR OF OMB.—During the first 2 years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, on an annual basis—

(i) assess agency implementation of data breach notification policies and guidelines in aggregate; and

(ii) include the assessment described in clause (i) in the report required under section 3553(c) of title 44, United States Code.

(B) SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—During the first 2 years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall include an assessment of the status of agency implementation of data breach notification policies and guidelines in the requirements under section 3553(b)(2)(B) of title 44, United States Code.

(4) EXCEPTION.—Any element of the intelligence community (as such term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)) that is required to provide notice under paragraph (1)(A) shall only provide such notice to appropriate committees of Congress.

(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to alter any authority of a Federal agency or department.

(e) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code is amended by striking the matter relating to subchapters II and III and inserting the following:

''SUBCHAPTER II—INFORMATION SECURITY

''3551. Purposes.
''3552. Definitions.
''3553. Authority and functions of the Director and the Secretary.
''3554. Federal agency responsibilities.
''3555. Annual independent evaluation.
''3556. Federal information security incident center.
''3557. National security systems.
''3558. Effect on existing law.''.

(2) CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT.—Section 8(d)(1) of the Cybersecurity Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7406) is amended by striking ''section 3534'' and inserting ''section 3554''.

(3) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 223 (6 U.S.C. 143)

(i) in the section heading, by inserting ''**FEDERAL and**'' before ''**NON-FEDERAL**'';

(ii) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, in cooperation with the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection'' and inserting ''the Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H)'';

(iii) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) fulfill the responsibilities of the Secretary to protect Federal information systems under subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code.'';

(B) in section 1001(c)(1)(A) (6 U.S.C. 511(c)(1)(A)), by striking ''section 3532(3)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)''; and

(C) in the table of contents in section 1(b), by striking the item relating to section 223 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 223. Enhancement of Federal and non-Federal cybersecurity.''.

(4) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY ACT.—Section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''section 3532(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)''; and

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking ''section 3532(1)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(2)''; and

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking ''section 3532(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)''.

(5) TITLE 10.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 2222(j)(5), by striking ''section 3542(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)'';

(B) in section 2223(c)(3), by striking ''section 3542(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)''; and

(C) in section 2315, by striking ''section 3542(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 3552(b)(5)''.

(f) OTHER PROVISIONS.—

(1) CIRCULAR A-130.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall amend or revise Office of Management and Budget Circular A–130 to eliminate inefficient or wasteful reporting. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide quarterly briefings to Congress on the status of the amendment or revision required under this paragraph.

(2) ISPAB.—Section 21(b) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–4(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', the Secretary of Homeland Security,'' after ''the Institute''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''the Secretary of Homeland Security,'' after ''the Secretary of Commerce,''.

SA 3976. Mr. REID (for Mr. PAUL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1281, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ___. INFORMED CONSENT FOR NEWBORN SCREENING RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Research on newborn dried blood spots shall be considered research carried out on human subjects meeting the definition of section 46.102(f)(2) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, for purposes of Federally funded research conducted pursuant to the Public Health Service Act until such time as updates to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (the Common Rule) are promulgated pursuant to subsection (c). For purposes of this subsection, sections 46.116(c) and 46.116(d) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, shall not apply.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply only to newborn dried blood spots used for purposes of Federally funded research that were collected not earlier than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall promulgate proposed regulations related to the updating of the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (the Common Rule), particularly with respect to informed consent. Not later than 2 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary

shall promulgate final regulations based on such proposed regulations.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2014, at the time immediately following the first vote of the day, in room S–219 of the Capitol Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Neil Ashdown for the duration of 2014.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Zachary Gross, Katy Crabtree, and Emalee Barto, interns with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session and that Caitlin Boon, a detailee with the committee, also be granted floor privileges for today's session.

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

FEDERAL INFORMATION SECURITY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 564, S. 2521.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2521) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Carper-Coburn substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time; and the Senate proceed to vote on passage.

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

The amendment (No. 3975) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 2521), as amended, was passed.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that 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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100–702, the appointment of the following individual to the board of the Federal Judicial Center Foundation: Peter Kraus of Texas.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1281.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1281) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Paul amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, 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 amendment (No. 3976) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To clarify rules relating to newborn screening research and informed consent)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____. INFORMED CONSENT FOR NEWBORN SCREENING RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Research on newborn dried blood spots shall be considered research carried out on human subjects meeting the definition of section 46.102(f)(2) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, for purposes of Federally funded research conducted pursuant to the Public Health Service Act until such time as updates to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (the Common Rule) are promulgated pursuant to subsection (c). For purposes of this subsection, sections 46.116(c) and 46.116(d) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, shall not apply.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply only to newborn dried blood spots used for purposes of Federally funded research that were collected not earlier than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall promulgate proposed regulations related to the updating of the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (the Common Rule), particularly with respect to informed consent. Not later than 2 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary shall promulgate final regulations based on such proposed regulations.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 1281), as amended, was passed.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following measures, which are post office-naming bills, and the Senate proceed to their consideration en bloc: H.R. 4939, H.R. 1707, H.R. 78, H.R. 2112, H.R. 2223, H.R. 2678, H.R. 3534, and H.R. 5030.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. REID. 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.

NEIL HAVENS POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4939) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2551 Galena Avenue in Simi Valley, California, as the ''Neil Havens Post Office,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JAMES R. BURGESS JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1707) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the ''James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

GEORGE THOMAS ''MICKEY'' LELAND POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 78) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110 Almeda Road in

Houston, Texas, as the ''George Thomas 'Mickey' Leland Post Office Building,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL CLANDESTINE SERVICE OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY NCS OFFICER GREGG DAVID WENZEL MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 2112) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the ''National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ELIZABETH L. KINNUNEN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 2223) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the ''Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LARCENIA J. BULLARD POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 2678) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10360 Southwest 186th Street in Miami, Florida, as the ''Larcenia J. Bullard Post Office Building,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

OFFICER JAMES BONNEAU MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 3534) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the ''Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CORPORAL CHRISTIAN A. GUZMAN RIVERA POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5030) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13500 SW 250 Street in Princeton, Florida, as the ''Corporal Christian A. Guzman Rivera Post Office Building,'' was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 5759 AND H.R. 5771

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5759) to establish a rule of construction clarifying the limitations on executive authority to provide certain forms of immigration relief.

A bill (H.R. 5771) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I now ask for a second reading on both of these measures but object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

VENEZUELA DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 401, S. 2142.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2142) to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments; as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. 2142

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 ''Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Central Bank of Venezuela and the National Statistical Institute of Venezuela have stated that the inflation rate in Venezuela was 56.30 percent in 2013, the highest level of inflation in the Western Hemisphere and the third highest level of inflation in the world behind South Sudan and Syria.

(2) The Central Bank of Venezuela and the Government of Venezuela have imposed a series of currency controls that has exacerbated economic problems and, according to the World Economic Forum, has become the most problematic factor for doing business in Venezuela.

(3) The Central Bank of Venezuela and the National Statistical Institute of Venezuela have declared that the scarcity index of Venezuela reached 28 percent in December 2013, which signifies that one in 4 basic goods is unavailable at any given time.

(4) Since 1999, violent crime in Venezuela has risen sharply and the Venezuelan Violence Observatory, an independent nongovernmental organization, found the national per capita murder rate to be 79 per 100,000 people in 2013.

(5) The international nongovernmental organization Human Rights Watch recently stated, ''Under the leadership of President Chàvez and now President Maduro, the accumulation of power in the executive branch and the erosion of human rights guarantees have enabled the government to intimidate, censor, and prosecute its critics.''.

(6) The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013 of the Department of State maintained that in Venezuela ''the government did not respect judicial independence or permit judges to act according to the law without fear of retaliation'' and ''the government used the judiciary to intimidate and selectively prosecute political, union, business, and civil society leaders who were critical of government policies or actions''.

(7) The Government of Venezuela has detained foreign journalists and threatened and expelled international media outlets operating in Venezuela, and the international nongovernmental organization Freedom House declared that Venezuela's ''media climate is permeated by intimidation, sometimes including physical attacks, and strong antimedia rhetoric by the government is common''.

(8) Since February 4, 2014, the Government of Venezuela has responded to antigovernment protests with violence and killings perpetrated by public security forces, and by arresting and unjustly charging opposition leader Leopoldo Lopes with criminal incitement, conspiracy, arson, and intent to damage property.

