United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015 No. 145

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 5, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUKE MESSER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

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

While Members come to the end of a long weekend of constituent visits, bless them and those with whom they consult among those they represent with wisdom, patience, and generosity as they seek law and policy that benefits not only local interests, but where possible, the greater common good of our country.

We again ask You to impel those who possess power here in the Capitol to be mindful of those whom they represent who possess little or no power.

Finally, bless those men and women who work faithfully here at the Capitol, from staffers to maintenance to security, all who serve to enable the engines of legislation to proceed without distraction of day-to-day concerns.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), as amended by section 1601 of Pub. L. 111–68, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center:

Mr. PRICE, North Carolina.

HOUSE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

July 6, 2015:

H.R. 533. An Act to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 615. An Act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 893. An Act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

July 20, 2015:

H.R. 91. An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans.

H.R. 728. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7050 Highway BB in Cedar Hill, Missouri, as the ''Sergeant First Class William B. Woods, Jr. Post Office''.

H.R. 891. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Paloma Drive in Floresville, Texas, as the ''Floresville Veterans Post Office Building''.

H.R. 1326. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Mulford Road in Mulberry, Florida, as the ''Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson Post Office''.

H.R. 1350. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 East 167th Street in Bronx, New York, as the ''Herman Badillo Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2620. An Act to amend the United States Cotton Futures Act to exclude certain cotton futures contracts from coverage under such Act.

July 28, 2015:

H.R. 2499. An Act to amend the Small Business Act to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs, to help create jobs, and for other purposes.

July 31, 2015:

H.R. 3236. An Act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, to provide resource flexibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care services, and for other purposes.

August 6, 2015:

H.R. 876. An Act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals to provide certain notifications to individuals classified by such hospitals under observation status rather than admitted as inpatients of such hospitals.

H.R. 1626. An Act to reduce duplication of information technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

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August 7, 2015:

H.R. 212. An Act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risk of algal toxins in drinking water, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1138. An Act to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1531. An Act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2131. An Act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 83 Meeting Street in Charleston, South Carolina, as the ''J. Waties Waring Judicial Center''.

H.R. 2559. An Act to designate the ''PFC Milton A. Lee Medal of Honor Memorial Highway'' in the State of Texas.

September 24, 2015:

H.R. 720. An Act to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes.

September 30, 2015:

H.R. 23. An Act to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 719. An Act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2051. An Act to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3614. An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

SENATE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills of the Senate of the following titles:

July 20, 2015:

S. 179. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the ''James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building''.

July 30, 2015:

S. 971. An Act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program.

S. 984. An Act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

August 6, 2015:

S. 1482. An Act to improve and reauthorize provisions relating to the application of the antitrust laws to the award of need-based educational aid.

September 24, 2015:

S. 1359. An Act to allow manufacturers to meet warranty and labeling requirements for consumer products by displaying the terms of warranties on Internet websites, and for other purposes.

September 30, 2015:

S. 230. An Act to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska.

S. 501. An Act to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 2082. An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate.

There was no objection.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

3021. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule and Interpretive Ruling and Policy Statement 15-1 — Promulgation of NCUA Rules and Regulations (RIN: 3133-AE45) received October 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3022. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the use of Secs. 506(A)(1) and 552 (C)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide commodities and services for immediate assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3023. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery; Adjustment to the Northern Red Hake Inseason Possession Limit [Docket No.: 120109034-2171-01] (RIN: 0648-XE120) received October 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3024. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE140) received October 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3025. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery; Adjustment to the Northern Red Hake Inseason Possession Limit [Docket No.: 120109034-2171-01] (RIN: 0648-XE094) received October 2, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3026. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment (RIN: 3133-AE56) received October 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3027. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought [Notice 2015-69] received October 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3028. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Reliance Standards for Making Good Faith Determinations [TD 9740] (RIN: 1545-BL23) received October 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BOEHNER (for himself, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. MESSER):

H.R. 10. A bill to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. TURNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 3683. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

141. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 17, urging the President and Congress of the United States to enact Senate Bill 664 of the 114th United States Congress, known as the Foster Care Tax Credit Act, which would provide tax relief to short term foster parents by helping to cover the actual costs of caring for a foster child; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H.R. 10.

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

Clause 1 and Clause 17 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States grants the Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 3683.

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

Article I

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 213: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 267: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 592: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. HURD of Texas.

H.R. 721: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 885: Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 985: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TROTT, and Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1550: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 1603: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 1717: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 2121: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 2173: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 2434: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 2494: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 2519: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 2646: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 2660: Mr. BEYER and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2663: Mrs. COMSTOCK and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 2769: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 2847: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 2849: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2994: Mr. DEFAZIO and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 3119: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 3221: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 3573: Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 3587: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 3611: Mr. PITTS and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 3628: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 3641: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3658: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Con. Res. 65: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mrs. CAPPS.

H. Res. 354: Mr. ZELDIN.

H. Res. 428: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. LEE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. GRAYSON.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015 No. 145

Senate

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Ruler of all creation, each day seems to bring more bad news than good. We hear about floods, bombs, murders, disunity, pestilence, and anguish. In spite of bad news, we continue to look to You, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come.

Lord, today we pray for the many around our Nation and world who are suffering from the effects of poverty, experiencing incessant hunger. We pray also for those who don't have access to quality education and for the tens of thousands fleeing deplorable and dangerous conditions in their countries.

Sovereign God, intervene and help the hurting in our Nation and world by providing our lawmakers with the wisdom and courage to be instruments of Your glory.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, we live in an incredibly dangerous world. The number of threats facing our Nation is simply staggering. That is one reason both parties actually came together to pass the national defense authorization bill through both Chambers by very large bipartisan margins. In the Senate, it was 71 to 25; in the House, 269 to 151. A bipartisan committee then worked to merge both Chambers' bills into one.

Republicans on the committee supported that unified Defense bill. Democrats on the committee also supported that unified Defense bill. The House already passed the unified legislation, and we will vote on it here tomorrow.

Americans have every reason to expect that Democrats will vote again to support—not block—America's national defense authorization bill. And yet, at a time when the United States faces numerous conventional, cyber, and terror threats, the Obama administration is goading Democrats into opposing the very legislation that sets out defense policy and authorizes funds for our military.

Democrats just voted to pass America's national defense bill this summer. Now they might filibuster it? This is part of a pattern that should be worrying to all of us. Just consider what we have seen already. The Senate passed a bipartisan veterans funding bill out of the Committee on Appropriations. Democrats voted for and praised the bill at that time; then they filibustered it. The Senate passed a bipartisan defense funding bill out of the Committee on Appropriations. Democrats voted for and praised the bill at that time; then they filibustered it twice.

This really hasn't stopped, Madam President. These are serious times. It is time for Democrats to prove they can be serious as well.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JANICE SHELTON

Mr. REID. Madam President, at about a quarter to eleven this morning, one of my friends passed away. Her name was Janice Shelton. She was a fixture in the Senate. She worked in the Senate for more than three decades, but the reason I feel so bad this afternoon is that Janice worked for me. Janice Shelton worked for me for 25 years. She was such a good person. She ran my office, and that is an understatement.

Janice was born in Virginia, in Warrenton. She graduated from Mt. Vernon High School in Alexandria and attended Northern Virginia Community College. She was married to Robert Shelton for 61 years. They have two daughters, Robin LeCroy and Laurie Nelson. They have eight grandchildren in total, two of whom I know well. Shelton Nelson worked for me. Well, I shouldn't say he worked for me. I got to know him very well. I read the papers every Sunday to find out how his football team had done. He was a huge offensive lineman. He weighed more than 300 pounds, all solid muscle. His brother Chris, who is 6 foot 4, was a stunningly good baseball pitcher, also at the college level. Rebecca and Holly worked in the Senate as Senate pages. And they have four great-grandchildren.

Janice started her career working with the Department of the Army. She worked in the Carter White House in the Office of Domestic Policy. She worked in the Reagan White House. She then moved to the Senate in 1981, working as an executive assistant. She worked for Paula Hawkins of Florida for 6 years and worked for Senator MIKULSKI for 1 year and then worked for me for 25 years. She left maybe less than 3 years ago and moved to North Carolina to be near her two daughters, one of whom now lives in Atlanta.

Janice spent her professional career creating order where chaos could easily have been. In my office everyone knew

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

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Janice Shelton. She ran that place so well and was so polite, yet so firm, in what she would allow to happen and not happen. There was no bad language. She had a little cup, and if people used bad language, they had to put money in it. She was so gracious and so kind, and she had unbelievable energy. It didn't matter what the job was, big or small, Janice could handle that job. She was a stenographer, but she was a person who could handle the most difficult administrative situation, and she was a woman of tremendous faith.

Janice had a love affair with her husband Bobby for a long time. I remember Bobby, with that southern accent of his. When Bobby was still in business around here, he would bother his morning breakfast crowd by wearing T-shirts of mine. He ran with a kind of conservative crowd, and my T-shirt didn't fit in very well all the time. But she and Bobby were so loyal to me.

Janice was good to my family. She knew every one of my children and knew my grandchildren. She suffered with the bad times that we had. I remember I was heavily involved in the final stages of the Obama health care bill when she walked into my office and said: I have to talk to you. She told me my wife had been in a very bad automobile accident. She, of course, was available anytime she was needed to help Landra or me with things—those personal things you can't have just anyone help you with; it had to be somebody like Janice.

Janice's desk was right outside my office door. She was a fixture there. She was there all the time that I was. Whatever my hours were in the Senate, those were her hours. And I mean that without anything other than the truth. If I was there until 10 o'clock, she was there until 10 o'clock. Often, after I would go home at night, I would call back and say: Janice, why are you still there? And she would say: Well, I still have a few things to do.

I have missed Janice now for almost 3 years. I talked to her as often as I could. I am going to truly miss her now. She will leave a tremendous void in my heart. I am going to call my kids later today—I haven't done it yet because I haven't had time for anything—and tell them about Janice's passing.

I wish words could convey to everyone within the sound of my voice what a wonderful human being Janice Shelton was. I will miss her. The impact she has made in my life and my wife's life will be there forever.

Two of my staff came into my office separately and broke down in tears about Janice no longer being with us. She created such loyalty, such admiration for her hard work and professionalism. I love Janice Shelton and always will.

MASS SHOOTING AT UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

Mr. REID. Madam President, just a few days ago—last Thursday—our great Nation witnessed another tragedy. While preparing these remarks, we were trying to come up with what we should say, and ''tragedy'' doesn't quite convey how horrible that mass killing was in Oregon.

Once again, a young man was able to obtain an arsenal of guns and end the lives of innocent people. Nine men and women woke up Thursday morning, all to attend a community college, but they were assaulted and killed in a demented, sadistic killing ritual. Lucero Alcaraz, age 19; Treven Taylor Anspach, age 20; Rebecka Ann Carnes, age 18; Quinn Glen Cooper, age 18; Kim Saltmarsh Dietz, 59 years old; Lucas Eibel, 18 years old; Jason Dale Johnson, 34; Lawrence Levine, 67; Sarena Dawn Moore, 44—all victims of a deranged gunman's murderous attack.

Madam President, our hearts are broken for the families and loved ones of the victims and for this whole community of Roseburg, but a broken heart isn't enough, is it. This senseless act of gun violence is not an isolated tragedy. Communities all around our Nation are shattered daily by these cruel and undeserved acts of gun violence.

The reality of gun violence in the United States is not only shocking; it is pathetic. Every day, gun violence claims the lives of 30 Americans. Tomorrow at this time, 4:15—24 hours from now—about 30 more Americans will be killed by guns. And 11,000 Americans are murdered with guns each year. This year alone, we have had 200 mass shootings—200. Anywhere else in the world these alarming facts would prompt action. Sadly, here in the United States we have become so desensitized to the lives taken every day by guns that our response is to do nothing—to do nothing.

Each time gun violence claims a life in America, the Nation follows the same routine. Here is what it is. The same thing happens. We have shock and sorrow. Then we start asking questions. Who did that? Who was the killer? We usually have to wait a few hours to find out who it was. Why did they do this? Why did they carry out this horrible act? Then we wonder aloud, when the time allows it: What could we as a nation have done to prevent this terrible thing from happening? But we don't do anything. We don't act.

It is within our power to reduce gun violence in this Nation and prevent mass shootings—not all of them but some of them, a few of them. We know these tragic events almost always occur in instances where somebody is unstable or they are terribly violent, and they are able to get a gun easily and use it to carry out these terrible attacks. We know this, yet we fail to pass improved Federal laws placing distance between mentally ill, violent people and guns. Instead of taking action, lawmakers all around this country pander to the extreme rightwing gun lobby and leave Americans vulnerable to these attacks. This year alone there have been more than 200 mass shootings—this year. The United States is the global leader in mass shootings—this great Nation. Can't we raise standards in this country for gun purchases? The answer of course is yes. We can do it while not infringing on the rights to restrict access to firearms but to keep Americans safe. Let's not mince words about who would stop us from passing background checks: Republicans who wage a rightwing ideological crusade fashioned by the National Rifle Association and Gun Owners of America. These two organizations are in a scramble of who can raise the most money. That is what it is all about. If one of them does something, the other will do better than that. Each request comes with ''Can you send some money?'' This rightwing ideological crusade, fashioned by the NRA and Gun Owners of America, is to prevent background checks to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists, criminals, and the mentally ill.

The National Rifle Association is a far cry from the sportsmen's organization it once was. The NRA once called mandatory background checks ''reasonable.'' That is what they said. Now it uses its energies and its members' dues to fight against even the most sensible reforms. In opposition to this deadly agenda, Democrats have long sought to strengthen background checks. But instead of joining Democrats in finding ways to protect American lives, Republicans have pledged their loyalty to what was once a moderate sportsmen's organization.

Times have changed. Now the NRA and its leadership are committed to a radical agenda that allows criminals and mentally ill Americans to access guns and commit these terrible acts. Is this what the American people elected us to do? I think not. Is this the protection they want or deserve? I think not. Americans are smarter than that. They deserve better than that.

The majority of people who belong to the NRA believe there should be background checks to stop people who are mentally unstable and are criminals from buying guns, and 90 percent of gun owners believe there should be background checks, including 86 percent of Republicans. But even in the face of overwhelming public support, Republicans still refuse to join Democrats in taking steps to implement background checks that could save the lives of countless Americans.

We have witnessed the consequence of inaction too often. Why do I say that? This is over a period of many, many years—now decades: Fort Hood, 13 Americans killed; Tucson, 6 Americans killed; Carson City, 4 Americans killed; Newtown, 27 Americans killed, including 22 babies, little tiny children; Aurora, 12 Americans killed; the Navy Yard, here in DC, 12 Americans killed; Charleston, 9 Americans killed while worshipping; Moneta, VA, 2 journalists shot to death on live television; and now there is the massacre at Umpqua Community College, 9 dead.

