

Whereas mentoring is a proven cost-effective investment: for every dollar invested in mentoring, there is a 3-dollar return to society;

Whereas all of the above-listed benefits serve to link youth to economic opportunity while also strengthening the fiber of our communities; and

Whereas despite these benefits, 1 in 3 youth will reach age 19 without a mentor, constituting a “mentoring gap” that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes January 2015 as “National Mentoring Month”;

(2) recognizes the men and women who serve as staff and volunteers at quality mentoring programs and who help our young people find inner strength and reach their full potential;

(3) acknowledges that mentoring is beneficial because it encourages educational achievement, reduces juvenile delinquency, improves life outcomes, and strengthens communities;

(4) promotes the creation and expansion of quality mentoring programs across the country to equip young people with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives; and

(5) supports initiatives to close the “mentoring gap”.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 248. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 245 submitted by Mr. BARRASSO to the bill S. 1, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 248. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 245 submitted by Mr. BARRASSO to the bill S. 1, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. __. CONSULTATION WITH INDIAN TRIBES.

Nothing in this Act relieves the United States of its responsibility to consult with Indian nations as required under executive order 13175 (67 Fed. Reg. 67249) (November 6, 2000).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 10 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a subcommittee hearing entitled, “Improving the Performance of our Transportation Networks: Stakeholder Perspectives”

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 2 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Employer Wellness Programs: Better Health Outcomes and Lower Costs.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building to continue a hearing entitled “Attorney General Nomination.”

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 12 p.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today’s Executive Calendar: Calendar No. 5 and all nominations on the Secretary’s desk; I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Colonel Tony D. Bauernfeind
Colonel Vincent K. Becklund
Colonel Steven J. Bleymaier
Colonel Richard A. Coe
Colonel William T. Cooley
Colonel Barry R. Cornish
Colonel Christopher E. Craige
Colonel Andrew A. Croft
Colonel Allan E. Day
Colonel Trent H. Edward
Colonel Andrew J. Gebara
Colonel Gerald V. Goodfellow
Colonel John R. Gordy, II
Colonel Stacey T. Hawkins
Colonel Cameron G. Holt
Colonel Kevin A. Huyck
Colonel James A. Jacobson
Colonel Darren V. James
Colonel David J. Julazadeh
Colonel Kevin B. Kennedy
Colonel Chad T. Manske
Colonel Michael A. Minihan
Colonel Wayne R. Monteith
Colonel Daniel J. Orcutt
Colonel Lenny J. Richoux
Colonel Carl E. Schaefer
Colonel John E. Shaw
Colonel Brad M. Sullivan
Colonel Billy D. Thompson
Colonel Paul A. Welch
Colonel William P. West

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN73 AIR FORCE nomination of Rodrick A. Koch, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

PN74 AIR FORCE nomination of James F. Richey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN78 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning MORRIS A. DESIMONE, III, and ending ANDREW R. STRAUSS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

PN79 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning STEVEN P. HULSE, and ending ANTHONY C. LYONS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

PN81 MARINE CORPS nomination of Brian L. White, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

PN83 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning STEVEN R. LUCAS, and ending JAMES N. SHELSTAD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 58, submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 58) recognizing January 2015 as "National Mentoring Month."

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 58) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m. Friday, January 30. I ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate then be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BROWN.

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

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

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

TRIBUTE TO ROB LEHMAN AND LUKE ALBEE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a couple of people with Ohio ties who have dedicated much of their careers to public service, Rob Lehman and Luke Albee. Rob Lehman served more than two decades on Capitol Hill and in the executive branch most recently, and that is when I got to know and work with him as chief of staff to my colleague from Ohio, Senator ROB PORTMAN. Rob Lehman served as chief of staff when Senator PORTMAN was the U.S. Trade Representative, so he understands why trade and enforcement of trade rules are such important issues to a State such as Ohio.

He was helpful when Senator PORTMAN and I testified together before the International Trade Commission on behalf of Ohio Steelworkers. Fortunately, in this case the ruling was on the side of Ohio manufacturers. In some cases China and now in other cases Korea have not played fair and have broken trade rules. Rob Lehman provided breadth and insight to Senator PORTMAN on this issue and so many others that are important to Ohio during my colleague's 4 years in the Senate.

I wish to also honor Luke Albee. Luke is a native Ohioan and long time Senate aide. He is a Cleveland native and, like myself, a die-hard Cleveland Indians fan.

Luke Albee had a long tenure in the office of Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont, rising from an entry-level position to become his chief of staff. He served in the same role—which he is about to leave—for my colleague Senator MARK WARNER of Virginia. He began in Senator LEAHY's office answering mail and later guided the office through the September 11 attacks, the anthrax discovery on Capitol Hill, and other memorable events while chief of staff—like a 5-hour dinner with Senator LEAHY and Fidel Castro while on a trip to Cuba in 1999. Like Rob Lehman, Luke Albee likes to bring people together and reach common ground so the Senate can move forward the way it should.

TRIBUTE TO MARK POWDEN

Mr. BROWN. I wish to also say a few words about another career public servant. He is not leaving public service, but he is leaving the chief of staff's position in my office. Mark Powden has been my chief of staff since 2009. He started with Senator Jeffords when Senator Jeffords was a Republican and then became an Independent.

Mark Powden grew up in Vermont, where he worked for his own State congressman and senator. Mark later be-

came the staff director for the Republicans. In fact, he was the staff director for the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee as it went through its transition to a new name. He was with Senator Jeffords when Senator Jeffords switched parties in 2001.

Mark, as I said, has served as my chief of staff for more than 6 years now and will move over and be the staff director for the banking committee. At the same time, he will take with him Graham Steele, who served ably as my legislative assistant, and will also take his assistant Megan Cheney to the banking committee. Graham will be chief counsel, and Megan will be a legislative aide in the Senate banking committee.

My thanks especially to Mark Powden for the terrific work he has done as my chief of staff, and I am thrilled he is going to stay with me to do the very important job of staff director as I become ranking member of the Senate banking committee.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT AWARENESS DAY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, tomorrow, Friday, January 30, is Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day. It is a day to highlight a vital tool for Americans working—and I emphasize "working"—their way out of poverty.

Too many Americans work hard, play by the rules, take responsibility for their lives, but simply can't get ahead. They are in low-wage jobs—sometimes two low-wage jobs—and don't really have much opportunity where they live or due to their circumstances to get a job that pays closer to a living wage. There are millions of Americans living in this situation. The EITC helps provide for their children, to build economic security to allow them to pursue the American dream.

Signed into law in 1975, expanded by every single President since then, the EITC was created to make sure we have a tax system that provides an incentive to work. That is what it has done.

EITC's expansion in the 1990s led more than half a million single mothers to move from cash welfare assistance to work, making it twice as effective—without the side effects, I might add—as welfare reform. Since its creation, EITC has lifted more children above the poverty line than any other government program.

I will emphasize that it rewards work, most importantly. In 2012, 28 million American households—almost 1 million from my State of Ohio—benefited from the EITC with an average credit of more than \$2,300.

I met Juanalicia Duran in Cleveland last year. She told me she lives paycheck to paycheck not because she overspends, not because she is irresponsible, but simply because she does not make a lot of money. She said receiving the EITC is the one time of year