(9) As of March 13, 2014, 23 people had been killed, more than 100 people had been injured, and dozens had been unjustly detained as a result of antigovernment demonstrations throughout Venezuela.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ANTIGOVERNMENT PROTESTS IN VENEZUELA AND THE NEED TO PREVENT FURTHER VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States aspires to a mutually beneficial relationship with Venezuela based on respect for human rights and the rule of law and a functional and productive relationship on issues of public security, including counternarcotics and counterterrorism;

(2) the United States supports the people of Venezuela in their efforts to realize their full economic potential and to advance representative democracy, human rights, and the rule of law within their country;

(3) the chronic mismanagement by the Government of Venezuela of its economy has produced conditions of economic hardship and scarcity of basic goods and foodstuffs for the people of Venezuela;

(4) the failure of the Government of Venezuela to guarantee minimal standards of public security for its citizens has led the country to become one of the most violent in the world;

(5) the Government of Venezuela continues to take steps to remove checks and balances on the executive, politicize the judiciary, undermine the independence of the legislature through use of executive decree powers, persecute and prosecute its political opponents, curtail freedom of the press, and limit the free expression of its citizens;

(6) the people of Venezuela, responding to ongoing economic hardship, high levels of

crime and violence, and the lack of basic political rights and individual freedoms, have turned out in demonstrations in Caracas and throughout the country to protest the inability of the Government of Venezuela to ensure the political and economic well-being of its citizens; and

(7) the repeated use of violence perpetrated by the National Guard and security personnel of Venezuela, as well as persons acting on behalf of the Government of Venezuela, in relation to the antigovernment protests that began on February 4, 2014, is intolerable and the use of unprovoked violence by protesters is also a matter of serious concern.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD VENEZUELA.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to support the people of Venezuela in their aspiration to live under conditions of peace and representative democracy as defined by the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States;

(2) to work in concert with the other member states within the Organization of American States, as well as the countries of the European Union, to ensure the peaceful resolution of the current situation in Venezuela and the immediate cessation of violence against antigovernment protestors;

(3) to hold accountable government and security officials in Venezuela responsible for or complicit in the use of force in relation to the antigovernment protests that began on February 4, 2014, and similar future acts of violence; and

(4) to continue to support the development of democratic political processes and independent civil society in Venezuela.

SEC. 5. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any person, including a current or former official of the Government of Venezuela or a person acting on behalf of that Government, that the President determines—

(1) has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, significant acts of violence or serious human rights abuses in Venezuela against persons associated with the antigovernment protests in Venezuela that began on February 4, 2014;

(2) has directed or ordered the arrest or prosecution of a person primarily because of the person's legitimate exercise of freedom of expression or assembly; or

(3) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided significant financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the commission of acts described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of an alien determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a), denial of a visa to, and exclusion from the United States of, the alien, and revocation in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other documentation of the alien.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) on or before the date on which the waiver takes effect, submits to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms ''admitted'' and ''alien'' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''financial institution'' has the meaning given that term in section 5312 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) MATERIALLY ASSISTED.—The term ''materially assisted'' means the provision of assistance that is significant and of a kind directly relevant to acts described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a).

(4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 6. SUPPORT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State *and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development* shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, directly or through nongovernmental organizations—

(1) defend internationally recognized human rights for the people of Venezuela;

[(2) build the organizational and operational capacity of democratic civil society activists and organizations in Venezuela at the national and regional level;

[(3) support the efforts of independent media outlets to broadcast, distribute, and share information beyond the limited channels made available by the Government of Venezuela;]

(2) strengthen the organizational and operational capacity of democratic civil society in Venezuela;

(3) support the efforts of independent media outlets to broadcast, distribute, and share information beyond the limited means available as of the date of the enactment of this Act;

(4) facilitate open and uncensored access to the Internet for the people of Venezuela;

(5) improve transparency and accountability of institutions that are part of the Government of Venezuela;

(6) provide support to civil society organizations, activists, and peaceful demonstrators in Venezuela that have been targeted for exercising internationally recognized civil and political rights, as well as journalists targeted for activities related to the work of a free press; and

(7) provide support for democratic [political] organizing and election monitoring in Venezuela.

(b) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a strategy to carry out the activities described in subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out subsection (a). Amounts appropriated for the activities set forth in subsection (a) shall be used pursuant to the authorization and requirements contained in this section. Additional amounts may be authorized to be appropriated under provisions of law.

(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to paragraph (1) may not be obligated until until 15 days after the date on which the President has provided notice of intent to obligate such funds to—

(i) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(B) WAIVER.—The President may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A) if the President determines that failure to waive that requirement would pose a substantial risk to human health or welfare, in which case notification shall be provided as early as practicable, but in no event later than 3 days after taking the action to which such notification requirement was applicable in the context of the circumstances necessitating such waiver.

SEC. 7. REPORT ON BROADCASTING, INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION, AND CIRCUMVENTION TECHNOLOGY DISTRIBUTION IN VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (in this section referred to as the ''Board'') shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a thorough evaluation of the governmental, political, and technological obstacles faced by the people of Venezuela in their efforts to obtain accurate, objective, and comprehensive news and information about domestic and international affairs;

(2) an assessment of current efforts relating to broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela, by the United States Government and otherwise; and

(3) a strategy for expanding such efforts in Venezuela, including recommendations for additional measures to expand upon current efforts.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the current level of Federal funding dedicated to broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela by the Board before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) an assessment of whether the current level and type of news and related programming and content provided by the Voice of America is sufficiently addressing the informational needs of the people of Venezuela; and

(3) specific measures for increasing broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to, the Menendez substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill.

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

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3974) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 2142), as amended, was passed.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning, December 9, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for debate only until 10:30 a.m., as provided for under the previous order; and that the Senate recess from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be two rollcall votes at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow on cloture on the Lodge and Walter nominations. The confirmation votes will occur at 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:45 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 9, 2014, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 8, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

JEFFERY MARTIN BARAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2018.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

LAUREN MCGARITY MCFERRAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2019.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING DR. MICHAEL B. McCALL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, commend, and congratulate Dr. Michael B. McCall, founding president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), on the event of his retirement. Dr. McCall has led KCTCS all of the 17 years since its creation in 1997, and during that time has overseen the coordination of Kentucky's community colleges, technical institutes, and the University of Kentucky into an education system that is now the largest provider of postsecondary education in the Commonwealth.

Dr. McCall, a strong advocate for a robust community college system even before coming to Kentucky, was recruited to KCTCS due to his knowledge, experience, and personal drive to see students succeed. As both an educator and an administrator, he has overseen the physical expansion of KCTCS and a dramatic upgrade in the system's academic quality. Dr. McCall oversaw 45 capital projects totaling approximately $500 million, giving 95 percent of all Kentuckians access to a KCTCS institution within a thirty minute drive. This enhanced presence has helped train the skilled workforce that Kentucky needs in order to compete in the modern economy.

Under Dr. McCall's leadership, enrollment at KCTCS increased by nearly 110 percent, contributing to the education of more than 500,000 Kentuckians. Dr. McCall also established or integrated several specialized programs to provide specialized skills for emergency services and some of Kentucky's signature industries, including emergency medical services, fire and rescue science technology, automotive manufacturing technical training, coal mining, and horseracing. The high-skilled, high-paying jobs in these fields will reinforce the readiness of Kentucky communities to guarantee public safety, grow and develop our local industries, and expand Kentucky's competitive advantage.

Dr. McCall's stewardship of KCTCS has provided the Commonwealth of Kentucky with an academic tradition that will benefit generations to come. I congratulate Dr. McCall on a terrific career improving the lives of my fellow Kentuckians as he enters retirement and wish him all the best for whatever the future may hold.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVIE GREER ON HER RETIREMENT AS BARREN COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Judge Davie Greer. After serving 12 years as the Barren County Judge-Executive, Judge Greer will retire at the end of the year. First elected in 2002, Judge Greer was the first woman to serve as the Judge-Executive for Barren County.

Among Judge Greer's many accomplishments in office is the construction of the Barren County Detention Center, the creation of the Barren County Drug Task Force and her work with the Industrial Development Economic Authority of Glasgow-Barren County. Under Judge Greer's leadership, the Barren County Drug Task Force has expanded to cover Edmonson and Allen counties.

Judge Greer has also lead several measures to improve the emergency response resources of Barren County. Likewise, her efforts to enhance and grow the parks and recreation system have improved the quality of life for Barren County's residents.

While Judge Greer may be passing the torch for her elected duties, she vows to remain active in the community. Presently, Judge Greer is the Treasurer of the Salvation Army, a member of the Glasgow Business and Professional Women's Club and a member of the Glasgow-Barren County Chamber of Commerce.

I am grateful for Judge Greer's hard work and dedication to the people of Barren County. I wish her well on her retirement and look forward to continuing to work with her in the community.

IS ACADEMIC FREEDOM THREATENED BY CHINA'S INFLUENCE ON AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, I convened a hearing that was the first in a series probing the question whether China's 'soft power' educational initiatives are undermining academic freedom at U.S. schools and universities. We see it manifested primarily in two ways. The first is in the building of satellite campuses in China for American universities, where Chinese "rules of engagement" are said to hold sway—in other words, places where no criticism of the government, or promotion of democracy and freedom, is allowed. Second, we see it in the myriad outposts of Chinese soft power that have opened on campuses throughout the United States, so-called "Confucius Institutes," whose curricula integrates Chinese Government policy on contentious issues such as Tibet and Taiwan and whose hiring practices explicitly exclude Falun Gong practitioners. It should be noted that we are seeing emerging faculty opposition to these Institutes, as well as to the all-too cozy and lucrative arrangements which American universities have with institutions affiliated with the Chinese government.