These tragic events have shattered the lives of too many families. The shooter was armed with 6 firearms and loads of ammunition, and when they came to his home they found at least 14 guns—and another gun. I thought it was only 14, but, no, they found another one. So add them up—15 plus 6, or 21 guns—21 guns.

We do not yet know why this young man murdered these innocent people in cold blood. But what does it say about our country that it is willing to stand by, idle, while these tragedies happen, happen, happen?

Smarter gun laws in this country are long overdue. The lives of these men, women, babies, and children are at stake. How many more innocent lives must be taken before we are willing to act? How many more communities and families' lives will be shattered? How many more sacred places of worship will be violently attacked? How many more colleges or schools will be terrorized and forever traumatized by gun violence? How many more Americans will we mourn? How many more solemn statements, speeches of condemnation, and frank discussions must take place? What will it take before we stand up as a nation and say: Enough, not another innocent American will fall victim to this ideological crusade of having more guns and more guns and more guns.

If we don't take action, we are equally responsible for innocent deaths as are the sick individuals who plot and carry out these horrific massacres. I have started reaching out to Senators and talking about what can be done to advance the cause of background checks while Republicans are in charge for the next year or so. But one thing is clear. To pass background checks, we need Republicans to stop acting as puppets for the NRA.

Madam President, would the Presiding Officer announce what the schedule is for the rest of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, our Founders designed a constitutional government powerful enough to defend against all threats, foreign and domestic, yet safe enough itself not to threaten our liberty. The separation of powers is a primary feature of our Constitution. Our Founders knew that encroachment by the executive onto the legislature, or vice versa, isn't only a political dispute but ultimately a threat to the freedom of all Americans. Thus they provided both branches with checks and balances to prevent such encroachment.

Late last week, we learned shocking news. Armed agents of the executive violated the law to intimidate a Congressman from doing his job. This is exactly the kind of encroachment against which our Founders warned. The executive hasn't yet acted with anything like the gravity this matter deserves. Until it does, I intend to use the powers of my office to demand action and to protect our constitutional order.

Let me say more about the shocking news. In an inspector general report issued last week, we learned that dozens of Secret Service employees illegally accessed the personnel file of Representative JASON CHAFFETZ. More than a decade ago, Congressman CHAFFETZ applied to the Secret Service; he was not hired. Now he is the chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

In late March of this year, the committee held an important oversight hearing into a serious misconduct by Secret Service agents. Mere minutes into the hearing, an agent at the Secret Service's Washington office illegally searched the Service's database, which contains all manner of criminal, security, investigative, personnel, and other data. The agent discovered Congressman CHAFFETZ's old job application. This search was a blatant violation of the Privacy Act, about which the computer-based system explicitly warns on a prompt screen. The agent admitted conducting the search simply out of curiosity, presumably because Congressman CHAFFETZ was conducting an oversight hearing.

Far from an isolated incident, word quickly spread throughout the Secret Service, and 45 employees accessed Congressman CHAFFETZ's records over the next week on 60 different occasions. These employees were located around the world, from London to Sacramento, in multiple headquarter offices, even on Bill Clinton's protective detail. The inspector general could identify only four instances of potentially legitimate access. Moreover, the inspector general concludes that the information was shared with hundreds of people—each a violation of the Privacy Act.

Some employees realized their mistake and self-reported to their supervisor, according to the inspector general. While these employees indeed made a serious mistake, at least they owned up to it. Others remained defiant, saying they didn't read the warning banner or even claiming a right to satisfy personal curiosity because the personnel files are ''our database.''

Let me state for the record my admiration for the vast majority of Secret Service agents, officers, and other professionals. We saw their professionalism on display again last month during Pope Francis's visit and at the U.N. General Assembly. They are dedicated professionals who risk their lives to defend our Constitution and laws. Indeed, Secret Service whistleblowers aware of this situation helped to initiate the inspector general investigation. Like the soldiers with whom I served in the Army, the upstanding men and women of the Secret Service want to get rid of their bad apples more than anyone.

Unfortunately, the senior leaders at the Secret Service once again failed their people. The inspector general identified 18 supervisors who knew or should have known of the illegal searches and disclosures. With but one exception, the inspector general found no evidence that these senior managers reported the matter up the chain of command or took steps to stop or remedy it.

These leadership failures went all the way to the top. One example is Deputy Director Craig Magaw. When briefed by a subordinate, Mr. Magaw reportedly ''made a shooing hand motion and stated 'Yeah, yeah we know.' '' Despite the gravity of the allegations, Mr. Magaw apparently took no steps to learn more or stop the illegal activity, and he claims not to recall this exchange.

Another example is Chief of Staff Michael Biermann, whom the inspector general characterizes as the de facto gatekeeper for Director Joe Clancy and Deputy Director Magaw. Mr. Biermann admits to hearing rampant rumors about the Chaffetz matter within 24 hours of the hearing. Yet he also apparently didn't inquire any further to learn the truth or take action to stop illegal activity.

The most egregious example of leadership failure in the inspector general report is Assistant Director Ed Lowery, the head of training for the Secret Service. Mr. Lowery wrote in this email about Congressman CHAFFETZ, ''Some information that he might find embarrassing needs to get out. Just to be fair.''

Lo and behold, 2 days later, a news Web site ran an article—unsourced—about Congressman CHAFFETZ's decade-old job application to the Secret Service. I wonder who the source could have been. For that matter, I wonder if this kind of attitude from the head of training explains some of the Secret Service's recent struggles.

There is even more egregious behavior not in the inspector general report. Thanks to a Friday afternoon news dump, we now know that Director Joe Clancy himself both knew of the Chaffetz matter at the time and misrepresented the facts to the inspector

general. In the report, Director Clancy states he didn't learn about the matter until a week after the congressional hearing, on the eve of a Washington Post story about the matter. As we have seen, this would have made him a notable exception among the Secret Service's top leaders. But Director Clancy, confronted with this report, is now singing a different tune. He now admits that he heard of a ''speculative rumor'' the day after the hearing and a week before the Washington Post story. Yet Director Clancy says he considered the rumor ''not credible'' and ''not indicative'' of wrongful conduct. That admission alone is a damning and ironic confession of a gross leadership failure.

Let's put this in context. Director Clancy was specifically hired just months earlier to clean up the Secret Service's leadership culture after a string of embarrassing incidents. At the very congressional hearing that started all of this, Director Clancy testified that he was ''infuriated'' that he hadn't been made aware of the latest security lapse. He further testified that he was ''working furiously to try to break down these barriers where people feel they can't talk up the chain.''

Despite all that, despite all the problems he was specifically hired to fix, despite hearing rumors that obviously should have triggered immediate investigation, he did nothing for a full week to look into the matter and put a stop to it, which he only did once the story hit the Washington Post.

How could this happen? How could someone hired to change the culture of his agency be so indifferent to potential illegal activity and to such a constitutional affront to the legislature that he did nothing—absolutely nothing—until the press broke the story? To make matters worse, Director Clancy misrepresented all of it to the inspector general until the report was released last Wednesday. If anything remotely like this happened in the Army, commanders would have been relieved of command months ago. The Army holds its leaders responsible for everything their unit does and fails to do, and we should expect no less from the Secret Service leadership.

JASON CHAFFETZ and I served together in the House. He is a tough, smart guy, more than capable of standing up for himself, although I should say this is not a partisan matter. I would feel the same way and give the same speech if Secret Service employees violated the law to intimidate Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS, chairman CHAFFETZ's Democratic counterpart. Of course, for that matter, how do we know they didn't? But since I am neither in the House any longer nor on the committees that oversee the Secret Service or Homeland Security, why am I so outraged by the Secret Service or Homeland Security? Why am I so outraged by the Secret Service's misconduct in this matter?

First, if Secret Service personnel will violate the law to intimidate and retaliate against the chairman of their oversight committee, what might they do to a normal Arkansan, to the little guy who doesn't have Chairman CHAFFETZ's megaphone and position of influence? What might renegade bureaucrats in other agencies do?

Second, these abuses are far more than yet another example of government misconduct; they strike at the heart of our constitutional order. Although troubled by Secret Service lapses like the Colombian prostitute scandal, I haven't spoken out on these matters, believing my peers on the oversight committee could handle them, as they did. This case, though, goes far beyond simple misbehavior, even beyond violations of law. To reiterate, armed agents of a paramilitary law enforcement agency violated the law to intimidate the Congressman charged with oversight of that agency.

The gravity of this scandal hasn't thus far been met with appropriate action from the highest levels of the executive branch. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson stated last week that he is ''confident U.S. Secret Service Director Joe Clancy will take appropriate action to hold accountable those who violated any laws or policies of this Department.'' This response is woefully inadequate on multiple counts.

First, when an abuse of power strikes at the heart of our constitutional order, it warrants at a minimum the attention of a Senate-confirmed department Secretary.

Second, Secretary Johnson implies there may be some doubt about whether laws were broken. In fact, the inspector general identified no fewer than 56 instances of blatant illegal activity.

Third, Director Clancy cannot be trusted to handle this matter given what we know now, although, to give Secretary Johnson the benefit of the doubt on this count, he issued this statement before Director Clancy's Friday afternoon admission of misrepresenting the facts to the inspector general.

Responsibility for a constitutional confrontation such as this calls for a Presidential response. Yet President Obama has been silent. His spokesman last week acted as if an apology was enough and implied that it was really just a matter of procedures not being followed—as if there are appropriate procedures for the executive to violate the law to intimidate a Member of the legislature. He even suggested that the response thus far ''is a strong indication that there is effective leadership in place at the Secret Service.'' Effective at what, one must ask?

This indifferent response is far short of what this situation demands. First, Secretary Johnson must take appropriate disciplinary action against all Secret Service personnel involved, including Director Joe Clancy, Deputy Director Craig Magaw, Chief of Staff Michael Biermann, and Assistant Director Ed Lowery. I invite Secretary Johnson to brief not only me but the entire Congress. Once he makes his decision about appropriate action—for instance, firings, revocation of security clearances, removal from supervisory positions or suspension—he can explain his own reasoning. Congress can then decide whether this discipline is adequate. Most immediately, if it turns out that Director Clancy knowingly misled the inspector general, he should resign or be fired. He was hired to clean up wrongdoing at the Secret Service, not perpetrate it and cover it up.

Second, and independent of workplace discipline, the Attorney General must start a criminal investigation of the Secret Service personnel who unlawfully accessed Congressman CHAFFETZ's personnel file and who disseminated its contents. Criminal violations of the Privacy Act and other statutes must be punished.

The inspector general lacks criminal authority, and it is unclear from his report if he was able to take certain key steps, such as obtaining personal emails and phone records. Further, Secret Service officials sat in many of the interviews the inspector general conducted, raising genuine questions about improper influence in the process. What is needed is a vigorous and disinterested criminal investigation by a single Federal prosecutor at the Justice Department.

Senators often make requests for action from the executive branch, which are almost as often ignored. Let me say for the record that these aren't requests; these are demands. They are quite modest demands, given these most serious constitutional stakes. Take and explain appropriate disciplinary action and start a criminal investigation.

Until then, I will be compelled to act by exercising our constitutional authority over executive branch nominations. Every officer of the United States, from the President to the newest clerk, must understand that Congress will fend off this kind of executive encroachment and there will be severe consequences for attempting to intimidate the people's elected representatives or obstructing us from doing our jobs.

I am not yet at the point of calling for a total blockade on all executive branch nominations, although I may reach that point. Right before this speech, though, I did register an objection to three prominent political nominations and there will be more to follow if the executive branch doesn't act swiftly. None of these are nominees to the Department of Homeland Security, partly because the Department has no pending nominees but mostly because this is a constitutional question, not a parochial matter about a single department.

I take this step reluctantly and with no particular quarrel with these three nominations or future ones to which I might be compelled to object. I do not

wish to prolong this dispute, only to defend our constitutional order. When President Obama and Secretary Johnson take appropriate action, I will likewise take action and release these and future objections. I hope our two branches can resolve this confrontation quickly and in keeping with our constitutional traditions. The American people deserve no less.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

STRENGTHENING MISSING PERSONS DATABASES

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I am here on the floor this afternoon to talk about a young man named Billy Smolinski and a law that Senator HOEVEN and I are introducing on behalf of him, his family, and, quite literally, the millions of other families throughout the United States who have had to deal with the trauma, angst, and grief of a loved one gone missing.

I will begin by telling everyone a little bit about Billy Smolinski. Billy's parents don't think that he is alive any longer, but they aren't sure because on August 24, 2004, at the age of 31 Billy went missing.

Billy was a vibrant young man who lived in Waterbury, CT, along with his treasured dog. When he didn't respond to calls and communications from his family over the course of a number of days, his parents—and I will speak about his mother in particular, Jan Smolinski, who has been the driving force behind Billy's Law—contacted the Waterbury Police Department. The Waterbury Police Department is a great police department, and I have a lot of friends there, but even they will admit they really screwed up this case from the beginning. They told his parents that he probably didn't go missing, that he was just running away from his personal problems. One officer stated that Billy was probably ''drinking a beer somewhere in Europe.''

The Smolinskis pressed their case over and over, day after day, and after 2 weeks of asking for help from the police department, the Smolinskis were finally able get an investigation started, but it went slowly. DNA samples were submitted and lost. It took 4 years before the police department ever actually searched his car to see if there was any information about what happened to Billy.

Billy's case made a lot of news in Connecticut and Waterbury, and over the course of the last few years, it has taken twists and turns, but he has never been found. His parents suspect he has been killed, but law enforcement hasn't made progress on that potential case either.

Over the course of the last 11 years, Billy's parents encountered obstacle after obstacle when they tried to be helpful and participate in the investigation and search for Billy Smolinski. They came to me at that time, as their Member of Congress representing Waterbury, CT, to discuss ways in which we here in Washington could take down some of the barriers they faced. What they reluctantly found, as they became a part of this big national network of families who have had loved ones go missing, was that their story was not unique.

Their story of finding obstacles at the local police department and nationally was not unique and unfortunately all too common, as they tried to figure out what happened to Billy. What they were connected into was a national network of tens of thousands of individuals who were searching for a missing loved one—a missing father, mother, brother or sister.

Nationwide there are as many as 90,000 active missing persons cases at any given time, and there are some really simple things we can do to help families who are trying to find their missing loved one. Much of the attention, rightly, goes to missing children.

Missing children have an entire set of laws built up around them, and for good reason, our priority lies in finding them. Law enforcement, within a matter of hours, has to post information about missing children onto national databases. There are specific campaigns waged on billboards and media outlets to immediately find missing children. But our focus on finding missing children shouldn't absolve us from the responsibility to help families such as the Smolinskis to find missing adults as well.

Senator HOEVEN and I have gotten together on a fairly simple piece of legislation, and I wish to talk about it today. A companion piece of legislation is being introduced in the House by my colleague in Connecticut, Representative ELIZABETH ESTY, and Congressman TED POE of Texas.