This prompts us, however, to ask the question: Is American higher education for sale? And, if so, are U.S. colleges and universities undermining the principle of academic freedom—and, in the process, their credibility—in exchange for China's education dollars?

A number of years ago the author James Mann wrote a book called "The China Fantasy," where he recounts how in the 1990s some American business leaders and government officials put forward the "fantasy" that free trade with China would be the catalyst for political liberalism.

I was in China in the early 1990's. Despite the ongoing jailing and executions of dissidents, American businessmen in China told me that if we just trade more, the dictatorship will soon matriculate into a democracy.

As we all now know now, China has failed to democratize, despite increases in the standard of living of its citizens. Political repression is an all-too-common occurrence. Yet U.S. policy toward China continues to overlook abuses of fundamental human rights for the sake of business opportunities and economic interest.

But what about U.S. universities, who often tout their adherence to higher ideals, and equate their "non-profit" status of a badge of good citizenship which puts them above reproach. Perhaps they too are engaged in their own version of a "China fantasy," willing to accept limitations on the very principles and freedoms that are the foundation of the U.S. system of higher education, justifying quiet compromises they would never entertain at home by telling themselves that they are helping bring about change in China.

As Dr. Perry Link brilliantly argued, these compromises often take the form of self-censorship of what universities and faculty teach, who they invite to speak, what fellows they accept in residence. So long as the dragon is not provoked, they think they will be allowed to continue doing their work, slowly changing China from the inside. But are these American universities changing China, or is China changing these American universities?

What is the reason that New York University, for example, terminated the fellowship of the world class human rights advocate and hero, Chen Guangcheng? NYU is one of those prestigious universities for which China built a campus, a satellite of the university in Shanghai. Though the Chinese Government laid out the funds, the transaction involved a moral cost: As certain members of the NYU faculty wrote in a letter to the university's Board of Trustees, the circumstances surrounding the launch of NYU satellite campus

in Shanghai and the ending of Chen's residence created a ''public perception, accurate or otherwise, that NYU made commitments in order to operate in China.''

We have repeatedly invited NYU's President and faculty to testify before this committee, without success. On five separate occasions, we gave NYU 15 dates to appear. As this is the first hearing in a series of hearings we intend to hold on this topic, I hope that they will agree to come at another time, so they can fully state their case.

On a personal note, I spent considerable time with Chen Guangcheng when he first came to the United States, having worked his case since 2004 which included four Congressional hearings exclusively dedicated to his freedom. It is my impression that NYU officials and others sought to isolate him from supporters viewed as too conservative or from those they considered Chinese dissidents. We may never know if NYU experienced what Chen himself termed as ''persistent and direct pressure from China'' to oust him, or if it was simply an act of prudent self-censorship to keep in Beijing's good graces.

I don't know the answer, but it is my conviction that self-censorship and the chilling effect this has is an even more pernicious threat to fundamental freedoms and the principle of academic freedom. One of our witnesses, the respected academic Dr. Perry Link, has made this case repeatedly over the years, drawing on his own personal experiences, and I thank him for being here today.

We were not there to re-litigate the sad divorce of Chen Guangcheng and NYU. It is only a small, disheartening part of the larger issue: whether American universities will compromise academic freedom to get a piece of the lucrative Chinese education market which is roughly $27 billion dollars a year.

The hearing I held last week marked the beginning of a long hard look at the costs and benefits of the growing number of Chinese educational partnerships started by U.S. universities and colleges, including exchange programs and satellite campuses in China and Confucius Institutes in the U.S.

While foreign educational partnerships are important endeavors—for students, collaborative research, cultural understanding, and even for the host country—I think we all can agree that U.S. colleges and universities should not be outsourcing academic control, faculty and student oversight, or curriculum to a foreign government. Unfortunately, there is now some evidence emerging that gives rise to the need for this hearing.

The American Association of University Professors, or AAUP, along with its sister organization in Canada, published a report in July, blasting the Confucius Institute model as a partnership ''that sacrificed the integrity of the [host] university and its academic staff'' by requiring ''unacceptable concessions'' that allow ''the Confucius Institutes to advance a state agenda in the recruitment and control of academic staff, in the choice of curriculum, and in the restriction of debate.''

The AAUP concluded by saying that ''Confucius Institutes function as an arm of the Chinese state and are allowed to ignore academic freedom'' and recommended shutting down U.S. Confucius Institutes unless they could meet certain standards of academic freedom and transparency.

The Confucius Institutes are China's major soft power push, an attempt to increase the number of young people studying (and ideally coming to admire) Chinese culture and language. This is not harmful in itself, for Chinese culture and language—as distinct from its political culture—is, indeed, admirable. But while some U.S. university administrators say the influence of Confucius Institutes is benign, University of Chicago professor Marshal Salhins, has called Confucius Institutes ''academic malware'' inimical to the U.S. model of academic freedom.

What we should do is welcome U.S.-China educational partnerships that promote cultural understanding and critical language skills and protect academic freedom, that allow the teaching of sensitive topics, and are not subject to any of the same rules that govern Chinese academic institutions—where professors are fired or jailed for exercising the universal right to free speech.

Indeed, there is a U.S. national security interest in having U.S. students learn Chinese, but such language skills should be taught on our terms and without the baggage brought by Confucius Institute ties. And, if those freedoms are violated or compromised, we need to find some recourse, whether through withholding Department of Education funds or State Department exchange program funds from schools that willingly compromise the principles of academic freedom and human rights to gain a small share of the Chinese educational market.

I will be asking for a GAO study to review the agreements of both satellite campuses in China and of Confucius Institutes in the U.S. I would like to know if those agreements are public, whether they compromise academic or other freedoms of faculty, students, and workers and whether Chinese teachers are allowed the freedom to worship as they please and teach about Tiananmen, Tibet, and Taiwan.

I will also ask the GAO to study whether U.S. satellite campuses in China operate differently from Chinese universities and whether there is a two-tier system in place, where Chinese students and faculty have more restrictions placed their activities and research than U.S. students and faculty. I will also ask whether Communist Party committees operate on campus, whether fundamental freedoms are protected for both Chinese and U.S. students and faculty—religious freedom, Internet freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of association, and whether the universities are required to enforce China's draconian population control policies.

These are important questions. We need to look at whether these issues can be handled by the universities, their faculties, and trustees themselves or if there is something the U.S. Congress must do to ensure academic freedom is protected.

U.S. universities and colleges should reflect and protect the highest principles of freedom and transparency. They should be islands of freedom where foreign students and faculty can enjoy the fundamental freedoms denied them in their own country.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT MERWIN CEO OF MILLS-PENINSULA HEALTH SERVICES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplished career of a distinguished Californian, Mr. Robert Merwin of San Mateo County, who is retiring at the end of 2014 from his position as Chief Executive Officer of Mills-Peninsula Health Services, a post he has held since January, 1996.

A resident of San Carlos, California, Bob Merwin is a 1971 graduate of the United States International University, and earned his M.B.A. from UCLA in 1973. He began his career in hospital management in 1973 as Assistant Executive Director of the Long Beach Community Hospital. He progressed up the corporate ladder at Long Beach, joined Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center, then came to Mills-Peninsula in 1987 as Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer.

Bob Merwin has served his community as a member of the San Mateo Rotary Club, the American College of Health Care Executives, and as Chair of the West Bay Hospital Conference, and Chair of the Hospital Consortium of San Mateo County.

He is a past director of the American Red Cross Bay Area and a member of the Finance Committee of the Health Plan of San Mateo.

Mills-Peninsula has thrived under Bob Merwin's leadership. He has improved relations between physicians and management, contained costs while increasing productivity and helped develop a strategic plan for the combined hospitals. Under his leadership a new 241 bed acute care facility, Mills-Peninsula Medical Center was constructed. It is a state-of-the-art, $640 million, 450,000 square foot facility that is a source of pride to our entire community.

Bob Merwin is married to Jean Merwin and he is the father of Michael and Megan. He enjoys golf, tennis and photography.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Bob Merwin for his stellar career in hospital management and for his extraordinary contributions to our community and our country.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE, PASTOR DUONG KIM KHAI

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Pastor Duong Kim Khai, a prisoner held in Vietnam, has nurtured the spiritual lives of his parishioners and helped those of all faiths that have been victims of injustice in Ben Tre and Dong Thap. He has also served as an advocate for Vietnamese farmers whose land was confiscated by the government. If he is guilty of anything it is of living to serve others and stand up to an oppressive government. I call on the Vietnamese government to release him immediately.

During the 1990s, the Pastor was detained thirteen times, often for organizing prayer sessions. Soon after, he turned his home into a place of worship, as well as a community center where farmers could seek assistance in petitioning authorities. Because he did not have the government's permission to worship, his home was seized by the local government, and he was imprisoned for two years.

On August 16, 2010, he was arrested for supposedly trying to overthrow the Vietnamese government, a convenient charge from a government bent on silencing him. For the next two months, his place of detention and his condition of health were kept secret from his family.

Denied legal representation and with diplomats denied access to his trial, Pastor Duong Kim Khai was sentenced to 2–8 years in prison and 3–5 probation. Unfortunately, his wife, who was never able to visit her husband in prison, has since passed away.

Pastor Duong Kim Khai's trial was a sham and his imprisonment is unacceptable. Freedom to worship is a human right, and the Vietnamese government should immediately release him. Furthermore, I call on the State Department to finally recognize Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.

And that's just the way it is.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with a House Amendment to H.R. 3979, the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

This legislation authorizes $495.5 billion in discretionary spending for the base budget for the Department of Defense and $17.9 billion in discretionary spending for the defense-related activities of the Department of Energy in Fiscal Year 2015, totaling $513.4 billion, which is $31 billion less than authorized in Fiscal Year 2014.

The legislation also authorizes $63.7 billion in Fiscal 2015 for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO).

I thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH and the members of the Armed Services Committee for their work on this important legislation.

I especially wish to thank Chairman MCKEON for his friendship and his service to the nation as he concludes his long and distinguished tenure as a member of the People's House.

The National Defense Authorization Act's purpose is to address the threats our nation must deal with not just today, but into the future. This makes the work on this bill vital to our national interest and it should reflect our strong commitment to ensure that the men and women of our Armed Services receive the benefits and support that they deserve for their unwavering service to this great nation.

This is the 53rd consecutive National Defense Authorization Act, which speaks to the long term commitment of the Congress and successive Administrations to provide for the defense of our nation.

The bill encompasses a number of initiatives designed to confront sexual assault in the military, making more efficient the work of protecting America, addresses the mental health needs of men and women in the armed services, and extends economic opportunity to small minority and women owned businesses.

There is much in the legislation before us that I strongly support. For example, the House-Senate agreement:

1. Significantly improves readiness by restoring $818 million in cuts made by House Republicans to the readiness accounts below what was requested by the President;

2. Supports a 1.0 percent pay raise for the troops for FY 2015, equal to the President's request;

3. Authorizes the awarding of the Purple Heart Medal to those killed domestically as a result of a foreign terrorist attack like the tragedies that occurred at Fort Hood in my home state of Texas;

4. Creates a flexible $1.3 billion Counter Terrorism Partnership Fund that supports partner nation operations and U.S. Building Partnership Capacity programs to combat terrorism in the Middle East and Africa and bring to heel notorious terrorist organizations such as Boko Haram;

5. The bill also addresses serious health and well-being challenges faced by our men and women in the armed services such as post-traumatic stress disorders by requiring the Department of Defense to report on improvements in the identification and treatment of mental health conditions and traumatic brain injury among members of the Armed Forces, as well as providing a person-to-person mental health assessment for active duty and selected reserve members each year and, through 2018, a person-to-person mental health screening once during each 180-day period in which a member is deployed;

6. Requires the establishment of a Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Military, eliminates the "good soldier defense," which allows alleged attackers to avoid charges by showcasing a positive military record in court, and builds upon the provisions included in the FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014 Defense Authorization bills that contained dozens of provisions, including stripping commanding officers of the unilateral authority to dismiss a finding by a court martial; prohibiting commanding officers from reducing guilty findings by a court martial to guilty of a lesser offense; and requiring that service members found guilty of sexual offenses, including rape or sexual assault, be dismissed or honorably discharged;

7. Authorizes $622 million for Israeli Cooperative Missile Defense Programs, which is $349 million more than the President's request, a total that includes $350 million for Israel's "Iron Dome" short-range rocket defense system, which is $175 million more than the President's request;

8. Includes provisions to allow the Department of Defense to reprogram funds to carry out both the Syria train-and-equip program and the Iraq Train and Equip program to combat ISIL; and

9. Creates the National Commission on the Future of the U.S. Army, which will have four members appointed by the President and four appointed by Congress that is tasked to report back to Congress with recommendations for optimizing Army and National Guard Force Structure by February 1, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important lessons we learned from the long war in Iraq is the importance of military readiness which imposes on the Congress the obligation of ensuring that every woman and man sent into battle in defense of our nation must be properly trained and equipped.

This is why I will not forget the troops killed and wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan when their vehicles were attacked by "improvised explosive devices."

To ensure that the Armed Forces of the United States remains the best trained, best equipped fighting force in the world, we must provide them the resources needed to adapt and meet any challenge they may face, from global military conflicts to an Ebola virus outbreak.

I am also pleased that the bill includes authorization for awarding the Purple Heart Medal to those killed or wounded in domestic terrorist attacks, like the attack at Ft. Hood.

The Army National Guard is a critical component of our national defense structure.

The men and women of the National Guard serve our nation as a reserve force in times of military conflict and at home in responding public emergencies natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, the threat posed by the terrorist organization Boko Haram be addressed before it becomes become a problem of the level of ISIS to our national interests.

For this reason I offered an amendment to the House version of this bill that was adopted as Section 1266, which would have required the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the nature and extent of the crimes against humanity committed by Boko Haram in Nigeria.

I am disappointed that Section 1266 of the House bill was not included in the final version of the bill but I am pleased the legislation reauthorizes the Africom command and recognizes the importance of combating terrorist activity on the continent of Africa.

Mr. Speaker, the threat posed by ISIS is serious and real and the President has reached out to Congress to work with him to develop a unified and international response to meet the threat.

For this reason I support the provision in the legislation authorizing $3.4 billion for sustaining U.S. personnel forward-deployed to the Middle East, providing enablers such as intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms, replenishing munitions expended while conducting airstrikes against ISIL, and financing operations and maintenance costs for air, ground and naval operations to date.

Specifically, I support the provision authorizing the President's $1.6 billion request to train and equip Iraqi security forces to re-build the capability and capacity of our Iraqi partners in the region so they can sustain the long-term fight to defeat ISIL and provide security and stability to the Iraqi people, so that large numbers of U.S. combat forces are not required.

The $1.6 billion is being provided to fund a two-year program with robust oversight and notification requirements to support Peshmerga, Sunni tribes, and other forces beyond the traditional Iraqi Security Forces.

The legislation also extends the McKeon Amendment, which I supported, that provides funding to train and equip moderate Syrian forces to combat ISIL.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to emphasize that nothing in the legislation before authorizing the training and equipping of Iraqi and Syrian forces by U.S. advisors to combat ISIS derives from the 2002 Iraq AUMF.

The decision to send American men and women into harm's way is the most consequential decision the Constitution vests in the President and the Congress.

For this reason, the Constitution wisely divides the responsibility of deciding when to use military force to protect the nation and its interests between the President and the Congress, the representatives of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I remain strongly opposed to the deployment of the U.S. Armed Forces inside the territorial borders of Syria without a vote of Congress explicitly authorizing such action.

Moreover, any vote regarding the authorization to use military force against Syria must be preceded by meaningful, substantive, and thoughtful dialogue and robust debate governed by a rule that affords Members of the House the opportunity to offer and debate amendments.

I must stress that before any vote is held, Members of Congress must be apprised of all facts material to the decision and have access to relevant documentation, classified and otherwise, and afforded the opportunity to meet in small groups and in secure locations with senior members of the Administration's national security team who can answer detailed and pointed questions and provide requested information.

Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq taught this nation the importance of having accurate and reliable information when deciding whether to use military force and the painful costs in lives and treasure of acting precipitously.

We cannot and dare not repeat that mistake.

That is why it is essential that all Members of Congress have access to the relevant information and the responsible Administration officials before any vote to authorize the use of military force to defeat ISIS is scheduled.

Mr. Speaker, the health and well-being of our men and women in uniform on and off the battlefield is of critical importance.

The House version of the National Defense Authorization Act included an amendment I introduced authorizing an increase of $10 million in breast cancer research funding and directing the Department of Defense to identify specific genetic and molecular targets and biomarkers for Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC).

I am disappointed that the Jackson Lee Amendment was not included in the final version of the legislation because my amendment would save lives that may otherwise be lost.

Mr. Speaker, breast cancer has been as brutal on women in the military as combat.

More than 800 women have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Army Times; 874 military women were diagnosed with breast cancer just between 2000 and 2011, and according to that same study, more are suspected.

The Jackson Lee Amendment, however, provided funding for the additional research that is desperately needed since women are joining the Armed Services in increasing numbers and serving longer, ascending to leadership.

Within increased age comes increased risk and incidence of breast cancer.