I will explain what this piece of legislation does. At its foundation, it strengthens the database system that families access to try to find their missing loved one. Currently, there are two databases. One is a law enforcement database, which is called NCIC, and the other one is a public-facing database called NamUs. These two databases very often aren't talking to each other, and therein lies the primary problem this bill tries to solve.

Law enforcement uploads all sorts of information onto NCIC, but the net data often doesn't get transferred over to the database that the families can access, which is called the NamUs database.

Why is that important?

It is important because families are the supersleuths in cases of missing persons. Families are the ones who know all of the detailed and intricate information about the circumstances of a disappearance and the identification of their loved one.

I don't mean to get too gruesome, but think about this statistic. There are 40,000 sets of unidentified remains in the country today. Think about that. There are 40,000 sets of unidentified remains in the country, but because not all of that information—the detailed descriptions of those remains—is uploaded onto a database that the public can see, Billy's body may be out there somewhere, but his parents can't find him because they don't have access to the information. Unfortunately, that is the reality and the problem that we are trying to solve. If you get more information that law enforcement has onto a public database, the supersleuths—the parents, brothers, and sisters—will have more access to it. What about information that law enforcement has about an individual who has gone missing—a report of someone who has gone missing in California and whose information is not uploaded onto a database that a family who is looking for that information in New York may want?

This legislation authorizes NamUs permanently in law and then requires that the two databases be connected. Law enforcement, rightly, has a concern that any information that is sensitive to an open case should remain private, and this legislation allows for the FBI to determine what information has to remain private as part of NCIC and what information goes onto the public database. But connecting those databases will give more information to families such as the Smolinskis to try and crack these 90,000 cases that are out there today.

The legislation also opens up a relatively modest but important training program for police, coroners, and medical examiners to make sure they are using these databases and putting this information online. The databases don't work if the information is not getting uploaded. If the data from the coroner's office isn't up on the database, there is no way a family from across the country can access it to try to find the final resting place of their loved ones. So this legislation authorizes a small new program that would provide training to those medical examiners, coroners, and police departments to try to make sure that information is getting up on the law enforcement database, the NCIC. Remember, they put up all the information about missing kids right away, but as we heard in the case of Billy Smolinski, they often don't put that information up about missing adults.

Some of these police departments are tiny. They don't have the resources to train their personnel on how to do that, and this program would allow them to get that. In the end, we can crack a lot of these cases—thousands of these cases—if we are able to simply give tools to these families so they could participate in the search and tools to law enforcement so they can talk with each other.

The Smolinskis have not given up. Jan has come down to Congress to testify on behalf of Billy's Law. She has changed the practices of the Waterbury Police Department and has even gotten laws passed in Hartford to make sure

that other police departments don't make the same mistakes.

She wants to make sure those mistakes aren't repeated across the country. She thinks about what would have happened if that information about Billy had been uploaded onto NCIC immediately, the day she reported it. Maybe Billy was taken to some other State. Maybe the lack of that information being transmitted that day meant that a break in the case didn't happen in those early days. She always thinks about what would have happened if she had access to more information—if the database that she looks at virtually every day, the NamUs database, had more information about missing persons and unidentified remains. She thinks about her ability to solve this case and how it could have helped the police solve this case if those databases were better or more up to date.

We hope we are eventually going to solve the case of Billy Smolinski's disappearance in Connecticut, but we also hope that we can pass legislation here in both Houses—bipartisan, noncontroversial, measured, commonsense—that will assure that there are less Jan Smolinskis in the world going forward.

We passed this in the House, when I was there, with a broad, big bipartisan vote. This is the first time we introduced it on a bipartisan basis here in the Senate, and I am hopeful—speaking on behalf of not just the Smolinski family, but the 90,000 other families who are grieving for a missing person—we can get this done and get it done shortly so we can get families and law enforcement the tools they need to crack more of these cases.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, 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 DALE A. DROZD TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dale A. Drozd, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, as the distinguished chair pointed out, we are going to vote on the nomination of Judge Dale Drozd to be a Federal District Judge for the Eastern District of California. That is the good news.

Unfortunately, the bad news is that so far this year, we have only confirmed six judges since the Republicans took back the majority in January. That is not even a judge per month. Some would claim this is reasonable, but I don't believe it is.

President Bush, in the last 2 years of his term, had a Republican majority for up to that point, but during the last years of his term he had a Democratic majority. I was chairman of the Judiciary Committee at that time. I did not want to do what the Republicans had done to President Clinton in blocking 75 of his judges. I said we have to go with the regular order, because if we didn't go with the regular order, we were going to be politicizing the judiciary.

So we had a Democratic majority, a Republican President, and by this time we had confirmed 33 judges hoping it would set a precedent and stop what was happening when the Republicans blocked 75 of President Clinton's judges. I wanted to set a different pattern. I wanted to take at least judicial confirmations out of politics.

Well, it went back to the same old, same old, doing just exactly what they did to President Clinton. They have allowed only six judges to be confirmed so far this year under the Obama administration, as opposed to 33 whom we had confirmed during the Bush administration. In fact, at this rate, by the end of the year, the Senate will have confirmed the fewest number of judges at any time any one of us have been in this body—the fewest number of judges in more than half a century—even though we have a much larger population, we have a lot more vacancies, and we have a number of judicial emergencies.

This has had a devastating effect on Americans across the country. I hear all the time from individuals and from small businesses about how they go into our Federal courts seeking justice; they want the Federal courts to hear these claims and these courts are saying: We can't. We have so many vacancies in the judiciary, it will be years before we can hear your case.

Last week, I spoke about the Associated Press report on Latino migrant farmworkers who have waited more than three years just to learn whether they can proceed with their claim for stolen wages. The lengthy wait time is due to the fact that there are too many cases and not enough judges in that California Federal court. An empty judgeship in that court has remained unfilled for almost three years. The long overdue vote today to confirm Judge Drozd will finally fill that vacancy.

The Wall Street Journal highlighted a case in the same California Federal court brought by a former Navy technician who alleged that he had been discriminated against by his employer. That lawsuit has been pending for eight years. The technician has not been able to find steady work since filing his suit and does not know how he will manage financially as he waits for a day in court that seems never to come.

One of the Federal judges in that court, Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill, gave the Wall Street Journal this devastating assessment: ''Over the years I've received several letters from people indicating, 'Even if I win this case now, my business has failed because of the delay. How is this justice?' And the simple answer, which I cannot give them, is this: It is not justice. We know it.''

Today, Nancy Kaufman, the CEO of the National Council of Jewish Women, authored an op-ed which said: ''what matters to the average person or business with a case in the federal courts is whether the lower courts are, in fact, able to dispense justice in a timely manner with so many empty seats on the bench. And that is where the majority in the Senate has strangled the process by running up the number of judicial vacancies.''

I ask unanimous consent that Ms. Kaufman's op-ed be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Huffington Post, Oct. 5, 2015]

THE DISGRACEFUL STATE OF JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

(By Nancy K. Kaufman, CEO, National Council of Jewish Women)

The first Monday in October marks the beginning of a new term for the U.S. Supreme Court and a good time to reflect on the state of the nation's judicial branch of government. This year the capacity of the federal court system to keep up with its caseload is seriously in question. Judicial vacancies are rising and the Senate is likely to confirm the smallest number of nominees since 1953. The confirmation of federal judges by the Senate has all but come to a halt. Furthermore, the pattern of behavior by senators to slow the process appears quite deliberate. Critics have charged that the delays in the process are intended to deny President Obama the ability to appoint judges in the last two years of his term, unlike the pace of confirmations experienced by other presidents at this point in their tenure.

How has this happened? Judicial nominations proceed through the Senate in a sort of formal dance, in which individual senators have an unusual role. By tradition the president consults senators in whose states the judicial vacancies occur prior to nominating anyone. Then the nominees go before the Senate Judiciary Committee for hearings and a vote. But individual senators can delay a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing indefinitely without stating why. Some have done so even when they agreed to the nomination in the first place. A nomination can be held hostage due to another matter altogether or another piece of legislation. After

the hearing and the committee vote, the Senate majority leader is then supposed to schedule a floor vote, and that too can be delayed almost indefinitely.

In fact, during the current two-year session of Congress which began in January, only five judges were confirmed by the Senate in the first eight months—the slowest pace since 1953. A sixth judge was confirmed in September, the first nominee in 2015 from a state with a Democratic senator—Missouri's Claire McCaskill. These weren't controversial nominees. All six were voted out of committee with bipartisan support and ultimately confirmed unanimously on the Senate floor, and yet were forced to wait an average of 80 days for a floor vote.

Such a slow confirmation rate is without precedent. Most recently, when Republican president George W. Bush had two years left, the Democratic Senate confirmed 68 judges. During the last two years of Democratic president Bill Clinton's term in office, the Republican Senate confirmed 73 judges. In both cases, the nominees confirmed in the last two years accounted for about one-fifth of the total for each president. At the current snail's pace, less than one in 20 of Obama's confirmations will come during his final two years.

What's at stake? A situation where ''justice delayed is justice denied.'' While the Supreme Court is rightly regarded as the pinnacle of the US legal system, it is nonetheless a very small part of it. Its nine justices often set landmark precedents with their decisions, or at least clarify existing law, but typically the court now handles only 80 cases or less per term. In contrast, a total of 376,536 civil and criminal cases were filed in US district courts in 2014. Of those, the majority—nearly 300,000—were civil cases. That year, about 55,000 cases were appealed from the district courts to the 11 US Courts of Appeals. During the last Supreme Court term, 7,376 cases were appealed to the Supreme Court. (It is important to remember that cases generally don't reach the appeals stage in the same year they were originally filed.) In other words, on average about one-tenth of one percent of appeals cases make it all the way to the top of the judicial branch—making the lower federal courts critical decision-makers.

So what matters to the average person or business with a case in the federal courts is whether the lower courts are, in fact, able to dispense justice in a timely manner with so many empty seats on the bench. And that is where the majority in the Senate has strangled the process by running up the number of judicial vacancies. Since January 1, that number has increased by 56 percent, from 43 to 67.

When the courts lack enough judges, a judicial emergency is declared by the Judicial Conference of the United States, the national policy-making body for the federal courts created by federal law. A judicial emergency is a situation defined by strict criteria—it is not just an off-the-cuff opinion. Since January 1, the number of such declared emergencies has increased by 158 percent, from 12 to 31, affecting districts with millions of people. Two judicial nominees pending for over six months have not yet had a confirmation hearing—although if confirmed, both would end a judicial emergency.

As a country that presents itself as a leader among nations when it comes to rule of law, the corruption of the process of selecting judges in a partisan manner ought to be an international embarrassment. And the only way that embarrassment will motivate change is if American voters organize to call on their senators to end the charade of pretense that surrounds confirming judges today—the pretense that in effect says, ''Nothing to worry about, just move along.'' What needs to move along is the Senate confirmation process with a much greater degree of transparency, or the damage to our system of justice and, more importantly, to those individuals depending on it, will only intensify.

Mr. LEAHY. This is not just occurring in one or two courts across the country. Judicial vacancies have dramatically risen in courts throughout the country because of Senate Republicans' virtual shut down of the confirmation process. Mr. President, in fact, because of the unprecedented nature of Republican obstruction, vacancies have increased by more than 50 percent, from 43 to 68. Additionally, the number of Federal court vacancies deemed to be ''judicial emergencies'' by the non-partisan Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has increased by 158 percent since the beginning of the year. There are now 31 judicial emergency vacancies that are affecting communities across the country.

The women and men who have been nominated are all highly qualified, outstanding public servants. Many of them have the support of both Republican and Democratic Senators in their States. In fact, those pending on the floor were all voted out of the Judiciary Committee in voice votes. Every single Republican and every single Democrat was supported. Those home State Republican Senators who have issued press releases and have publicly supported their judicial nominees should take the next step and ask their leader to schedule up-or-down votes.

Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo was nominated last year to fill an emergency vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Pennsylvania. If confirmed, Judge Restrepo will be the first Hispanic judge from Pennsylvania to ever serve on the appellate court and only the second Hispanic judge to serve on the Third Circuit. In fact, the Senate unanimously confirmed him 2 years ago to serve as a district court judge, but Judge Restrepo, who is highly qualified, is being blocked by the Republican majority from being confirmed.

He has bipartisan support from both Pennsylvania Senators. He was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by voice vote. He has the strong endorsement of the nonpartisan Hispanic Bar Association. In fact, at his confirmation hearing Senator TOOMEY stated: ''There is no question [Judge Restrepo] is a very well qualified candidate to serve on the Third Circuit.'' Senator TOOMEY described Judge Restrepo's life story as ''an American Dream'' and recounted how Judge Restrepo came to the United States from Columbia and rose to the top of his profession by ''virtue of his hard work, his intellect, his integrity.''

So given these remarkable credentials, his wealth of experience and strong bipartisan support, the Senate should have confirmed him months ago. Instead, for 10 months, since Judge Restrepo's nomination back in November, 2014, he has been denied a vote of confirmation. Every single Senate Democrat has said they will vote for him, but he is being denied a confirmation vote by Senate Republican leadership. No one doubts he will be confirmed once the majority leader decides to schedule this vote. If he would take the time to schedule the vote, he could be voice-voted 5 minutes later.

I have heard Senator TOOMEY indicate his strong support and that he would like to see Judge Restrepo receive a vote, but I have yet to see him ask for a firm commitment on a vote. I have a feeling that people in Pennsylvania are wondering when this longstanding and emergency vacancy of the appeals court will be filled, when this body will stop turning its back on Pennsylvania, when the Republican leadership will allow Pennsylvania to have their voice on the circuit court.

Besides Judges Drozd and Restrepo, there are 14 other highly qualified judicial nominees with bipartisan support pending on the Executive Calendar. We should be voting on all of them today. Instead, we will only vote on Judge Drozd.

Judge Dale Drozd is nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. Since 1997, he has served as a Magistrate Judge in that same court, and has been serving as the Chief Magistrate since 2011. Over his 18-year career as a Magistrate Judge, he has presided over 1,100 cases. Prior to that, Judge Drozd was in private practice at two different law firms for approximately 14 years. While in private practice, Judge Drozd earned an ''AV Preeminent'' rating from Martindale-Hubbell from 1990 to 1997, and was also listed in The Best Lawyers in America publication from 1995 to 1997.

He was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by voice vote and has the support of his two home State Senators, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Judge Drozd ''well qualified'' to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, its highest rating. I will vote to confirm Judge Drozd.

After we confirm Judge Drozd today, I would urge the Senate Republican leadership to schedule votes for the remaining 15 consensus judicial nominees on the Executive Calendar without further delay. But the Republican leadership continues with this obstruction. If home State Senators cannot persuade the leader to schedule a vote for their nominee soon, it is unlikely that even the highly qualified nominees who have Republican support are going to be confirmed by the end of the year.

This would certainly be the case with Judge Restrepo of Pennsylvania, who was first nominated back in November 2014, nearly a year ago. This would also be the case with two Tennessee district court nominees, one of whom was also first nominated in November 2014, and

another who was first nominated in February 2015. These are nominees from states with Republican home state Senators, and who would fill vacancies where they are very much needed.

Let's stop this obstruction. Let's follow what I did with President Bush, stop the needless delays, schedule Judge Restrepo's confirmation vote this week and the other 14 pending nominees without further delay. If you did that, you would be up to two-thirds of what we did for President Bush at this time in 2007.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we are having a lot of trouble moving judges, but today we are moving a judge, Judge Dale Drozd for the Eastern District Court of California.

It has taken a year since his nomination. It will be a year in November to get to this point. The Eastern District Court of California is in a state of judicial emergency, so I am so glad we are going to add this good man to the court. Cases are piling up because we don't have enough judges to review them, so Judge Drozd's leadership is desperately needed.

This position on the Eastern bench, again, has been vacant since October of 2012, and Judge Drozd is an excellent candidate to fill it. He received his bachelor's degree in 1977 from California State University at San Diego and his law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif.

He began his legal career as a law clerk for a district judge in the same judicial district where he now serves. Following his clerkship, he worked in private practice in Sacramento and San Francisco for 15 years.

In 1997, he was appointed to serve as a magistrate judge in the Eastern District of California. Four years later he became the chief magistrate judge.

Judge Drozd's 18 years on the bench serving the people of the Eastern District and his previous years in private practice make him an excellent candidate to fill this vacancy. He also received a unanimous ''well qualified'' rating from the American Bar Association.

He is a noncontroversial nominee who has bipartisan support, including praise from two judges in the Eastern District who were both appointed by President George W. Bush. Judge Lawrence O'Neill wrote to me and said:

> At this point of desperation in the Eastern District of California, every day of delay makes an enormous difference. . . . Needing help is a severe understatement.

This is what a judge who was appointed by George W. Bush said.

> Any person in a position of authority relating to the confirmation of this nominee should focus on his bipartisan support.

I think that is important. This nominee has broad support from both political parties. Chief Judge Morrison C. England said Judge Drozd ''has all the attributes needed to be an outstanding addition to the district court bench in Fresno.'' He continues: ''I know he has bipartisan support and I certainly support and encourage his confirmation at the earliest possible time.''

I am glad we are voting to confirm Judge Drozd today. The people of the Eastern District of California need his leadership, and the overworked judges of the Eastern District need his help. I hope maybe we can start to move these nominees forward.

MASS SHOOTING IN OREGON AND GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. President, if I might speak on another topic at this time.

I just wanted to send my condolences to those who were impacted by the tragic mass shooting in Oregon. As many have said, as we pray for those who are fighting to survive and for the families who are grieving, we have to do more than pray. We have to stop this.

I know we can't stop every single tragedy from happening, but I have to say, if you look at my home State, we have passed some very commonsense laws. We don't have a gun show loophole. That is important. If it is important to get a background check from a federally licensed dealer, it is important to get a background check at a gun show. It is important to get a Federal background check online.

We have to make it harder for people who want to get guns for nefarious reasons—not to protect their families but sometimes to harm their families, harm their communities.

I want to say that after Senator FEINSTEIN and I went through one of these horrible experiences with some of our communities, we introduced a bill which would give parents and families of mentally disturbed young people a chance to go to court and intervene so that individual would not have this weaponry, because we knew in the last incident in California where a gunman came down and shot up people sitting in a cafe, that the mother was desperate to try and warn law enforcement that this was going to happen and to intervene, but there was no pathway for her to go.

This bill that we call the Gun Violence Intervention Act is very simple. It says if a family member knows and believes someone in their family is mentally unstable, is buying a gun, and may well use it, give that family member a pathway forward to intervene in the situation.

I don't know who could be against this because a judge will be objective. If somebody is doing it or if a mom is doing it just out of whole cloth and there is no reason, the judge will not allow it.

I am proud to say that California has passed a nearly identical bill and it will go into effect in 2016. Then, in California, if you see someone in your family who you know is acting strange, who you know is making threats, who you know is buying weapons, you have the ability to intervene and take your story to a judge and prevent these kinds of tragedies. That is just one example of some of the commonsense measures we should be taking up.

My heart goes out to the families, but I have to say I agree with the critics who say don't just come to the Senate floor and say your heart goes out to the families. That is not enough. So I am calling on this Senate to do something.

Wednesday we are going to have a press conference that Senator BLUMENTHAL has organized to talk about a very important but small loophole-closing he is recommending.

At this time I yield the floor, and the remaining time I would give to Senator NELSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I am certainly going to help Senator BOXER. On the question about guns, I am an old country boy. I grew up on a ranch and grew up with guns, but guns should be for hunting, not for killing. One of the most commonsense measures is a measure that you ought to have background checks, such as in gun shows, where guns are sold to get around the background check law.

TRANSPACIFIC TRADE AGREEMENT AND TOBACCO WARNING LABELS

Mr. President, this Senator came to the floor on a happier note, to congratulate our Ambassador, the U.S. Trade Representative, for successfully completing the negotiations with 11 other nations in the Pacific Rim on this transpacific agreement.

One of the items in there I had dug my heels in because we heard in Australia they had a law that required tobacco companies selling cigarettes to put a warning label on the cigarette package, just like we have to do in America—a warning about the hazardous effects of smoking.

Lo and behold, it is now in a tribunal called the Investor-State Dispute Settlement, which had basically governed trade agreements between countries, and they were throwing out Australia's law that said you had to have a warning on a cigarette package.

So having been involved from the beginning in Florida with the return of money from the tobacco companies to the government of Florida for all of the medical expenses Florida had borne under Medicaid, having removed tobacco stocks, as one of the three trustees of what governed the Florida pension plan, and removed tobacco stocks from the Florida pension fund, I am here to say hallelujah.

The fact is that our Pacific trade agreement is going to honor the laws of

countries that want to cut down on tobacco use. As they referred to it in the trade agreement, it will exempt from the investor-state dispute settlement mechanism anything in a country with regard to tobacco control. This is a win for the health care advocates who are trying to keep our people informed about the hazards, what smoking tobacco will do to their health.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Dale A. Drozd, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California?

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 274 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Bennet	Grassley	Nelson
Blumenthal	Hatch	Paul
Booker	Heinrich	Perdue
Boxer	Heitkamp	Peters
Brown	Heller	Portman
Cantwell	Hirono	Reed
Capito	Isakson	Reid
Cardin	Johnson	Sanders
Casey	Kaine	Schatz
Coats	King	Schumer
Collins	Kirk	Shaheen
Coons	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Corker	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Daines	Manchin	Tillis
Donnelly	Markey	Udall
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Ernst	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Flake	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—21

Barrasso	Cotton	Inhofe
Blunt	Crapo	Lankford
Boozman	Fischer	McConnell
Cassidy	Gardner	Moran
Cochran	Hoeven	Risch
Roberts	Sessions	Sullivan
Sasse	Shelby	Wicker

NOT VOTING—10

Burr	McCain	Toomey
Carper	Rounds	Vitter
Cruz	Rubio	
Enzi	Scott	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from South Carolina.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

DISASTER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I just returned from South Carolina. I am sure many Members of the body have been watching this drama unfold on television. I have never seen anything like it. I was in the Charleston area over the weekend. There was 18 inches in about 24 hours, and Columbia, SC, is really under siege. It is a thousand-year historic rain. I am not a meteorologist, but it seems as if everything bad that could happen did happen to send the water and the rain to South Carolina. All 46 counties have received Federal emergency declaration. There has been a verbal request for a major disaster declaration for 11 counties; 1,300 National Guard deployed and 7,000 more on standby; the entire State trooper force is on the road; 1,250 South Carolina DOT maintenance employees working; 550 road closures; 150 bridge closures; 26,000 and climbing without power; 40,000 and climbing without water; there have been 9 deaths.

The economic damage—we don't know yet. There will be an insurance component, and there will be a disaster relief component. As we get through this and look at the damages—that comes later—we are not going to ask the Federal Government to do anything beyond the responsibility of the government. We will not turn this into a pile-on party.

The bottom line is I really appreciate my colleagues coming up and offering their assistance and their prayers to the people of South Carolina. Our Governor and the entire infrastructure of the emergency management system in South Carolina have done a very good job.

More is coming. The rain is about to depart the area, but we will have runoff from upstate of South Carolina that will flow down to the coast and run right through the communities that have been hit the hardest. So there is a second wave of water coming.

My sister lives in the Columbia area, and I can say there are very few families in South Carolina not affected by this. Manning, SC, is virtually underwater. "We are thinking about the people of South Carolina" is what I have heard from all of my colleagues. Senator SCHUMER called. The Vice President called. I appreciate all of your concern and prayers. We will hopefully get this behind us soon in terms of the rainfall and start building up some levees and dams that are just about to break. I worry about the bridges and the damage to our bridges. I don't think we really appreciate how extensive it is.

This is sort of the worst of nature coming our way, but I think we met it with the best of human nature. From what I can tell, people have been working together trying to slug through this. And I will just echo what the Governor said: Stay in your homes. Get off the roads. It is so dangerous down there. Anybody who has to be rescued because they are out looking around and taking photos is draining resources from the people who are under siege.

So on behalf of TIM SCOTT and myself, we are going to do whatever we can, with our House delegation, to make sure our State is taken care of in an appropriate fashion. Hopefully by the end of this week we will begin to survey the damage, but unfortunately there is more coming as the runoff from upstate makes its way to the coast. This was literally a perfect storm of things coming together to take water from the hurricane and create a river of rain. I have never seen anything like it, and I have lived in the State all my life.

To the people without power, whose houses are underwater, whose cars have been devastated, those who have lost loved ones, we are definitely thinking about you. We are pulling together in our State.

Mr. President, 2015 has been a miserable year for the State of South Carolina. Some of the worst things have happened, and we are still hanging in there. Everybody is clinging to each other in a very heartwarming way. And I am sure there will be exceptions to that rule—curfews are in place—but the vast majority of South Carolinians are rising to the occasion.

I was talking to the Governor last night. We can't wait to get this year behind us. And I cannot tell you, from the Charleston shooting to this, how tough it has been for our State. But when it is all said and done, we are going to be together and come out stronger.

To the families who are thinking the world has come to an end, God willing, it will get better. The water will pass, we will start surveying the damage, and we will help those who need help.

We are not going to ask for a penny more than we need. This is not about fixing problems unrelated to this event; this is about appropriately dealing with this event and nothing more.

I thank the President and the Members of this body who have offered their prayers and wishes for the people of South Carolina.

To the people of my State, to the first responders, to all who have been involved trying to take care of your fellow citizens, God bless you. To our Governor and her team, I know you are working so hard.

I would end this with a request for prayers. Any money that people can send will be much appreciated because there are people who have lost everything they have worked for all their lives. It is days like this that make you appreciate one another.

There is a role for the government to play here, but at the end of the day, it is going to be people helping people, with the government providing some resources, but we will have to help each other. There is no substitute for neighbor taking care of neighbor here.

I appreciate the floor time. I will keep the body informed as this disaster unfolds.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator hold his suggestion?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND DRUG PRICING

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, we have seen this movie before. It was 4 years ago that a drug company in St. Louis raised the price dramatically on a drug that was administered to pregnant women, a shot they took once a week for 20 weeks that significantly reduced the incidents of low birth weight babies. Now we see a headline on the front page of the New York Times today which reads ''A Drug Company's Price Tactics Pinch Insurers and Consumers.'' Two weeks ago another New York Times headline read ''Drug Goes From $13.50 a Tablet to $750, Overnight.'' In April the Wall Street Journal ran an article titled ''Pharmaceutical Companies Buy Rivals' Drugs, Then Jack Up the Prices.'' The reporters who did the investigating in these articles all found the same thing: Pharmaceutical companies buy up the rights of older existing drugs where all the costs from research have been recouped and raise prices dramatically overnight.

In its most recent article, the Times investigated Valeant Pharmaceuticals, a company that recently raised the cost of the lifesaving drug Cuprimine more than fivefold. The Times interviewed Mr. Bruce Mannes, a 68-year-old retired carpenter in Michigan who has relied on Cuprimine for 55 years to treat his Wilson's disease. In May Mr. Mannes was paying $366 a month for Cuprimine. Today he is forced to pay $1,800 a month just to stay alive. It is the same drug and the same dosage. It was $366 a month not too long ago. Today it is $1,800 a month just to stay alive.

It is not just Mr. Mannes who is left on the hook to pay for his medicine, which has more than quadrupled in cost. The taxpayer-funded Medicare Program will now be spending $35,000 a month to cover its portion of his pills because current law prohibits Medicare—because of the power of the drug companies in this institution—from negotiating more favorable drug prices.

Cuprimine is not a cure for Wilson's disease. Mr. Mannes must take this drug for the rest of his life. It doesn't cure him, but it keeps him alive.

Valeant did nothing to improve this drug. They don't claim that. It has been around for decades. They have done nothing to invest in a cure. Instead, the company bought the rights to an existing medicine and raised its price.

Remember, I said that in May Mr. Mannes was paying $366 a month. Today he is paying $1,800 a month.

This story, unfortunately, is outrageous, and it is not an isolated story. The Times reports that this year alone Valeant has raised the price of its drugs by an average of 66 percent. When Valeant acquired Salix Pharmaceuticals earlier this year, it raised the price of its diabetic drug Glumetza by 800 percent. These are drugs that have been out there. They don't need to recoup their costs of research and development. These are drugs that have been used for many years at a significantly lower price. They buy these companies—these drugs and jack up the price. After Valeant acquired the drug Isuprel, which treats slow or irregular heart rate, it raised the price by more than $30,000.

Valeant's investors and its billionaire CEO are, of course, getting rich but always on the backs of America's seniors and American taxpayers, who pay the price. Seniors on Medicare face skyrocketing bills for lifesaving drugs they cannot afford. Insurance companies sometimes stop covering drugs altogether.

Janis, from Lower Salem in Washington County, OH, wrote to me about the drug Glumetza. She wrote:

> My husband has gotten the drug Glumetza for $10 each refill of 180 pills. When he re-ordered this prescription this morning the pharmacy called him to say that Glumetza now costs $3,000 for a 15-day supply. His insurance has a limit of $3,000.
>
> The pharmaceutical companies are beginning to look like the drug cartels of Mexico.
>
> The insurance companies are being forced to cut benefits or increase their cost to consumers who have worked hard all their lives and earned their health care benefits. He and I cannot continue to afford to pay these out of pocket expenses on a fixed income.

We know that Janis in Washington County, OH, isn't alone. We also know that all Americans face higher health care premiums when insurance companies and hospitals are forced to absorb the cost of this price-gouging.

Jeffrey Rosner of the Cleveland Clinic told the Times that the nine drugs with the worst price increases cost that hospital alone an additional $11 million a year and that Valeant's products made up 80 percent of that. Yet their billionaire CEO is doing very well.