Not only is breast cancer striking relatively young military women at an alarming rate, but male service members, veterans and their dependents are at risk as well.

With a younger and generally healthier population, those in the military tend to have a lower risk for most cancers than civilians—including significantly lower colorectal, lung and cervical—but breast cancer is a different story.

Military people in general, and in some cases very specifically, are at a significantly greater risk for contracting breast cancer because life in the military can mean exposure to a witch's brew of risk factors directly linked to greater chances of getting breast cancer.

With the expansion of women in the military, it is extremely important that more funding be allocated for research for early detection, treatment, and cure of breast cancer, including TNBC.

I will continue fighting until this objective is achieved.

I strongly support the provisions in the legislation before us intended to combat the epidemic of sexual assaults in the military, including the elimination of the "good soldier defense," which is defined as a consideration of general military character toward the probability of innocence in sexual assault prosecutions.

Houston is home to one of the largest populations of military service members and their families in the nation.

There are over 200,000 veterans of military service who live and work in Houston; more than 13,000 are veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although some of a soldier's wounds are invisible to the naked eye they are still wounds that should be properly treated.

Another important component of the legislation that I strongly support is are the provisions designed to increase the number of medical facilities and mental health professionals who are available to serve the active duty personnel and veterans.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me express again my appreciation to Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their work in crafting a Defense Authorization bill that strives to enhance the readiness of our troops, provides for the care of our military personnel and their families, and authorizes the investments needed to keep our nation strong, safe, and respected in the world.

HONORING VICE MAYOR OF THE RIPON CITY COUNCIL, ELDEN ''RED'' NUTT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Vice Mayor of the Ripon City Council, Elden "Red" Nutt, who passed away November 21, 2014.

Elden "Red" Nutt was born on May 19, 1937 and raised in Fowler, California. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1954 and worked as a boiler operator on the USS Hornet (CVA–12).

Red's long history of service to the community of Ripon first started in 1965 when he was hired as a Ripon police officer. Red later became a sergeant in 1972 and was appointed police chief in 1982. He served as chief until retiring in 1991.

Red was appointed to the Ripon planning commission in 2002 and first elected to the city council in 2004, serving stints as vice mayor and mayor. While on the City Council, Red served on various committees and commissions, most notably the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFco) where Red served as Board Chairman.

Notable projects completed during Red's tenure include: Main Street & Stockton Ave. Enhancements, Mistlin Softball Fields, purchase of Ripon's first bus and the start of a fixed route transit service, Stanislaus River Bike Path, Boesch and Lan Parks, City Hall & Police Department expansion, annual fireworks show made possible by community donations, Veterans Museum and memorial wall, and the Police Memorial.

Red's involvement in the community went far beyond his role on the City Council. Red served as the post commander for the American Legion Post 190 in 2004–2005, and again in 2010–2011. Red also served as the president of the Ripon Lions Club, was a two-time past president of the Ripon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and auxiliary member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1051. Red also volunteered his time with the Friends of the Library and the Ripon Historical Society, serving as a docent at the Veterans Museum.

Red and his wife Bonnie have been married for 55 years. They have raised three children, John, Debbie, and Diane. They have six grandchildren and one great grandchild. After retirement, Red enjoyed spending time with

his wife traveling the country in their RV and collecting antiques.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Ripon City Council Vice Mayor Elden ''Red'' Nutt and all of his admirable contributions to the safety and betterment of his community.

HONORING MR. HASTING BULLOCK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous and remarkable veteran, Mr. Hasting Bullock.

Mr. Hasting Bullock was born on August 8, 1920 in Yazoo City to the late Elnora Young, and the late Thomas Bullock. They later moved to Pickens, Mississippi where he was reared.

Mr. Hasting Bullock later met his wife of 70 years, the late Elmira Howard, and to this union they had 12 children. He joined the U.S. Army in 1942 and served as a 740 Air crafter for 3 years.

He was stationed at New Ginning, and fought in World War II. After departing from the military he began his farming career from 1946–1983. He retired from his farming career and began to work as a local barber. He is now 94 years old and a widower still residing in Pickens, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hasting Bullock for his time and dedication to serving our country and others.

HONORING REGINALD N. ''REGGIE'' TODD

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reginald N. ''Reggie'' Todd, who is retiring at the end of this year, after his distinguished and illustrious career spanning more than thirty-eight years representing and advocating for the interests of local governments before the Legislative and Executive Branches of government in Washington, D.C. I wish to extend to Mr. Todd, currently the Chief Legislative Representative for the County of Los Angeles, my appreciation for the decades of dedicated service that he has given to Los Angeles County and the nation.

Mr. Todd has served as the Chief Legislative Representative for the County of Los Angeles for the past sixteen and a half years, leading and coordinating a team of legislative advocates who have been working tirelessly on behalf of the over 10 million people who live in Los Angeles County. My office has worked closely with Mr. Todd and his team on a broad variety of federal issues having an impact on Los Angeles County including appropriations, health care, social services, community development, public safety, transportation and infrastructure, and municipal services. He has advanced the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' federal legislative agenda with great skill, intelligence, and accomplishment.

Prior to establishing the Los Angeles County Washington Office, Mr. Todd served as Legislative Director of the National Association of Counties (NACo), implementing a broad array of coalition-building around NACo's legislative priorities. Before joining NACo, Mr. Todd served as the Chief Executive Officer of the National Community Development Association, the Legislative Counsel at the National League of Cities, and the Washington Activities Coordinator for the National Association of Regional Councils.

Mr. Todd was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. A veteran, he served in the United States Air Force at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, NATO. He received a B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland-College Park. He has been married to his wife, Saralee S. Todd, for 36 years and has two children, Dr. Elizabeth Todd Breland and Jonathan E Todd, and a son-in-law, Alex Breland. Mr. Todd also is a very proud, first-time grandfather of Natalie Juanita Breland.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and Los Angeles County, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for Mr. Todd's contributions throughout his remarkable career. With our sincere best wishes, we congratulate him upon his retirement from public service.

HONORING TRAVIS WOOD

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Travis Wood, a devoted husband, loving father and proud New Mexican.

While born a Texan, Travis was raised as a New Mexican. In 1912, Travis was born near the small town of Wellington, Texas; three short years later, his family traveled to New Mexico, where he would devote a lifetime of service to a community he loved dearly.

Travis was a man of great integrity. He grew up enduring the extremely difficult hand-to-mouth existence as a member of a homestead family. Along with the hard times, however, came many lessons that would serve him throughout his life. At the onset of World War II, Travis enlisted in the United States Navy as a motor machinist first class on the Navy subchaser SC 1354, often referred to as the ''Splinter Fleet''. The Splinter Fleet was detailed to Omaha Beach on D-Day and Travis would later be awarded the bronze star for his courage and valor.

In 1952, following the war, Travis and his wife Clara moved the family to Roy, New Mexico, where Travis accepted a job as a rural letter carrier. Anyone who knew Travis will tell you that his commitment to his country and the State of New Mexico was unwavering. He became an icon in his community as a tireless public figure, serving several terms as Mayor of the Village of Roy, on the Roy School Board, the ENMR Tele-communications Board and the Eastern Plains Council of Governments (COG). In addition, he was an avid member in the Roy Lions Club, the American Legion, the Roy and Springer Masonic Lodges, and a board member of St. Paul's Methodist Church/United Church of Roy.

Travis was always searching for ways to stimulate the economy in his cherished community. For his lasting and effective contributions, his fellow citizens honored his name with the Travis Wood Senior Center. But Travis's most treasured triumph was a private one: building a family. He passionately loved his son Gary Wood, daughter Cheryl Wood Scott, and his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Gentle, patient, compassionate, loving and selfless—Travis was a helper to many and a friend to all. Travis demonstrates the impact that one individual can have on an entire community and his warmth was felt by all those who knew him. Today, Travis is not with us, but his legacy and lessons will endure in all those he touched. May the memory of Travis live on in our hearts.

HONORING AIRMAN FIRST CLASS LAWRENCE DAVID FRIAR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous and remarkable veteran, Retired Airman First Class Lawrence David Friar.

Lawrence Friar is a strong believer in the value of family land and property ownership. It is through this belief that prompted him to return to his native home in Lexington, Mississippi in 1972 from Compton, California where he was reared. He was born in Lexington, Mississippi April 20, 1940, but moved out West with his family not long after that.

He returned to his home state to look after his families' land, because so many boundaries and lines were being moved and timber being cut from his property that he had to come home to watch over things for his other siblings. Born to the late Mack Friar and Lettie Wright Friar, Holmes County, Mississippi natives, there were four boys and six girls. He has been a faithful citizen of the Second Congressional District ever since his return in 1972.

Protecting land is nothing new for Friar for he is a proud American Veteran who protected and served his country in the United States Air force from 1958 until 1962.