Valeant is not the only company that profits from its business of buying up old drugs and jacking up the price. We remember the coverage last month about Turing Pharmaceuticals, which raised the price of a drug called Daraprim, which is used to treat a life-threatening parasitic infection, from $13.50 to $750 a tablet overnight. The company Rodelis Therapeutics recently raised the price of a drug to treat multidrug-resistant tuberculosis from $500 to over $10,000 for the same number of pills.

These are not scenarios of pharmaceutical companies charging higher prices to finance the development cost of new drugs. Take Valeant for example. Valeant spends 3 percent of its sales on research and development. Traditional drug companies tell us they spend 15 to 20 percent. Traditional drug companies will tell you they spend 15 to 20 percent of their revenues on research and development. That is why they need to charge high prices at the beginning, at least during their patent protection period—to recoup, they will say, the $500 million, $600 million, whatever it costs, in research and development. Valeant is buying drugs where that research and development have already been recouped. They spend only 3 percent of their sales on research and development.

So where does Valeant's money go? One might hope it would support American pharmaceutical manufacturing jobs or pay back into our tax system to support lifesaving biopharmaceutical research at the National Institutes of health. But, no, what actually is happening is infuriating. Valeant, which shifted its profits overseas in 2010 to avoid its U.S. tax obligation, buys up the rights to existing pharmaceutical companies, lays off workers, hikes prices by eight- nine- tenfold, and then expects patients, hospitals, and taxpayers to pick up the tab. It is not right.

As I said at the outset, we have seen this before. Valeant, Turing, and Rodelis are not the first companies to try this shady—and ''shady'' is too kind a word—business model. They won't be the last. In 2011, KV Pharmaceutical created an overnight monopoly on the lifesaving drug 17P, a preterm labor-prevention drug—a progesterone—for pregnant women. KV Pharmaceutical didn't invent the drug. It spent no money on R&D. It spent no money on clinical trials, which are also expensive but not for them. The drug had been around for decades. It was normally compounded at pharmacies and at hospitals to treat pregnant

women. What did it do? It applied to the FDA for 7 years of exclusive coverage under the Orphan Drug Act and changed the name from 17P to Makena. That is it. They proposed raising the price by almost 15 percent overnight. It was a $10 drug initially—$10, taken 20 times, so it cost about $200 for the regimen, and they raised the price to $30,000. Imagine that.

We have thousands of pregnant women who have had a history of preterm births, and their doctors say to these women: You should take this compound, this progesterone, P17. The cost is only $200. You will get a shot every week for 20 weeks in a row.

Then all of a sudden the price of $200 is raised to $30,000. What happens? Some places, Medicaid won't pay. Other places, private insurance won't pay. In many cases, women simply wouldn't take this progesterone, and the problems of low birth weight babies increases.

The potentially devastating impact on our country is already too high for the preterm birth rate. Fewer women are able to afford the drug. When that happened 4 years ago, I wrote to the company's CEO asking them to consider the price increase. The senior Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and I sent a letter to the FTC urging an investigation. Together, we kept the pressure on the company. Frankly, we embarrassed them, as they deserved. So far the drug has stayed more affordable. We need to do the same thing today. Valeant and companies like it must not be allowed to get away with fleecing consumers and taxpayers.

I am calling on my colleagues on the HELP Committee to hold hearings on this price-gouging. We must work together—Congress, the media, the public—to expose this kind of behavior, maybe a little shame. I don't normally like to do that, but when a CEO makes this kind of money by fleecing so many people—especially when it comes to low birth weight babies but also where people need these moderately priced drugs to stay alive—I think it is time to out them and put pressure on these companies.

One thing we can also do, if my colleagues would wean themselves off of drug company contributions, is give Medicare the authority to negotiate drug prices. Many of these drugs with massive price increases are taken by large numbers of seniors who are on Medicare. We know the Veterans Administration uses the buying power of millions of American veterans to negotiate directly with drug companies to bring down significantly the cost of these drugs. For too long the pharmaceutical companies have profited off of their ability to charge more vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries higher prices for their drugs. Current law expressly bans Medicare from negotiating with pharmaceutical companies—again showing the power of drug companies lobbying my colleagues in this body—even though the government can negotiate bigger discounts with private insurance companies.

This summer I helped introduce the Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act, which would allow seniors to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan administered directly by Medicare instead of a private insurance company. This legislation requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate directly with drug companies to get the best prices for our seniors. Seniors should be able to get drug coverage directly through Medicare and not be forced to buy from a middleman.

The purpose of lifesaving drugs is that—to save lives, not to line the pockets of Big Pharma executives and investors. We owe it to the people we serve—the people who elect us—to put a stop to the price-gouging that is bankrupting patients and overcharging Medicare, straining hospitals, and fleecing taxpayers.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WOMEN'S SMALL BUSINESS OWNERSHIP ACT OF 2015

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I have introduced, along with Senator VITTER and Senator SHAHEEN, a bill that we believe will help break the glass ceiling women entrepreneurs face in this country.

This month is National Women's Small Business Month. Throughout the month, the important contributions women entrepreneurs make to keep the economy growing will be highlighted. According the U.S. Small Business Administration, SBA, women-owned businesses are growing three times faster than their counterparts. Today, there are more than 10 million women-owned businesses across our country. They provide more than 23 million jobs and are expected to provide another five million additional jobs by 2018. In addition, one-third of all women-owned businesses are now owned by minorities.

It is clear that we need to be investing more in our women-owned small businesses. That is why the legislation I am introducing today would help ensure that the next generation of women small business owners can get the training and counseling they need to turn their ideas into realities.

This legislation would reauthorize the SBA's Women's Business Centers, WBCs, program for the first time since 1999. I am very pleased we were able to raise the authorized funding level for this critical counseling program to $21.7 million annually. Although the number of women entrepreneurs has continued to grow, funding for WBCs has remained flat for many years.

Last year, when I was chair of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, we took a hard look at actions necessary to propel women's entrepreneurship forward and introduced legislation that addressed three components necessary to unlock their success—increasing access to federal contracts, increasing access to capital, and improving the training and counseling programs that support them. It became very clear that women all over the country agree that the Congress must take these additional steps.

As Chair, I also issued a report, ''21st Century Barriers to Women's Entrepreneurship,'' which demonstrated the need for the policy changes we seek in this legislation.

I am pleased to say that on October 14, one of those goals will be achieved. The Small Business Administration has finalized sole-source authority for the women's procurement program—bringing the program and the women it serves in line with other Federal contracting programs. This will result in increased access to Federal contracts for women.

The bill I introduced addresses another finding in the report which called for expanding training and counseling for women entrepreneurs. It does this by reauthorizing the SBA's Women's Business Center, WBC, program, which provides critical counseling, training, and other assistance to women, particularly in socially and economically disadvantaged communities. I cannot think of a better investment than one that helps women who want to create jobs and contribute to the economy. Women's Business Centers also provide important business counseling and training to underserved minority entrepreneurs.

The need is greater than we knew last year. Since the Survey of Business Owners, published by the Census Bureau, was released this summer, a greater number of women have started businesses. The latest preliminary data showed that there are nearly 10 million women-owned firms in the United States. This is a 27 percent increase from the survey's last iteration in 2007 and a 50 percent increase in only a decade. Women-owned businesses generate more than $1.6 trillion in revenue.

The report we issued last year showed that women entrepreneurs benefit from the customized business training and counseling Women's Business Centers provide to help level the playing field in starting and growing a small business. The majority of women-owned businesses are still under $24,999 in revenues. Women entrepreneurs receive only 4 percent of all commercial loan dollars, 17 percent of SBA loans, and 4.2 percent of venture capital—so there is plenty of work to be done.

It is astonishing to me that more than 100 Women's Business Centers

around the country are expected to serve this growing group of entrepreneurs. Women-owned small businesses generate needed income. According to a study released by the Association for Enterprise Opportunity, AEO, ''microbusinesses can be vital for income and wealth creation in underserved communities. In 2010, for instance, female-headed family households in which at least one person owned a microbusiness generated $8,000 to $13,000 more in annual household income than similar households without a business owner.'' For low-income households, this additional income is a path toward prosperity. The report goes on to say, ''the median net worth of business owners is almost two and a half times greater than that of nonbusiness owners.''

Liz Jamieson, Director of the Washington Center for Women in Business, a WBC in Lacey, WA, explains why we need to increase support for Women's Business Centers. ''Since our inception in 2013, the Washington Center for Women in Business has coached and supported over 400 women entrepreneurs, to help them start, grow or scale up their companies. We've also provided training and business skills development to over 1000 entrepreneurs in the same time frame. Our center would not exist without the partnership of the SBA. Even so, our center serves 34 of the 39 counties in Washington State, and two staff people can only do so much, although they do an extraordinary job and we get rave reviews. This legislation will empower us to empower far more entrepreneurs from all over our state, and to help them grow their businesses and create more jobs.''

The legislation enjoys broad support by a number of key national organizations that support women business owners. The Association of Women's Business Centers, AWBC, Women Impacting Public Policy, WIPP, and the Association for Enterprise Opportunity, AEO, believe the changes we are proposing in this legislation are necessary to make this program open to more women.

In closing, I would like to thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this legislation. I also want to commend Chairman VITTER and Ranking Member SHAHEEN of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee for their hard work and dedication to assisting women entrepreneurs succeed. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SRI LANKA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to address the situation in Sri Lanka, a country that has endured a brutal civil war and is working to address the difficult issues of accountability and reconciliation.

Following the historic elections in January and August, Sri Lanka has a remarkable opportunity to economically integrate with the West and build security ties. This relationship has great potential that we all hope can be realized. But before we move forward on greater economic and security cooperation, Sri Lanka must finally resolve longstanding issues of accountability that have plagued the country since the end of the war and engage in a credible and legitimate effort to reconcile amongst all communities in the country: Sinhalese and Tamil, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, and Buddhist.

Efforts by the last government to deal with war crimes allegations were a sham, according to the U.N., according to the U.S. Government, according to the victims and according to the current government in Colombo. Justice has been mostly nonexistent for scores across the country. Many Tamils do not trust the central government to administer a genuine and credible domestic mechanism to provide real accountability for crimes committed during the war. Many Sinhala mothers want to know what happened to their sons who served in the military. Many combatants and civilians remain unaccounted for, necessitating a comprehensive effort to identify all missing persons.

On October 1, the U.N. Human Rights Council passed Resolution 25/1, which is focused on accountability and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. This resolution is not perfect, but if fully implemented, it provides the most promising path forward since the end of the war. The resolution leaves open the possibility for international judges and prosecutors in Sri Lanka's judicial mechanism to promote accountability. The current government has made clear that the international role will be limited to providing technical assistance and advice. As the U.S. works with Sri Lanka to implement the resolution, I urge our diplomats to push for the most robust international role in the accountability process. I also urge the Sri Lankan Government to continue to act in good faith to ensure that any accountability mechanism is seen as fair and just by all its citizens.

The U.S. led an effort to pass a 2014 U.N. Human Rights Council resolution which mandated a report on war crimes allegations in Sri Lanka. Earlier this month, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights released its report which documented ''a horrific level of violations and abuses'' committed between 2002 and 2011. Among the violations committed by Sri Lankan government forces, the separatist Tamil Tigers, LTTE, and pro-government paramilitaries included in the 261-page report include enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, denial of humanitarian assistance, sexual violence, indiscriminate shelling, and the recruitment of child soldiers.

The report also recommended a series of measures that Sri Lanka should take to address these issues. For example the report recommends that the Government of Sri Lanka integrate international judges and prosecutors with an independent Sri Lankan investigative and prosecuting body to try those accused of war crimes, implement security sector reform, return land occupied by the military, strengthen witness protection programs, and establish a national reparations policy in consultation with victims and families.

Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera spoke a few weeks ago at the 30th session of the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva. His own very welcome recognition of the depth of the institutional challenges and of past failures is more than enough reason to insist on outside involvement, particularly in investigations and witness protection.

Foreign Minister Samaraweera appears genuinely committed to reconciliation. He recently announced the government's support for a commission for truth, justice, reconciliation and nonrecurrence to help victims understand what happened and help them attain justice. He emphasized the government's commitment to an office on missing persons based on the principle of the families' right to know what happened to their loved ones. He announced the establishment of an office for reparations for victims. Most notably he acknowledged that any judicial mechanism for accountability will need to be designed through a wide process of consultations involving all stakeholders to include support from the international community.

Sri Lanka and its supporters in the international community expect action, not more promises, on each of these fronts.

The political will expressed by the government for a democratic future based on human rights and rule of law is something that should be acknowledged and welcomed by the U.S., international community, and all Sri Lankans. We have an obligation to support and foster this vision. As a friend, we also have an obligation to identify shortcomings as they arise throughout the process.

Moving forward, the U.S. can take several concrete measures to support Sri Lanka's accountability process through the challenging days ahead.

First, the U.S. should work to ensure that the commitments in the current UNHRC resolution are fully implemented. Following the passage of the resolution, the U.S. should push for the most robust international role in the accountability process, to include international judges and prosecutors.

Second, the United States can support efforts to ensure witness protection inside of Sri Lanka. This could include the establishment of special security force for witness protection, developed in close coordination with leaders in the Tamil community.

Third, the U.S. military should urge its counterparts in the Sri Lankan Armed Forces to play a constructive

role in the accountability process. I understand that there are many in the Sri Lankan military who seek to clear the military's name so that the institution can move forward. They should deliver on that commitment.

Fourth, the U.S. should continue and expand programs that strengthen civil society voices in Sri Lanka. The country now has a parliament which is more disposed towards incorporating civil society into the policymaking process. These advocates will be critical moving forward on this as well as broader reconciliation efforts.

Finally, the U.S. should make clear that any accountability process must include addressing violations committed by all sides in the conflict: LTTE, the Sri Lankan military, and pro-government paramilitary groups.

The goal of accountability is not revenge. The goal is to conduct a process where all sides are provided a measure of justice that leads to durable reconciliation and a marked departure from armed conflict. The previous government's policies were a dangerous cocktail that were slowly sliding Sri Lanka back into ethnic and religious strife. Today, Sri Lanka's leaders have an important opportunity to move beyond this divisive past. They say they want it and they have a plan on paper. Now is the time to act. And I am prepared to support the efforts of President Sirisena, Prime Minister Wickramasinghe, Opposition Leader Sampanthan, and all Sri Lankans towards that end.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said the credibility of the U.N. Human Rights Council is on the line in Sri Lanka. I agree and would say that the same goes for the United States. Our country has an important responsibility to finish the work of diplomats in recent years and promote the strongest accountability mechanism in Sri Lanka. Our credibility on human rights issues around the world is at stake and will be watched closely by human rights defenders and violators alike.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the men and women of Little Rock Air Force Base and the surrounding communities for their steadfast support, spirit of service, and faithful dedication to the defense of our Nation.

In 1951, community leaders in Jacksonville, AR, and the surrounding region began petitioning Congress for the creation of a local air base. The needed support was unattainable in the post-World War II environment, so supporters took it upon themselves to raise the money and purchase the land required for the base. In only 32 days, these air base advocates raised more than $800,000, and with the combination of purchased and donated land, 6,359 acres were gifted to the U.S. Government for the establishment of Little Rock Air Force Base.

On October 9, 1955, the base officially opened. Since that day, it has served as a strategic operating location for numerous mission sets. From reconnaissance and bomber alert missions to the ever-present readiness of Titan II missile crews, Little Rock Air Force Base stood ready. With their cargo aircraft and selfless airmen, the base has responded to numerous natural disasters and humanitarian missions. Most recently, with the C–130 Hercules, Little Rock airmen have had a continuous global presence. From training members of three U.S. services and 20 foreign nations to supporting operations on five of the seven continents, they embody their motto as ''The Home of Combat Airlift.''

Over the past 60 years, the men and women of Little Rock Air Force Base have employed weapons systems covering every key tenant of air power. Currently, the base seamlessly blends Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve command personnel into a singular fighting machine, taking airmen from initial qualification through graduate-level training.

From its inception, Little Rock Air Force Base has been uniquely suited to fulfill any mission it is presented. The support of the community provides an unmatched strength that cannot be countered by any weapon system. The people of central Arkansas have opened their hearts and homes for six decades to welcome the men and women of the United States military.

I am proud to represent the men and women of Little Rock Air Force Base and the communities who support them. I am grateful for their service and dedication and look forward to a future of continued success and cooperation.•

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MARTIN L. SIMS

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to pay special tribute to COL Martin L. Sims on the occasion of his retirement from a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Army.

Colonel Sims began his military career through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at Vanderbilt University where he was a Distinguished Military Graduate in 1987, was branched as an armor officer, and was granted an educational delay to attend law school at the University of Tennessee where he served as the managing editor of the Tennessee Law Review and graduated with honors in 1990.

After being assessed into the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, he entered into active duty as a first lieutenant, less than 2 months after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. For the next 25 years, Colonel Sims served faithfully as a judge advocate during which time he was stationed overseas four times and deployed on numerous occasions to Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Kuwait, and Iraq in support of various contingency operations.

A dedicated and talented soldier-lawyer, Colonel Sims held numerous positions of significant responsibility, culminating in his selection as the special assistant for strategy, plans, and capabilities within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. Some of the many other key positions Colonel Sims held prior to his final assignment include service as the staff judge advocate for the 25th Infantry Division in Iraq; the staff judge advocate for Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 in Afghanistan; legal advisor to the inspector general of the Army, and deputy chief of the international and operational law branch at the office of the Judge Advocate General of the Army. A recognized master military justice practitioner, COL Sims also served the Army and the Department of Defense as a distinguished jurist, sitting as a senior judge on the United States Army Court of Criminal Appeals and as an associate judge on the United States Court of Military Commission Review.

I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Colonel Sims' many friends in saluting this distinguished officer's many contributions and sacrifices in the defense of our great Nation. It is fitting that the Senate today publicly recognizes his service and wishes him; his wife, Stacy; and their daughters, Heather and Rachel, health, happiness, and success in the years to come.•

RECOGNIZING EDGEWOOD CORPORATE PLAZA BUILDING

• Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an historic milestone in the city of Grand Forks, ND, the 100th anniversary of the Edgewood Corporate Plaza Building.

The Edgewood Corporate Plaza Building, located on the corner of Fourth Street and DeMers Avenue in downtown Grand Forks, is a fixture in this city. Formerly known as the First National Bank Building, it is an impressive classical revival style structure of brick and stone on a sturdy polished granite base that covers two of its five stories.

When the building opened in 1915, it was home to the Scandinavian American Bank. It changed the face of downtown Grand Forks and helped spur westward growth toward the University of North Dakota. The bank, later known as First National Bank, and its building remained an anchor of the downtown area. It was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and is unofficially loved as the only building in the city with an escalator.

Unfortunately, the devastating Red River flood in 1997 caused significant damage in Grand Forks. The bank building stood in 4 feet of floodwater while sustaining significant fire damage to its upper stories. Extensive rehabilitation has restored its beauty and function. Edgewood Real Estate Investment Trust and Edgewood Management Group purchased the building in 2012, and it is now the corporate office for Edgewood, which owns and operates more than 50 senior living communities and multifamily housing units across seven States.

Downtown Grand Forks has redefined itself from its banking and retail heyday; its historic structures are now home to office and residential spaces, entertainment venues, and boutique retail. The Edgewood Corporate Plaza Building stands as a tribute to the city's history and a cornerstone for the bright future ahead.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM H. SAMPSEL

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor William H. Sampsel, a veteran of World War II.

On behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say thank you to William for his service to our Nation. It is my honor to share the story of William's life and service—a story that most certainly won't be forgotten and a story he perhaps wouldn't have told himself.

William, an extremely humble man, never asked to be placed on a pedestal; in fact it was his quiet service that is the landmark of his story.

William was born in the midst of the Great Depression in January of 1925. His parents William H. and Marguerite Brennan Sampsel lived in Shenandoah, PA, at the time. His father, William H., was a meter reader with the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company and would later become a district manager. His mother, Marguerite, cared for five children.

From a young age, William developed a strong work ethic that would serve him well throughout his life. He started his first job at the age of 14, clearing forest land by hand, earning a modest wage of $1 a day. By the time he was off to college, he quadrupled his wage to $4 a day.

William's high school football coach, Al ''Ali Baba'' Barbartsky, a teammate of Vince Lombardi, helped make it possible for William to attend the University of Illinois on a football scholarship. Although William was a 180-pound guard for U of I's football team, his true love was baseball.

In 1943, William enlisted in the Army and was assigned to Fort Benning, GA, for basic training. The following year, he was sent to an infantry division at Camp McCain, MS. Shortly following, he was transferred to the 319th Combat Engineer Battalion, where he deployed to France in August of 1944 as an Army engineer.

While in France on orders to contain a pocket of German soldiers in Lorient and St. Nazaire, he was wounded in battle. Toward the end of the war, he was promoted to second lieutenant and received a Purple Heart medal.

Now, William never told his family about receiving a Purple Heart for his service. They found out after noticing his name on the Montana Purple Heart Memorial wall in Billings. But when asked about his prestigious award, he humbly described the incident as ''just a little shrapnel''.

But this only speaks true to the man he was.

After his service in the Army was up, William attended Penn State University and graduated in 1949 with a degree in geology. He then was hired at Amerada Petroleum Co.—now known as Hess—in Tyler, TX.

There he met his wife Christine Wallis, and they were married in May of 1952. William and Christine moved to Regina, SK, Calgary, AB; and ultimately settled in Billings, MT, in 1961. William and Christine had two children—daughter, Priscilla, who now lives in Laurel, and son, Michael William Sampsel, who lives in Tucson, Arizona.

Outside of his accomplishments as a geologist, William loved to fish and is remembered for his love of the outdoors.

William died on July 19, 2012.

William always gave all he had to give, whether it was his knowledge, military service, or help to others in need. His life story is reflective of the dedicated, hard-working, and generous man folks knew.

It is my honor to recognize William H. Sampsel's bravery and service to the United States by presenting his family with his Purple Heart, in addition to a Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four bronze service stars, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp, Honorable Service Lapel Button WW II, and a sharpshooter badge and rifle bar.

Our Nation is grateful for William's service.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, a treaty, and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 2, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1624. An act to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to revise the definition of small employer.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:02 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3457. An act to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Government of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, October 5, 2015, he had signed the following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) of the House:

H.R. 1624. An act to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to revise the definition of small employer.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3457. An act to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Government of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2129. A bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Energy and Water Development, and Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2130. A bill making appropriations for Department of Defense, energy and water development, Department of Homeland Security, military construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2131. A bill making appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies and Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2132. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government, Department of the Interior, environment, and Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, 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–3066. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3067. A communication from the Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Government Contractors, Prohibitions Against Pay Secrecy Policies and Actions; Final Rule'' (RIN1250–AA06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3068. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Program, Fiscal Years 2011–2013''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3069. 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 ''Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals'' ((RIN0910–AG10) (Docket No. FDA–2011–N–0922)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3070. 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 ''Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food'' (Docket No. FDA–2011–N–0920) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3071. A communication from the Acting Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Overtime Pay for Border Patrol Agents'' (RIN3206–AN19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3072. A communication from the Acting Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Managing Senior Executive Performance'' (RIN3206–AM48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3073. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Planning and Policy Analysis, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Self Plus One Enrollment Type'' (RIN3206–AN08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3074. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Organization and Functions; Implementation of Statutory Gift Acceptance Authority; Freedom of Information Act'' (RIN3209–AA40; RIN3209–AA41; RIN3209–AA39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3075. A communication from the Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''2015 Annual Report to the Congress on the Information Sharing Environment (ISE)''; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC–3076. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program'' (RIN3245–AG72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2015; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC–3077. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery; Adjustment to the Northern Red Hake Inseason Possession Limit'' (RIN0648–XE094) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3078. 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; Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery; Adjustment to the Northern Red Hake Inseason Possession Limit'' (RIN0648–XE120) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3079. 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; Dusky Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XE169) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3080. 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–XE144) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3081. A communication from the 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 Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands'' (RIN0648–XE143) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3082. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Island Fisheries; 2015 Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures'' (RIN0648–XD558) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3083. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to Framework Adjustment 53 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and Sector Annual Catch Entitlements; Updated Annual Catch Limits for Sectors and the Common Pool for Fishing Year 2015'' (RIN0648–XE015) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3084. A communication from the 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 in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XE140) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. SASSE (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2128. A bill to require the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to submit to Congress a report on Inspector General mandates; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2129. A bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Energy and Water Development, and Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2130. A bill making appropriations for Department of Defense, energy and water development, Department of Homeland Security, military construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 2131. A bill making appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies and Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2132. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government, Department of the Interior, environment, and Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ms. BALDWIN)):

S. 2133. A bill to improve Federal agency financial and administrative controls and procedures to assess and mitigate fraud risks, and to improve Federal agencies' development and use of data analytics for the purpose of identifying, preventing, and responding to fraud, including improper payments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2134. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide educational assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as physician assistants of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish pay grades and require competitive pay for physician assistants of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2135. A bill to address the liability of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the Animas and San Juan Rivers spill; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 277. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2015 as ''National Principals Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Con. Res. 21. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 228

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 228, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments.

S. 429

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

S. 441

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reauthorize and modernize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 890

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 890, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 1056

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1056, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1121

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1121, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

S. 1319

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1319, a bill to validate final patent number 27–2005–0081, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to improve the treatment of substance use disorders.

S. 1491

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1491, a bill to provide sensible relief to community financial institutions, to protect consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 1493

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1493, a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2015, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1579

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1579, a bill to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.

S. 1622

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to devices.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1716

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to provide access to higher education for the students of the United States.

S. 1775

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1775, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1867

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1867, a bill to protect children from exploitation by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1979

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1979, a bill to direct the Chief of Engineers to transfer an archaeological collection, commonly referred to as the Kennewick Man or the Ancient One, to the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation.

S. 2032

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2032, a bill to adopt the bison as the national mammal of the United States.

S. 2042

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2084

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2084, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the authority of the National Labor Relations Board with respect to rulemaking, issuance of complaints, and authority over unfair labor practices.

S. 2090

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2090, a bill to ensure that Social Security contributions made by workers are available to pay all benefits which they have earned.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to stimulate international tourism to the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2116

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2116, a bill to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 148, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 277—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2015 AS ''NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH''

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 277

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2015 to be ''National Principals Month'';

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2015 as ''National Principals Month''; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of the United States by supporting the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 21

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on July 8, 2015, for a ceremony to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which abolished slavery in the United States.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2707. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2116, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2707. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2116, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Small Business Broadband and Emerging Information Technology Enhancement Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) According to a report by the Federal Communications Commission entitled ''Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan'', dated March 2010, the Commission recommends that—

(A) ''To fully implement next-generation technology within its operations, the SBA should also appoint a broadband and emerging IT coordinator. This individual would ensure that SBA programs maintain the requisite broadband expertise, tools and training courses to serve small businesses.'';

(B) ''Congress should consider ways to leverage existing assistance provided through'' entrepreneurial development programs, ''to focus training on advanced IT and broadband applications'';

(C) ''Congress could also consider ways to support technology training among women entrepreneurs through'' women's business centers;

(D) ''The training programs should include an entry-level 'Broadband 101' course to give small businesses an introduction to how to capitalize on broadband connectivity, as well as more advanced applications for IT staff.''; and

(E) small and medium enterprise ''IT training should include resources for non-IT staff, such as how to use e-commerce tools for sales, streamline finance with online records or leverage knowledge management across an organization.''.

(2) According to a report by the Broadband Opportunity Council, dated August 20, 2015, the availability of and access to broadband technology enables—

(A) greater civic participation, by providing tools for open government and streamlining government process;

(B) changes in how people access educational resources, collaborate in the educational process, conduct research, and continue to learn anytime, anyplace, and at any pace;

(C) improved healthcare access, treatments, and information;

(D) new business models that create business efficiencies, drive job creation, and connect manufacturers and store-fronts to clients and partners worldwide; and

(E) bringing communities together and improvements to public safety, creating a greener planet, and make transportation systems more resilient and efficient.

(3) According to a report entitled ''The State of the App Economy'', dated October 2014—

(A) ''More than three-quarters of the highest grossing apps are produced by startups and small companies.''; and

(B) ''Seventy-eight percent of the leading app companies are located outside Silicon Valley.''.

(4) According to a report entitled, ''Developer Economics Q1 2015: State of the Developer Nation'', dated February 2015, ''The emergence of the app industry over the past eight years has grown to a $120 billion economy.''.

SEC. 3. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 47 as section 48; and

(2) by inserting after section 46 the following:

''SEC. 47. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'Associate Administrator' means the Associate Administrator for the Office of Investment and Innovation; and

''(2) the term 'broadband and emerging information technology coordinator' means the employee designated to carry out the broadband and emerging information technology coordination responsibilities of the Administration under subsection (b)(1).

''(b) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—

''(1) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—The Associate Administrator shall designate a senior employee of the Office of Investment and Innovation to serve as the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator, who—

''(A) shall report to the Associate Administrator;

''(B) shall work in coordination with—

''(i) the chief information officer, the chief technology officer, and the head of the Office of Technology of the Administration; and

''(ii) any other Associate Administrator of the Administration determined appropriate by the Associate Administrator;

''(C) has experience developing and implementing telecommunications policy in the private sector or government; and

''(D) has demonstrated significant experience in the area of broadband or emerging information technology.

''(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COORDINATOR.—The broadband and emerging information technology coordinator shall—

''(A) coordinate programs of the Administration that assist small business concerns in adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and other emerging information technologies;

''(B) serve as the primary liaison of the Administration to other Federal agencies involved in broadband and emerging information technology policy, including the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Communications Commission;

''(C) identify best practices relating to broadband and emerging information technology that may benefit small business concerns; and

''(D) identify and catalog tools and training available through the resource partners of the Administration that assist small business concerns in adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and emerging technologies.