He joined the military immediately after high school in Compton. ''When I joined the service, the Vietnamese Conflict has started, and it was still going on when I left the service.'' he said. Friar had temporary duty in the War Zone, in which they would leave Hawaii and go to the war and work the jets that needed repairing, and then they would return to Hawaii, where he was stationed.

During his tour of duty in the U.S. Air force, Friar earned and retired with the rank of (E4) Airman First Class.

The Retired Airman First Class Lawrence Friar says ''Most importantly, it taught me patience and how to get along with people.'' he said about his most memorable experience about serving in the U.S. Air force.

Today, one will find this retired U.S. Air force veteran home in Lexington, Mississippi as a local leisurely farmer doing some gardening and planting; what people in the south call ''truck patches.'' He hopes to return to

California one day to check on some siblings there, but for now he will remain with a watchful eye on his family's land.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Retired Airman First Class Lawrence David Friar for his time and dedication to serving our country and others.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM SCHEIDE

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American citizen and a dear friend. William Scheide, of Princeton, New Jersey, passed away on November 14, 2014, at the age of 100. Bill was a humanitarian, a philanthropist and a supporter of civil rights who, although born into great wealth, was anything but indolent.

Bill was born in Philadelphia on January 6, 1914, the only child of two musicians: John, a pianist, and Harriet, a singer. He developed a love for music early on, and that passion inspired him throughout his hundred years. Bill's family earned their fortune in oil when northwestern Pennsylvania was the center of the oil industry. His grandparents and parents began collecting books, and Bill developed that collection carefully, studiously, and energetically, and built it into one of the greatest collections of rare books and manuscripts in private hands anywhere in the world. Bill attended Princeton University, graduating with the class of 1936, and eventually gave his collection to his university. His collection is huge and hugely impressive, and includes an early fourteenth century manuscript of the Magna Carta; the first four Bibles printed; an original copy of the Declaration of Independence; the first four folios of Shakespeare; and musical manuscripts of Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Wagner, and Bill's beloved Johann Sebastian Bach. Today, the Scheide Library at Princeton continues to be a resource for Princeton students and faculty and for scholars around the world.

In Princeton and throughout the country, Bill Scheide is synonymous with support for the arts—particularly music. He was a renowned pianist, organist, and oboist. After graduating from Princeton, Bill went on to earn a master's degree in music from Columbia and thereafter became one of the world's most renowned Bach scholars. He was the founding director of the Bach Aria Group, which performed and recorded over a period of more than three decades. He eventually returned to Princeton where he held regular concerts in his home, inviting guest musicians or even performing himself.

Bill's impact on Princeton University stretches far beyond his library collection. Over the years, Bill's generosity has allowed hundreds of students to attend the university through the Scheide Scholars Program. His philanthropy also extended beyond the university's gates and into the Princeton community. Through Scheide Concerts, Bill brought to the community classical music performances by some of the world's most sought-after performers. He was an avid supporter of charitable organizations in the area, including Centurion Ministries, which works to free wrongly convicted individuals from prison, and Isles, a community development organization serving our capital city of Trenton. And far beyond central New Jersey, Bill's philanthropy changed the history of our nation. When a young lawyer named Thurgood Marshall asked him to support a case called Brown vs. Board of Education, Bill Scheide provided funding that allowed the NAACP Legal Defense Fund to pursue the case to its stupendous conclusion. He later served on the board of the Legal Defense Fund for nearly four decades. Here in Washington, at the Newseum, exhibits funded by Bill Scheide teach the public about freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. He also served as a trustee of, and generous benefactor to, Westminster Choir College and Princeton Theological Seminary, both of which have buildings bearing his name.

I had the pleasure of spending a great deal of time with Bill over the years. And while Bill will certainly be remembered for his generous charitable endeavors, I believe he will be remembered most by those who knew him for his intellect, his humility, and his generosity of spirit. He was thoughtful about his philanthropy and worked hard at it, and expected nothing in return. His happiness was found in watching the eyes of concertgoers or library visitors light up with joy, or seeing a new young leader emerge from Nassau Hall at Princeton commencement who was only able to attend the university because of the Scheide Scholars Program. He was so humble, in fact, that he asked the university to change the name of the Scheide Music Library to the Mendel Music Library, to honor another Princeton faculty member and renowned Bach scholar, Arthur Mendel, who he thought deserved the recognition.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Judy; his daughters, Louise and Barbara; his son, John; three stepchildren; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bill Scheide's legacy of generosity and studious philanthropy will not soon be forgotten.

WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wayzata High School Girls Cross-Country team on their recent victories in the state and national championships.

Their 2A Minnesota State Championship, the third in a row for Wayzata, was the result of a strong performance at the state meet in Northfield.

In addition to their third consecutive state championship win, the Wayzata girls' team won the Nike Cross Nationals Meet in Portland, Oregon by beating out teams from New York, Utah, and Indiana.

The Trojans were led by the performance of Anna French who took 3rd place at state and 8th at the national meet.

The Wayzata Girls Cross Country team took on this latest challenge in the midst of difficult practice schedules, academic expectations, and various other commitments. Their success this season is a tribute to their excellent teamwork and tenacity, qualities they will no doubt maintain as they move forward.

I commend Coach Dave Emmans and the entire Trojans team for their passion and hardwork. Cross Country is athletics at its purest and requires mental toughness and physical endurance to excel. By pushing each other every day, Wayzata reached truly exceptional heights this season.

It is truly an honor to congratulate and represent these hard-working student-athletes and congratulate them on their success.

HONORING CHOPPA STYLES BARBER SHOP

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable business, Choppa Styles Barber Shop.

Choppa Styles Barber Shop is owned by Ramirez Lee, who was born and raised in Leland, Mississippi. "Choppa Styles" is the name of his shop and is a new age term for the latest in music, fashion, and even hairstyles.

After Lee graduated from barber school, he went to work for other barbershops, but knew that he wanted his own business. He was very particular and wanted to please his customers while giving them the advantage of his knowledge.

Many people have the mistaken belief that men just walk into a barbershop, sit down and get a haircut. Lee doesn't have that attitude at all.

Lee states that "it's very important for a professional barber to look at the person's facial structure, the type of hair he might have as to whether it is thick or thinning, curly, straight, all those things. A good barber will then style that person's hair to compliment his facial structure."

Lee said that he tries to influence his customers on the necessity of a healthy scalp. Lee also said that he hopes to include hair care products at his shop soon.

Lee doesn't make appointments. All of his customers are walk-ins He welcomes new customers and invites them to stop by his shop.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Choppa Styles Barber Shop for its dedication to serving and giving back to the community.

HONORING DAVE JONES

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, Dave Jones lived a life of service to freedom, to his faith, and to his family. Dave's wife Sally was a patient of mine, and I've had the opportunity to get to know their family over the past few years.

Dave passed away late last month—a loss not only for his family, but also for fellow members of his church and the people of Cincinnati's East End who he served through his church's outreach program.

Dave served in the military, returned home, raised a family, and ran a successful insurance business.

Dave was a rugged man, but a tender husband, father and grandfather. At their church Dave and Sally taught Sunday School.

Dave and Sally raised five sons and are proud grandparents to three girls and two boys. Today we share their sorrow, but also share the faith that Dave is enjoying his eternal reward.

Dave Jones' legacy will continue through his children and grandchildren who learned firsthand from Dave's daily demonstration of faith through action, dedication to others, and love of family.

It has been a true honor to know Dave and to represent him in Congress. Godspeed.

THE PASSING OF JIMMY RUFFIN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and music of a great Detroit Motown Records singer and songwriter, Jimmy Ruffin, who passed away on November 17th, 2014, at the age of 78.

His contribution to popular music left a huge mark on the music industry and Rhythm and Blues music.

As the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, I have worked on music and copyright issues over the years and have a deep appreciation for the contribution that Mr. Ruffin made for lovers of Rhythm and Blues music across the world.

Mr. Ruffin, born in Collinsville, Mississippi, was the older brother of the late Temptations singer David Ruffin. Both of them sang gospel music in the South and Detroit where their family later moved. They also worked with Barry Gordy and Motown Records, where they became widely known for their style of music.

After serving honorably in the U.S. Army here and overseas he returned to Motown Records to continue his career. Jimmy Ruffin not only wrote but sang many of his musical creations which included his song ''What Becomes of the Brokenhearted,'' which went on to become a Top 10 pop hit.

His reputation grew in this country and around the world. His popularity through the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s continued to grow as he put out songs including ''I've Passed This Way Before'' and ''Gonna Give Her All the Love I've Got.'' Jimmy and David Ruffin went on to work together on the 1970s album ''I Am My Brother's Keeper.'' In the 1980's he had a major hit, ''Hold on to My Love,'' which the Bee Gees' Robin Gibb produced.

Mr. Ruffin will be missed for his singing and as a musician he produced music that was legendary. We are grateful for the songs and music that Mr. Ruffin provided to the Nation over the years and his songs will live on to be enjoyed by future generations.