''(3) TRAVEL.—Not more than 20 percent of the hours of service by the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator during any fiscal year shall consist of travel outside the United States to perform official duties.

''(c) BROADBAND AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.—

''(1) TRAINING.—The Associate Administrator shall provide to employees of the Administration training that—

''(A) familiarizes employees of the Administration with broadband and other emerging information technologies;

''(B) includes—

''(i) instruction on counseling small business concerns regarding adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and other emerging information technologies; and

''(ii) information on programs of the Federal Government that provide assistance to small business concerns relating to broadband and emerging information technologies; and

''(C) to maximum extent practicable, uses the tools and training cataloged and identified under subsection (b)(2)(D).

''(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

''(d) REPORTS.—

''(1) BIENNIAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Associate Administrator makes the first designation of an employee under subsection (b), and every 2 years thereafter, the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report regarding the programs and activities of the Administration relating to broadband and other emerging information technologies.

''(2) IMPACT OF BROADBAND SPEED AND PRICE ON SMALL BUSINESSES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to appropriations, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall conduct a study evaluating the impact of broadband speed and price on small business concerns.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Small Business Broadband and Emerging Information Technology Enhancement Act of 2015, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study under subparagraph (A), including—

''(i) a survey of broadband speeds available to small business concerns;

''(ii) a survey of the cost of broadband speeds available to small business concerns;

''(iii) a survey of the type of broadband technology used by small business concerns; and

''(iv) any policy recommendations that may improve the access of small business concerns to comparable broadband services at comparable rates in all regions of the United States.''.

SEC. 4. ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Section 21(c)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''accessing broadband and other emerging information technology,'' after ''technology transfer,'';

(2) in clause (ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) in clause (iii), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) increasing the competitiveness and productivity of small business concerns by assisting entrepreneurs in accessing broadband and other emerging information technology;''.

NOTICES OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator TOM COTTON, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Cassandra Q. Butts, to be ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, dated October 5, 2015.

I, Senator TOM COTTON, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Samuel D. Heins, to be ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, dated October 5, 2015.

I, Senator TOM COTTON, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Azita Raji, to be ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, dated October 5, 2015.

NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 277, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 277) recognizing the month of October 2015 as ''National Principals 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 considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 277) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 114–3

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on October 5, 2015, by the President of the United States: Treaty with Algeria on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Treaty Document No. 114–3. I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Algiers on April 7, 2010. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty. The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties negotiated by the United States to more effectively counter criminal activities. The Treaty should enhance our ability to investigate and prosecute a wide variety of crimes.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Under the Treaty, the Parties agree to assist each other by, among other things: producing evidence (such as testimony, documents, or items) obtained voluntarily or, where necessary, by compulsion; arranging for persons, including persons in custody, to travel to provide evidence; serving documents; executing searches and seizures; locating and identifying persons or items; and freezing and forfeiting assets or property that may be the proceeds or instrumentalities of crime.

I recommend the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 5, 2015.*

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103–296, reappoints the following individual as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board: Mr. Jagadeesh Gokhale of Pennsylvania.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2129, S. 2130, S. 2131, AND S. 2132

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are four 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 en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2129) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Energy and Water Development, and Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2130) making appropriations for Department of Defense, energy and water development, Department of Homeland Security, military construction, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2131) making appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies and Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2132) making appropriations for financial services and general government, Department of the Interior, environment, and Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon on Tuesday, October 6; 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 leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, with the time until 1 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; finally, that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived with respect to the cloture vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

STEVEN MICHAEL HARO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE MARGARET LOUISE CUMMISKY, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JOHN FRANCIS KOTEK, OF IDAHO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (NUCLEAR ENERGY), VICE PETER BRUCE LYONS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TODD C. CHAPMAN, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR.

MATTHEW JOHN MATTHEWS, OF OREGON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS UNITED STATES SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR THE ASIA–PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) FORUM.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

CAROLYN N. LERNER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE SPECIAL COUNSEL, OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

MICHAEL JOSEPH MISSAL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE GEORGE J. OPFER, RESIGNED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MICHAEL A. BLAINE

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate October 5, 2015:

THE JUDICIARY

DALE A. DROZD, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on October 5, 2015 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

BEVERLY ANGELA SCOTT, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2019, VICE MARK R. ROSEKIND, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 30, 2015.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Day of the Republic of China, also known as Taiwan. October 10 marks 104 years since the beginning of the Wuchang uprising and the eventual establishment of the Republic of China on January 1st, 1912.

The United States is fortunate to have Taiwan as a trusted ally, and our countries' mutual interests and shared democratic values continue to strengthen our relationship. The success of Taiwan's democratic society is a testament to the benefits of free enterprise in a strong civil society.

It is important that Taiwan have opportunities to contribute to the global community by gaining observer status in organizations, such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization. Allowing Taiwan access to these groups' resources will improve international cooperation and help combat international criminal enterprises.

My best wishes to the Taiwanese people as they mark National Day and celebrate their vibrant democracy.

MR. GEORGE AIGEN

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. George Aigen today for his ninetieth birthday. As a veteran of World War II, he has been a leader in his community, and revered for his service and sacrifice to our great nation.

Seventy one years ago, Mr. Aigen was drafted into the Army as a corporal in the 1269th Engineer Combat Battalion. At the age of nineteen, he had experienced much fighting and witnessed horrible atrocities while serving in Europe. In 1945, as the war drew to a close, Mr. Aigen was among the first soldiers to liberate the prisoners of Dachau, one of the oldest Nazi concentration camps.

In his community, Mr. Aigen has spoken to schools, universities, and countless organizations about the horrors committed by the Nazis and the importance of military service. His dedication to our country has been commemorated across Georgia from the Valdosta community to the state capitol. Mr. Aigen's story has been archived at the Library of Congress and televised by Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Through his actions, service, and community involvement, Mr. Aigen has demonstrated that he is a leader, a mentor, and a hero. I am humbled to honor him and his legacy as our nation's servicemen and servicewomen secure our freedoms for future generations.

COMMEMORATING DOUBLE TEN DAY, TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advise the House that this Saturday, October 10, is Double Ten Day, Taiwan's national day.

I urge all Members to join me in congratulating the people of Taiwan on this momentous occasion.

Our great friend in Asia, Taiwan, will be celebrating its 104th anniversary on October 10. Also known as Double Ten Day since it falls on the 10th day of the 10th month, this is Taiwan's National Day and is revered and celebrated in the same fashion as we do the Fourth of July here in America.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan today is a multi-party democracy with a strong economy that is working to ease tensions with Mainland China, while preserving both its political existence and its vibrant national life.

This Double Ten Day marks the 102nd anniversary of China's Wuchang Uprising, a significant development in the Xinhai Revolution.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan and my home city of Houston have shared a special bond since 1961 with the establishment of the sister-city relationship between Houston and Taipei.

For more than 50 years, economic, cultural, and educational exchanges between these sister cities, and between the United States and Taiwan have flourished, aided significantly by the ease of travel resulting from commencement in June 2015 of direct flights between Houston and Taipei on EVA Airway, a Taiwanese airline company.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has been a great friend and partner of the United States, and I have no doubt that this important relationship will continue to be a source of strength to our peoples as this new century continues to unfold.

I congratulate the people of Taiwan as they commemorate Double Ten Day.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES F. SANCHEZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charles F. Sanchez, a devoted husband, father and distinguished World War II Veteran.

Charles was born on November 11, 1918 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a graduate of Albuquerque High School and briefly attended the University of New Mexico. He married the love of his life, Mary F. Lucero, becoming proud parents of six children: Bernie S. Sanchez, Charles E. Sanchez, Sylvia L. Sanchez Wortzman, Paul A. Sanchez, Elaine M. Sanchez Fordice and David G. Sanchez.

Corporal Charles F. Sanchez served in the United States Army's 200th Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft Regiment. In August 1941, he left Albuquerque to serve his country at Clark Air Base, located in the Philippines. Shortly after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Clark Air Base was attacked.

Charles' Regiment, led by General Edward P. King, fought bravely against the Japanese assaults in the Bataan Peninsula. However, after several months of fighting and with low supplies, General King surrendered and Charles became one of the tens of thousands of prisoners who endured the infamous Bataan Death March to Camp O'Donnell.

Prisoners endured physical abuse, received little food or water, and many were executed along the way. Thousands of Filipino and American prisoners died before they reached Camp O'Donnell in what would become known as one of the most heinous Japanese war crimes. Charles and his first cousin, Herman Tafoya—whom Charles assisted along the way, survived against all odds and completed the 60 mile ordeal.

As a prisoner of war, the Japanese forced Charles and his work group to transport ammunition inland into churches where the Japanese thought that it would be safe from U.S. attacks. After that, he was sent to Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp where he was required to move and bury bodies. In September 1945, Charles and a friend, Manuel Archuleta from Blanco, New Mexico, were placed on a freight ship to Japan. Conditions were so poor that there was no room to sit or lie down and Charles and Manuel tied themselves together with their belts to keep from falling.

After the Japanese surrendered on August 15, 1945—approximately 4 years since he was first deployed to the Philippines—Charles was freed and taken back to the United States. Later that year, Charles finally returned to his home state of New Mexico where he was reunited with his loving family.

Charles F. Sanchez will always be known by his friends and family for the sacrifices he bravely made for his country. It is my sincere honor to preserve his story in the Congressional Record, so everyone may remember and take pride in the life of one of New Mexico's greatest sons.

JACKIE COLLINS: TRAILBLAZER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Jackie Collins said she had lived life like Frank Sinatra.

"Looking back, I'm not sorry about anything I did. I did it my way, as Frank Sinatra would say." said the bestselling author, in a magazine interview shortly before she passed away, September 19, 2015, two weeks before her 78th birthday. She had been diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer more than six years before her death but kept her illness almost entirely to herself. She reportedly only informed her sister, Joan, two weeks before she died. Jackie wrote five books since the initial diagnosis. She continued to travel all over the world and never turned down a book tour. She flew from Los Angeles to London to appear on a TV chat show only nine days before her death. She refused to let her cancer define her.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month—a time to recognize breast cancer as the most common cancer among women and to honor those fighters, survivors and families it impacts. Best-selling author Jackie Collins was among those fighters.

While Collins' name might be one we recognize, her story of struggle and perseverance is universal. Women from across our nation and around the globe battle breast cancer every day. In fact, The American Cancer Society's estimates nearly 300,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year; resulting in over 40,000 deaths. That equates to one woman out of every eight women receiving this dreadful diagnosis. And for them the battle will not end when October ends.

As the son and brother of breast cancer survivors, I understand the importance of breast cancer awareness beyond the pink ribbons. We must support doctors and nurses as they provide the care and comfort for those it effects. In Congress, our leaders must prioritize funding for ground breaking research and enact common-sense measures to increase availability of and access to life-saving screenings. Jackie Collins was listed as the UK's fifth richest author and in 2013 she was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

The fight against breast cancer extends to all of us. No one is immune. Jackie was considered an inspiration and a trail blazer for women in fiction. A mother of three daughters and grandmother of six, Collins said her family had always been her greatest love. "I love being with my family . . . and watching my grandkids play." This Breast Cancer Awareness Month we remember those fighters—like Jackie Collins—mothers, grandmothers, aunts and sisters. We celebrate survivors and we recommit to combatting—and ultimately defeating—this disease.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one year anniversary of the dedication of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, a permanent reminder of the enduring sacrifices of our nation's veterans. The memorial was dedicated on October 5, 2014 to honor the more than 3.6 million men and women currently living with service-related disabilities.

As a result of their service, many veterans are left permanently injured, ill or disabled. These men and women must face the challenges of living with visible and invisible burdens every day. Nearly 20 years ago, my friend and constituent Ms. Lois Pope, asked Art Wilson, National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, if there is a place in Washington, D.C. where we honor disabled veterans. When Art responded that there was no such thing, Ms. Pope replied, "We need to change that." Years later, thanks to the tireless work of Ms. Pope and the rest of the advocates at the Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation, this monument now ensures that we will never forget the sacrifices made by members of the United States Armed Forces.

I would also like to recognize broad support across Congress for honoring disabled veterans on October 5th of each year. The anniversary of the memorial's dedication provides an opportunity to express appreciation for the men and women who suffer from service-connected disabilities and to recognize their enduring struggles. Today, October 5, 2015, a screening of the documentary film "Debt of Honor" in Washington, D.C. will depict the realities of living with wartime sacrifices. This film will debut on national television on November 10th on PBS.

As the mother of a veteran myself, I want to thank all of the veterans living with disabilities for their sacrifices and assure them that they will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2015

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on roll call #533, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

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, October 6, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 7

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Iranian influence in Iraq and the case of Camp Liberty.

SH–216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD–406

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine the National Institutes of Health, focusing on investing in a healthier future.

SD–124

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine removing barriers to wireless broadband deployment.

SR–253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 708, to establish an independent advisory committee to review certain regulations, S. 1607, to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, S. 1818, to amend title 5, United States Code, to reform the rule making process of agencies, S. 1820, to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rule making for major rules, S. 1817, to improve the effectiveness of major rules in accomplishing their regulatory objectives by promoting retrospective review, S. 1873, to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, S. 2021, to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, S. Res. 104, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the success of Operation Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal border crossers, S. 2093, to provide that the Secretary of Transportation shall have sole authority to appoint Federal Directors to the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, H.R. 998, to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, H.R. 322, 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", H.R. 323, 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", H.R. 324, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office", H.R. 558, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as

the ''Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building'', H.R. 1442, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the ''Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building'', H.R. 1884, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the ''Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building'', H.R. 3059, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building, an original bill entitled, ''Directing Dollars to Disaster Relief Act of 2015'', an original bill entitled, ''Inspector General Mandates Reporting Act of 2015'', and an original bill entitled, ''Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act of 2015''.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine S. 2102, to amend the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide that the Federal Trade Commission shall exercise authority with respect to mergers only under the Clayton Act and only in the same procedural manner as the Attorney General exercises such authority.

SD–226

11 a.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Business meeting to consider S. 1811, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a program to make loans to certain businesses, homeowners, and renters affected by Superstorm Sandy, S. 2116, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, S. 2126, to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, an original bill entitled, ''Small Contractors Improve Competition Act of 2015'', an original bill entitled, ''Small Business Subcontracting Transparency Act of 2015'', and an original bill entitled, ''Improving Small Business Innovative Research and Technologies Act of 2015''.

SR–428A

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 1579, to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States, and H.R. 487, to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 817, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon, S. 818, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, S. 1436, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, S. 1761, to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, S. 1822, to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, S. 1986, to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada, and H.R. 387, to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

SD–628

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
To hold hearings to examine the North Korea threat and United States policy.

SD–419

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine if the Federal Government is doing enough to protect seniors from identity theft.

SD–562

OCTOBER 8

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine Russian strategy and military operations.

SH–216

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine H.R. 2898, to provide drought relief in the State of California, S. 1894, to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California, S. 1936, to provide for drought preparedness measures in the State of New Mexico, S. 1583, to authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, S. 2046, to authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to issue an order continuing a stay of a hydroelectric license for the Mahoney Lake hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska, and S. 2083, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project.

SD–366

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security
To hold hearings to examine consumer product safety and the recall process.

SR–253

Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider S. 1933, to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, S. 1789, to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the nominations of Jennifer Ann Haverkamp, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Roberta S. Jacobson, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, both of the Department of State.

SD–419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1814, to withhold certain Federal funding from sanctuary cities, and S. 2123, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions.

SD–226

2 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on the Constitution
To hold hearings to examine eminent domain ten years after Kelo v. City of New London.

SD–226

Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining
To hold hearings to examine S. 414, to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, S. 872, to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 1295 and H.R. 1324, bills to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, S. 1448, to designate the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary in the State of Oregon, S. 1592, to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest, S. 1941 and H.R. 2223, bills to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, S. 1942 and H.R. 1554, bills to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, S. 1955, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans, S. 1971, to expand the boundary of the California Coastal National Monument, and S. 2069, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon.

SD–366

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development
To hold hearings to examine ensuring an efficient and effective diplomatic security training facility for the twenty-first century.

SD–419

OCTOBER 20

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cherry Ann Murray, of Kansas, to be Director of the Office of Science, and Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary, both of the Department of Energy, and Mary L. Kendall, of Minnesota, to be Inspector General, Suzette M. Kimball, of West Virginia, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, and Kristen Joan Sarri, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of the Interior.

SD–366

OCTOBER 21

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine agriculture biotechnology, focusing on Federal regulation and stakeholder perspectives.

SD–106

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office report on Indian energy development.

SD–628

OCTOBER 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine Puerto Rico, focusing on the economy, debt, and options for Congress.

SD–366

OCTOBER 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement's proposed Stream Protection Rule.

SD–366

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7109–S7128

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2128–2135, S. Res. 277, and S. Con. Res. 21. **Pages S7123–24**

Measures Passed:

National Principals Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 277, recognizing the month of October 2015 as ''National Principals Month''. **Page S7127**

Conference Reports:

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 12 p.m., on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, with the time until 1 p.m., equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees. **Page S7127**

Appointments:

Social Security Advisory Board: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103–296, reappointed the following individual as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board: Mr. Jagadeesh Gokhale of Pennsylvania. **Page S7127**

Removal of Injunction of Secrecy: The injunction of secrecy was removed from the following treaty:

Treaty with Algeria on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (Treaty Doc. No. 114–3).

The treaty was transmitted to the Senate today, considered as having been read for the first time, and referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed. **Page S7127**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 69 yeas to 21 nays (Vote No. EX. 274), Dale A. Drozd, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Pages S7114–17

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Steven Michael Haro, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

John Francis Kotek, of Idaho, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy).

Todd C. Chapman, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador.

Matthew John Matthews, of Oregon, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum.

Carolyn N. Lerner, of Maryland, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years.

Michael Joseph Missal, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

A routine list in the Army. **Pages S7127–28**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Beverly Angela Scott, of Ohio, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2019, which was sent to the Senate on July 30, 2015. **Page S7128**

Messages from the House: **Page S7122**

Measures Referred: **Page S7122**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S7123–23, S7127**

Executive Communications: **Page S7123**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7124–25**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7125–26**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7121–22**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7126–27**

Notices of Intent: **Page S7127**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—274) **Page S7117**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 4 p.m. and adjourned at 7:02 p.m., until 12 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7127.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 2 public bills, H.R.10 and H.R. 3683 were introduced. **Page H6794**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6795**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Messer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6793**

Open World Leadership Center—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Open World Leadership Center: Representative Price (NC). **Page H6793**

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 2 p.m. and adjourned at 2:03 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. D1014)*

H.R. 23, to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program. Signed on September 30, 2015. (Public Law 114–52)

H.R. 719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions. Signed on September 30, 2015. (Public Law 114–53)

H.R. 2051, to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements. Signed on September 30, 2015. (Public Law 114–54)

H.R. 3614, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. Signed on September 30, 2015. (Public Law 114–55)

S. 230, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska. Signed on September 30, 2015. (Public Law 114–56)

S. 501, to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico. Signed on September 30, 2015. (Public Law 114–57)

S. 2082, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Signed on September 30, 2015. (Public Law 114–58)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217, following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the potential modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and related energy security issues, 10:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the United States role and strategy in the Middle East, focusing on Yemen and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the National Labor Relations Board's joint employer decision, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts, to hold hearings to examine how overregulation harms minorities, 2:15 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine pending health and benefits legislation; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider the nomination of Michael Herman Michaud, of Maine, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:15 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 3192, the ''Homebuyers Assistance Act''; and markup on a resolution establishing a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, business meeting on Member access requests, 5 p.m., HVC–304. This meeting will be closed.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of October 6 through October 9, 2015

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at approximately 12 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, National Defense Authorization Act. At 1 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany the bill.

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 Appropriations: October 7, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine the National Institutes of Health, focusing on investing in a healthier future, 10 a.m., SD–124.

Committee on Armed Services: October 6, to hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217, following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

October 7, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Iranian influence in Iraq and the case of Camp Liberty, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

October 8, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Russian strategy and military operations, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: October 7, to hold hearings to examine removing barriers to wireless broadband deployment, 10 a.m., SR–253.

October 8, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine consumer product safety and the recall process, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: October 6, to hold hearings to examine the potential modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and related energy security issues, 10:30 a.m., SD–366.

October 8, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine H.R. 2898, to provide drought relief in the State of California, S. 1894, to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California, S. 1936, to provide for drought preparedness measures in the State of New Mexico, S. 1583, to authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, S. 2046, to authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to issue an order continuing a stay of a hydroelectric license for the Mahoney Lake hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska, and S. 2083, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

October 8, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, to hold hearings to examine S. 414, to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, S. 872, to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 1295 and H.R. 1324, bills to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, S. 1448, to designate the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary in the State of Oregon, S. 1592, to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest, S. 1941 and H.R. 2223, bills to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado, S. 1942 and H.R. 1554, bills to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, S. 1955, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans, S. 1971, to expand the boundary of the California Coastal National Monument, and S. 2069, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: October 7, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: October 6, to hold hearings to examine the United States role and strategy in the Middle East, focusing on Yemen and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

October 7, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine the North Korea threat and United States policy, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

October 8, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1933, to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more

broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, S. 1789, to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the nominations of Jennifer Ann Haverkamp, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Roberta S. Jacobson, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, both of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

October 8, Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development, to hold hearings to examine ensuring an efficient and effective diplomatic security training facility for the twenty-first century, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: October 6, to hold hearings to examine the National Labor Relations Board's joint employer decision, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: October 7, business meeting to consider S. 708, to establish an independent advisory committee to review certain regulations, S. 1607, to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, S. 1818, to amend title 5, United States Code, to reform the rule making process of agencies, S. 1820, to require agencies to publish an advance notice of proposed rule making for major rules, S. 1817, to improve the effectiveness of major rules in accomplishing their regulatory objectives by promoting retrospective review, S. 1873, to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, S. 2021, to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, S. Res. 104, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the success of Operation Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal border crossers, S. 2093, to provide that the Secretary of Transportation shall have sole authority to appoint Federal Directors to the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, H.R. 998, to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, H.R. 322, 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", H.R. 323, 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", H.R. 324, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office", H.R. 558, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building", H.R. 1442, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building", H.R. 1884, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building", H.R. 3059, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building, an original bill entitled, "Directing Dollars to Disaster Relief Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "Inspector General Mandates Reporting Act of 2015", and an original bill entitled, "Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act of 2015", 10 a.m., SD–342.

October 8, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: October 7, business meeting to consider S. 1579, to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States, and H.R. 487, to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 817, to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon, S. 818, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, S. 1436, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, S. 1761, to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, S. 1822, to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, S. 1986, to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada, and H.R. 387, to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Judiciary: October 6, Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts, to hold hearings to examine how overregulation harms minorities, 2:15 p.m., SD–226.

October 7, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine S. 2102, to amend the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide that the Federal Trade Commission shall exercise authority with respect to mergers only under the Clayton Act and only in the same procedural manner as the Attorney General exercises such authority, 10 a.m., SD–226.

October 8, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1814, to withhold certain Federal funding from sanctuary cities, and S. 2123, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, 10 a.m., SD–226.

October 8, Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine eminent domain ten years after *Kelo v. City of New London*, 2 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: October 7, business meeting to consider S. 1811, to require the

Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a program to make loans to certain businesses, homeowners, and renters affected by Superstorm Sandy, S. 2116, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, S. 2126, to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, an original bill entitled, ''Small Contractors Improve Competition Act of 2015'', an original bill entitled, ''Small Business Subcontracting Transparency Act of 2015'', and an original bill entitled, ''Improving Small Business Innovative Research and Technologies Act of 2015'', 11 a.m., SR–428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: October 6, to hold hearings to examine pending health and benefits legislation; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider the nomination of Michael Herman Michaud, of Maine, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: October 6, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:15 p.m., SH–219.

October 8, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: October 7, to hold hearings to examine if the Federal Government is doing enough to protect seniors from identity theft, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, October 7, Full Committee, hearing to review the development of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 9 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

October 8, Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, hearing to review the 2015 fire season and long-term trends, 10 a.m., 1302 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, October 7, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled ''Plutonium Disposition and the MOX Project'', 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

October 8, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''U.S. Strategy in Afghanistan'', 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

October 8, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled ''Update on Military Suicide Prevention Programs'', 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, October 7, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Strengthening Head Start for Current and Future Generations'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

October 7, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Protecting America's Workers: An Enforcement Update from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration'', 1 p.m., 2261 Rayburn.

October 8, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Reviewing the Juvenile Justice System and How It Serves At-Risk Youth'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, October 7, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''EPA's CO2 Regulations for New and Existing Power Plants'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

October 7, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Improving Federal Spectrum Systems'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

October 8, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Volkswagen Emissions Cheating Allegations: Initial Questions'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

October 8, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Examining Legislative Proposals to Combat Our Nation's Drug Abuse Crisis'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

October 9, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, hearing entitled ''E-manifest: An Update on Implementation'', 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, October 9, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled ''The Future of the Multilateral Development Banks'', 9:15 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, October 7, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Reforming Food Aid: Desperate Need to Do Better'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

October 7, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''Food Security and Nutrition Programs in Africa'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

October 7, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled ''Reviewing President Xi's State Visit'', 12:15 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

October 8, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''Examining the Syrian Humanitarian Crisis from the Ground, Part I'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, October 7, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, hearing entitled ''Examining the Mission, Structure, and Reorganization Effort of the National Protection and Programs Directorate'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

October 8, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled ''Protecting Maritime Facilities in the 21st Century: Are Our Nation's Ports at Risk for a Cyber-Attack?'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

October 8, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled ''Reform and Improvement: Assessing the Path Forward for the Transportation Security Administration'', 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, October 7, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Syrian Refugee Crisis and Its Impact on the Security of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program'', 10:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

October 8, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Planned Parenthood Exposed: Examining Abortion Procedures and Medical Ethics at the Nation's Largest Abortion Provider'', 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, October 7, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 974, the ''Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act''; H.R. 1107, the ''Bureau of

Reclamation Transparency Act''; H.R. 1452, to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance; H.R. 1820, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, and for other purposes; H.R. 2212, to take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes; H.R. 2270, the ''Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act''; H.R. 2406, the ''SHARE Act''; and H.R. 3382, the ''Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015'', 4 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

October 8, Full Committee, H.R. 974, the ''Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act''; H.R. 1107, the ''Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act''; H.R. 1452, to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance; H.R. 1820, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, and for other purposes; H.R. 2212, to take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes; H.R. 2270, the ''Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act''; H.R. 2406, the ''SHARE Act''; and H.R. 3382, the ''Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015'' (continued), 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, October 9, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 10, the ''Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act''; H.R. 3231, ''the Federal Intern Protection Act of 2015''; H.R. 2347, the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2015''; S. 1172, the ''Edward 'Ted' Kaufman and Michael Leavitt Presidential Transitions Improvements Act of 2015''; S. 1576, the ''Representative Payee Fraud Prevention Act of 2015''; S. 1580, the ''Competitive Service Act of 2015''; H.R. 136, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1103 USPS Building 1103 in Camp Pendleton, California, as the ''Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office''; H.R. 2928, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the ''Harold George Bennett Post Office''; H.R. 3082, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5919 Chef Menteur Highway in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the ''Daryle Holloway Post Office Building''; H.R. 3274, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4567 Rockbridge Road in Pine Lake, Georgia, as the ''Francis Manuel Ortega Post Office''; H.R. 3601, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7715 Post Road, North Kingstown, Rhode Island, as the ''Melvoid J. Benson Post Office Building''; S. 1596, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2082 Stringtown Road in Grove City, Ohio, as the ''Specialist Joseph W. Riley Post Office Building''; and S. 1826, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 West 2nd Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as the Lieutenant Colonel James ''Maggie'' Megellas Post Office, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, October 7, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 538, the ''Native American Energy Act''; and H.R. 702, to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, October 8, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3033, the ''Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia (READ) Act''; and H.R. 3293, the ''Scientific Research in the National Interest Act'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

October 9, Subcommittee on Space, hearing entitled ''Deep Space Exploration: Examining the Impact of the President's Budget'', 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, October 7, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The EMV Deadline and What It Means for Small Businesses'', 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

October 8, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations, hearing entitled ''The Consequences of DOL's One-Size-Fits-All Overtime Rule for Small Businesses and their Employees'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, October 7, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled ''Ensuring Aviation Safety in the Era of Unmanned Aircraft Systems'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, October 7, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''A Call for System-Wide Change: Evaluating the Independent Assessment of the Veterans Health Administration'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, October 7, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing on the rising costs of higher education and tax policy, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 p.m., Tuesday, October 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1735, National Defense Authorization Act. At 1 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany the bill.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 p.m., Tuesday, October 6

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the rules: 1) H.R. 1553—Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act of 2015; 2) H.R. 1839—Reforming Access for Investments in Startup Enterprises (RAISE) Act of 2015; 3) H.R. 2091—Child Support Assistance Act of 2015; 4) H.R. 1525—Disclosure Modernization and Simplification Act of 2015; 5) H.R. 3032—Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting Modernization Act; 6) H.R. 3102—Airport Access Control Security Improvement Act of 2015, as amended; 7) H.R. 3510—Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Strategy Act of 2015, as amended; 8) S. 1300—Adoptive Family Relief Act; 9) S. 2078—United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015; 10) H.R. 2168—West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act, as amended; and 11) S. 986—Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Fitzpatrick, Michael G., Pa., E1421
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