I am sad that we have lost a great performer, a consummate artist and one of Motown Records' biggest stars.

Our condolences go out to his family and friends around the world.

HONORING GEORGE REED, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous and remarkable veteran, Mr. George Reed, Jr.

Mr. Reed was born in Enid, Oklahoma in April of 1943. He is the only child of the late Mr. George Reed, Sr., who was a World War II Veteran, and Mrs. Estella Hunt Reed.

Mr. Reed graduated from Gentry High School in 1962. In May of 1963, he did basic training in San Diego, California for the United States Navy.

From 1964–1965, Mr. Reed did two tours in Vietnam on the USS *Oriskany* CVA–34. Then, he transferred to USS *John Archibald Bole* DD 755 and served the next four years on this ship. Two of the places he toured on this ship are Japan and Fort Malaysia.

Mr. Reed served six years, and retired in 1969 as a Machinist Mate E5. He now serves as Post Adjutant at the American Legion Post #205, where they have 30 active members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. George Reed, Jr. for his time and dedication to serving our country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,993,726,181,400.08. We've added $7,366,849,132,487.00 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wayzata High School Boys Cross Country team on winning the Minnesota Cross Country 2A Championship Meet, held at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

The Trojans—led by Coach Bill Miles—dominated the field and finished with the lowest score in school history of 47 points. This is the eighth state championship in Coach Miles 40 years of coaching.

Wayzata truly made it a team effort as six different runners made the All-Lake team. The team was led by Connor Olson's championship effort, clocking in at 15 minutes, 17.1 seconds. Jaret Carpenter and Ian Eklin both had top ten finishes as well for the Trojans.

The dedication it takes to become a state championship athlete should be commended. It means skillfully juggling practice, academics, and other commitments to be prepared physically and mentally for each race. Their success this season is a tribute to their effort and focus and they should take pride in their victory.

Cross Country is athletics at its purest. It takes hard work day after day, pushing oneself to the limit in order to achieve your personal best. It takes a strong mental will to reach the point of exhaustion and then push past it. Wayzata's success this year is evidence of this effort.

It is truly an honor to congratulate and represent these hard-working student-athletes. Congratulations Trojans!

HONORING DR. HASKELL S. BINGHAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous and remarkable veteran, Dr. Haskell S. Bingham.

Dr. Bingham was a native son of Vicksburg, Mississippi, born to the late Rev. Judge R. Bingham, Sr. and Mrs. Julia E. Bingham.

Dr. Bingham attended Vicksburg schools, Jackson State College, University of Denver, Peabody College/Vanderbilt University and served in the U.S. Army, and became a Korean War veteran.

Dr. Bingham was a former teacher at Brinkley High School in Jackson, Mississippi. He also retired having served as former Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Virginia State University, former Assistant to the President at St. Paul's College (Virginia) and former Dean of Admissions and Records at Jackson State University.

Dr. Bingham was greatly respected and loved as the historian/genealogist of the Bingham's of African descent in America. He identified over 2500 relatives in his historical research in South Africa and the United States. He also achieved recognition for his ancestors including the Freedom Fighter Gabriel of Gabriel's Rebellion in Virginia, from the National Parks Service, City of Richmond City Council, and former Governor Kaine of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Haskell S. Bingham for his time and dedication to serving our country.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JOSEPH OVICK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Joseph Ovick as he retires from his long-held position as Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools and to congratulate him on the culmination of a truly outstanding 45-year career in education.

Joseph Ovick began his career as a Special Education teacher, working diligently to ensure

that each student in his classroom was given every opportunity to succeed. Although classroom teaching has always been his passion, Joe's ability to develop strong coalitions of educators, community members and legislators has led him into a variety of important leadership roles. He served as Assistant Principal, Principal, Director of Special Education, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, and Associate Superintendent for Business. For the past 18 years, Dr. Joseph Ovick has been at the helm of Contra Costa County Office of Education working tirelessly to assure that all students receive the very best education. In addition to his administrative work, Dr. Ovick has taught in a variety of schools including Chapman University's Graduate School of Education and San Jose State University.

Joe has also devoted a great deal of his time to community service. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the East Bay Leadership Council, Contra Costa County's Children and Families Policy Forum and has served as the President of the Executive Board of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association. He has also served as Chairman of the Bay Area Leadership Foundation, the Federal Policy and Legislation Committee for the Council of Administrators for Special Education, as vice-chair of the Federal Advocacy for California Education, he is past president of the Association of California School Administrators and a former chair of the Bay Area Region Superintendents Association.

It is easy to see why in 2008 Dr. Joseph Ovick was named Citizen of the Year by the East Bay Leadership Foundation. He has also been awarded the Superintendent of the Year Award and the Ferd Kiesel Memorial Award by the Association of California School Administrators and he received the President's Circle Award for Outstanding Service to Education and the Community from Diablo Valley College Foundation. These are only a few of the many commendations that over the years have recognized Dr. Ovick's outstanding service to our students, teachers, and our entire community.

But what is most important to know about Joe Ovick is that he has always been a ''students first'' type of educator. He has made it a point to personally visit students and teachers throughout the year, lending freely his support and hands-on experience to ensure that every child has an opportunity to thrive in the classroom. And it is clear from the energy and enthusiasm Joe brings to every facet of his job, that this has been a 45-year love affair with the learning process.

I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commending my friend, Dr. Joseph Ovick, on his outstanding career and to thank him on behalf of the thousands of students and teachers who have been the beneficiaries of his work over the years. We join with his family, friends and colleagues in wishing him the very best as he begins his well-earned retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, focusing on the effective enforcement and the future of derivatives regulation.

SR–328A

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine cybersecurity, focusing on enhancing coordination to protect the financial sector.

SD–538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Colette Dodson Honorable, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD–366

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President.

SD–226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on African Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Ebola epidemic, focusing on the keys to success for the international response.

SD–419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine passenger rail, focusing on investing in our nation's future.

SR–253

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the President's executive action on immigration and the need to pass comprehensive reform.

SD–226

DECEMBER 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the President's executive order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security.

SD–406

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider an original resolution entitled, ''to authorize the limited use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and the nomination of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

SD–419

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Joan Marie Azrack, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Loretta Copeland Biggs, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, Elizabeth K. Dillon, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, and Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

SD–226

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6359–S6398

Measures Introduced: Three bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2987–2989, and S. Res. 595. **Page S6388**

Measures Reported:

S. 2946, to provide improved water, sanitation, and hygiene programs for high priority developing countries, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–286)

Report to accompany S. 2520, to improve the Freedom of Information Act. (S. Rept. No. 113–287)

S. 429, to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1014, to reduce sports-related concussions in youth, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2022, to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2094, to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2482, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Tokyo on February 24, 2012, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2484, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Auckland on November 14, 2009, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2485, to implement the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, as adopted at Lisbon on September 28, 2007.

S. 2777, to establish the Surface Transportation Board as an independent establishment, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6388**

Measures Passed:

FOIA Improvement Act: Senate passed S. 2520, to improve the Freedom of Information Act, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6375–77**

Federal Information Security Modernization Act: Senate passed S. 2521, to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6395**

Reid (for Carper/Coburn) Amendment No. 3975, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6395**

Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act: Senate passed H.R. 1281, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6395**

Reid (for Paul) Amendment No. 3976, to clarify rules relating to newborn screening research and informed consent. **Page S6395**

Neil Havens Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4939, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2551 Galena Avenue in Simi Valley, California, as the ''Neil Havens Post Office'', and the bill was then passed. **Page S6395**

James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1707, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the ''James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building'', and the bill was then passed. **Page S6395**

George Thomas 'Mickey' Leland Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 78, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110

Almeda Road in Houston, Texas, as the ''George Thomas 'Mickey' Leland Post Office Building'', and the bill was then passed. **Pages S6395–96**

National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2112, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the ''National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office'', and the bill was then passed. **Page S6396**

Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2223, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the ''Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building'', and the bill was then passed. **Page S6396**

Larcenia J. Bullard Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2678, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10360 Southwest 186th Street in Miami, Florida, as the ''Larcenia J. Bullard Post Office Building'', and the bill was then passed. **Page S6396**

Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3534, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the ''Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office'', and the bill was then passed. **Page S6396**

Corporal Christian A. Guzman Rivera Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5030, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13500 SW 250 Street in Princeton, Florida, as the ''Corporal Christian A. Guzman Rivera Post Office Building'', and the bill was then passed. **Page S6396**

Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act: Senate passed S. 2142, to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, after agreeing to the committee amendments, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6396–98**

Reid (for Menendez) Amendment No. 3974, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6398**

Appointments:

Federal Judicial Center Foundation: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100–702, the appointment of the following individual to the board of the Federal Judicial Center Foundation: Peter Kraus of Texas vice Richard D. Casey of South Dakota. **Page S6395**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 52 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 316), Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2018. **Pages S6378–79, S6398**

By 54 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 317), Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2019. **Pages S6378–79, S6398**

Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy. **Pages S6378–79, S6398**

Messages from the House: **Pages S6384–85**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S6385, S6396**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S6385**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6385–87**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S6387–88**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S6388**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6388–89**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S6389**

Additional Statements: **Page S6383–84**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6389–95**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6395**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6395**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—317) **Page S6379**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:45 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6398.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Leigh A. Bradley, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 5803–5810; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 772 09774 were introduced. **Pages H8867–68**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H8868**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4309, to amend the Sikes Act to make certain improvements to the administration of cooperative agreements for land management related to Department of Defense readiness activities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–647, Part 1);

H.R. 4489, to designate memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–648, Part 1);

H.R. 4402, to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to establish a surface danger zone over the Guam National Wildlife Refuge or any portion thereof to support the operation of a live-fire training range complex, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–649, Part 1); and

H.R. 5683, to ensure appropriate judicial review of Federal Government actions by amending the prohibition on the exercise of jurisdiction by the United States Court of Federal Claims of certain claims pending in other courts (H. Rept. 113–650). **Page H8867**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Byrne to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8821**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:32 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page S8825**

Guest Chaplain: Lt. Cmdr. Robert Burns Chaplain, United States Navy Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Plantation, Florida. **Page H8825**

Unanimous consent agreement to correct H.R. 3979: Agreed by unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979, pursuant to House Resolution 770, the Clerk be instructed to make the correction placed at the desk. **Page H8826**

California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014: The House considered H.R. 5781, to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California. Further proceedings were postponed. **Pages H8826–40**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment printed in Part C of H. Rept. 113–646 shall be considered as adopted. **Page H8826**

H. Res. 770, amended, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3979), (H.R. 5759), and (H.R. 5781), was agreed to on December 4.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 5385, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office"; **Pages H8840–41**

Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 5794, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office"; **Pages H8841–42**

Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 4030, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 18640 NW 2nd Avenue in Miami, Florida, as the "Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building"; **Page H8842**

Federal Correctional Officer Scott J. Williams Memorial Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 5562, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Ocean Avenue in Lompoc, California, as the "Federal Correctional Officer Scott J. Williams Memorial Post Office Building"; **Pages H8842–43**

Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 5687, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 East Market Street in Long Beach, California, as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office"; **Pages H8843–44**

R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse Designation Act: H.R. 579, to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse"; **Pages H8844–45**

James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway and James L. Oberstar National Scenic Byway Designation Act: H.R. 4926, amended, to designate the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway" and the "James L. Oberstar National Scenic Byway" in the State of Minnesota; **Pages H8845–47**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read "To designate a segment of Interstate Route 35 in the State of Minnesota as the 'James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway'.". **Page H8847**

Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse Designation Act: H.R. 5146, to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse"; **Page H8848**

Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic Designation Act: S. 1434, to designate the Junction City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located at 715 Southwind Drive, Junction City, Kansas, as the Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic; **Pages H8856–57**

Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Act of 2013: 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"; and **Pages H8857–59**

Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic Designation Act: 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". **Pages H8859–60**

Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2014: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 2901, to strengthen implementation of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to implement, leverage, and monitor and evaluate programs to provide first-time or improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene to the world's poorest on an equitable and sustainable basis. **Page H8848**

Agreed to the Poe (TX) amendment in the nature of a substitute by voice vote. **Pages H8854–56**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H8825.

Senate Referrals: S. 1683 was held at the desk. S. 1447 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and S.J. Res. 45 was referred to the Committee on House Administration. **Pages H8825, H8866**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D1069)*

H.R. 4067, to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014. Signed on December 4, 2014. (Public Law 113–198)

H.R. 5441, to amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States. Signed on December 4, 2014. (Public Law 113–199)

H.R. 5728, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations. Signed on December 4, 2014. (Public Law 113–200)

H.J. Res. 129, appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress. Signed on December 4, 2014. (Public Law 113–201)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community

Development, to hold hearings to examine inequality, opportunity, and the housing market, 11 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider the nominations of Willie E. May, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, Tho Dinh-Zarr, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Mark R. Rosekind, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Carlos A. Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, both of the Department of Transportation, Time to be announced, S–219, Capitol.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine Social Security, focusing on if there is a key foundation of economic security working for women, 9:30 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), focusing on confronting the growing humanitarian crisis in Iraq and Syria, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the authorization for the use of military force against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), 2 p.m., SD–106.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, to hold hearings to examine campus sexual assault, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, to hold hearings to examine the state of civil and human rights in the United States, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Setting Fiscal Priorities'', 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining ObamaCare Transparency Failures'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled ''Timeless Honor: Reviewing Current Operations of our National Cemeteries'', 1 p.m., 334 Cannon.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 9 through December 12, 2014

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at 10:30 a.m., Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Virginia Tyler Lodge, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Ronald Anderson Walter, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. If cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations at 6 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: December 10, to hold hearings to examine the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, focusing on the effective enforcement and the future of derivatives regulation, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: December 9, Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development, to hold hearings to examine inequality, opportunity, and the housing market, 11 a.m., SD–538.

December 10, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine cybersecurity, focusing on enhancing coordination to protect the financial sector, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: December 9, business meeting to consider the nominations of Willie E. May, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, Tho Dinh-Zarr, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Mark R. Rosekind, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Carlos A. Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, both of the Department of Transportation, Time to be announced, S–219, Capitol.

December 10, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine passenger rail, focusing on investing in our nation's future, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: December 10, business meeting to consider the nomination of Colette Dodson Honorable, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: December 11, with the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, to hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the President's executive order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: December 9, to hold hearings to examine Social Security, focusing on if there is a key foundation of economic security working for women, 9:30 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: December 9, Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), focusing on confronting the growing humanitarian crisis in Iraq and Syria, 10 a.m., SD–419.

December 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the authorization for the use of military force

against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), 2 p.m., SD–106.

December 10, Subcommittee on African Affairs, to hold hearings to examine the Ebola epidemic, focusing on the keys to success for the international response, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

December 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider an original resolution entitled, ''to authorize the limited use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and the nomination of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: December 11, with the Committee on Environment and Public Works, to hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the President's executive order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Judiciary: December 9, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, to hold hearings to examine campus sexual assault, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement, 10 a.m., SD–226.

December 9, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, to hold hearings to examine the state of civil and human rights in the United States, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

December 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, 10 a.m., SD–226.

December 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's executive action on immigration and the need to pass comprehensive reform, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

December 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Joan Marie Azrack, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Loretta Copeland Biggs, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, Elizabeth K. Dillon, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, and Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House Committees

Committee on Energy and Commerce, December 10, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Examining FDA's Role in the Regulation of Genetically Modified Food Ingredients'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

December 11, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''The Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975: Are We Positioning America for Success in an Era of Energy Abundance?'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, December 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Countering ISIS: Are We Making Progress?'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

December 10, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; and Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services, joint hearing entitled ''Russian Arms Control Cheating and the Administration's Responses'', 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

December 10, Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, hearing entitled ''The United States as an Arctic Nation: Opportunities in the High North'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

December 10, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; and the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, joint hearing entitled ''After the Withdrawal: The Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Part III)'', 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, December 10, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, hearing entitled ''The Impact on Local Communities of the Release of Unaccompanied Alien Minors and the Need for Consultation and Notification'', 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, December 10, Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements, hearing entitled ''Examining EPA's Management of the Renewable Fuel Standard Program'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

December 10, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and the Census, hearing entitled ''Addressing the Backlog in the Federal Employee Retirement Process'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, December 10, Subcommittee on Space, hearing entitled ''An Update on the Space Launch System and Orion: Monitoring the Development of the Nation's Deep Space Exploration Capabilities'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

December 11, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''The Future of Nuclear Energy'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, December 10, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled ''U.S. Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Integration, Oversight, and Competitiveness'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, December 11, Full Committee, business meeting to approve the second annual activities report for the 113th Congress; hearing entitled ''Evaluating Federal and Community Efforts to Eliminate Veteran Homelessness'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Select Committee on Benghazi, December 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Hearing 2'', relating to reviewing efforts to secure U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 10:30 a.m.), Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Virginia Tyler Lodge, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Ronald Anderson Walter, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. If cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations at 6 p.m.

(Senate will recess from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 9

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Complete consideration of H.R. 5781—California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014. Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the rules: (1) H.R 5086—To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes, as amended; (2) H.R 5699—John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act, as amended; (3) H.R 5701—Western Oregon Indian Tribal Lands Act, as amended; (4) S. 1000—Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014; (5) H.R. 5705—Propane Education and Research Enhancement Act of 2014; (6) H.R. 5185—EARLY Act Reauthorization of 2014, as amended; (7) H.R. 5764—Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2014; (8) 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; (9) H.R. 5059—Clay Hunt SAV Act, as amended; (10) H.R. 5656—Global Food Security Act of 2014, as amended; (11) S. 1683—Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014; and (12) S. 1691—Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014.

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