

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the Senate continues to debate funding priorities for the American people in the coming year, I want to take a moment to recognize the importance of supporting our Nation's seniors. May is Older Americans Month. This is a time to recognize our responsibility to expand resources for the elderly and a moment to acknowledge the important role older Americans play in contributing to our country's livelihood and development.

Older Americans Month has been recognized annually since 1963, when President Kennedy designated May as Senior Citizens Month to honor the dedication of seniors to our communities. At that time, just 17 million Americans had reached their 65th birthday, with over one-third of all seniors living in poverty. With few programs to support their needs, President Kennedy pledged to highlight elderly contributions to society in order to strengthen such services.

This year's Older American's Month theme is "Blaze a Trail," aimed at raising awareness about the many issues facing seniors today. From high health care costs, to the availability of healthy foods in vulnerable communities, our Nation's seniors deserve the resources they need to enjoy these richer years.

Last month, the President signed the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act into law, marking the end of a 5-year long debate on how to reauthorize crucial programs for seniors in underserved communities. For decades, the Older Americans Act has strengthened community assistance for seniors, including through transportation, caregiver support, nutrition, and home-based aid. I am pleased the reauthorization remains steadfast in supporting these initiatives, and includes stronger protections for elder rights, while expanding disability and long-term care programs.

But we cannot stop there. We must take this as an opportunity to underscore the importance of promoting senior services across all sectors. That means coming together as a Congress to produce solutions for long-term sustainability in Social Security and Medicare. It means expanding access to healthy foods across communities, including in hospitals and senior-care facilities. This means supporting caregivers and families who take time out of their lives to provide for their loved ones. And it means ensuring that cost of living adjustments are fairly calculated to account for senior expenses year after year.

We all have a stake in promoting the livelihood of our Nation's elderly, whether it be for our own families or for the children of future generations. Let us be reminded this May that supporting older Americans is not just a matter of fairness, but a commonsense solution to promoting the wellbeing of our Nation at large.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

ADAM WALSH REAUTHORIZATION BILL

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today the Senate voted on S. 2613, the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act. This legislation would extend two key programs that Congress established a decade ago to standardize and strengthen registration and monitoring of sex offenders nationwide. I support this bill because it has critical provisions that law enforcement officers need in order to protect our children from harm, and I would have voted in favor of it if I were present for the vote.

In 2006, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act. The Adam Walsh Act, which was named for a 6-year old who was tragically murdered in 1981, established nationwide notification and registration standards for those convicted of sex offenses. The Adam Walsh Act created a Federal grant program to assist State and local law enforcement to implement registration systems and locate those who fail abide by registration requirements.

The Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act would reauthorize the Sex Offender Management Assistance Program, a Federal program that assists State and local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to improve sex offender registry systems and information-sharing capabilities. The bill would also reauthorize the Jessica Lunsford Address Verification Grant Program, a Federal program that assists States and local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to verify the residence of all or some registered sex offenders. The reauthorization of these critical programs would provide law enforcement with the tools they need to keep our communities safe.

I would have voted in favor this legislation today because it helps combat child predators by giving law enforcement officials the tools they need to catch these dangerous individuals and convict them. It takes a comprehensive network of law enforcement agencies on the Federal, State, and local levels working together to ensure compliance and locate sex offenders, and that is what this bill would do. I also support this legislation because it would tighten our sex offender registration system and better track registered sex offenders, which helps to protect our children from harm. I also recognize that this legislation has the support of the Na-

tional Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Nation's foremost missing children's clearinghouse.

Despite my support for this legislation, I do have concerns with some sex offender registration systems. First, more research is needed to assess whether or not sex offender registries actually improve the safety of the public. Some research has concluded that sex registries have no demonstrable effect in reducing sex re-offenses and often registered sex offenders have higher rates of recidivism. While our men and women in uniform believe they need this tool to combat sex offenses, Congress should not rubber-stamp Federal programs in the absence of hard data that demonstrates their effectiveness in keeping us safe.

I am also concerned that sex offender programs undermine rehabilitation because they present significant barriers to reintegration into the community. Requiring youth who are adjudicated in juvenile court of sex offenses to register as a sex offender is counter-productive to the goal of the juvenile justice system, which is designed to protect youth from lifelong penalties carried by the adult criminal justice system. The top priority of our government must be to protect the public; but one-size-fits-all solutions do not achieve that end.

Despite my concerns, I would have voted in favor of the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act today because I believe it provides law enforcement with the tools they need to keep people safe. I am committed to working with law enforcement to make sure they receive the support they need from Congress to effectively do their jobs. However, Congress must do its job by ensuring that the programs we endorse have the research to support them. That effort is critical to both keeping the public safe and to ensuring that our justice system is fair for all Americans.●

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, yesterday, May 22, 2016, our Nation celebrated National Maritime Day. The United States has always been and will always be a great maritime nation. My home State of Louisiana ranks first in the Nation in economic impact from America's domestic maritime industry. The American Maritime Partnership shows Louisiana's 54,850 maritime jobs pump more than \$11.3 billion annually into our economy. America's robust domestic maritime industry includes vessel operators, marine terminals, shipyards, and workers engaged in the movement of cargo exclusively within the United States.

According to a study commissioned by the Transportation Institute and conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, PwC, Louisiana also ranks first in the country in maritime jobs per capita, with 1 in every 83 jobs connected to the State's domestic maritime industry, nearly twice that of any other State.

Louisiana also ranks third in the Nation in shipbuilding. According to the U.S. Maritime Administration shipbuilding accounts for 29,250 jobs and more than \$2.23 billion in annual economic impact for our State.

However, Congress has the responsibility for ensuring that our Nation's maritime infrastructure is adequately maintained in order for this industry to flourish. There is no greater maritime asset in the United States than the Mississippi River and its tributaries. They connect over 350 million acres of farmland to world markets via international trade through the 12,500 miles of inland navigational channels. Much of the commodities and goods produced in the heartland brought to world markets via the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico and beyond to foreign nations around the globe.

The Mississippi River Basin includes 41 percent of the continental United States, and the value of the agricultural products and the large agribusiness industry in the Mississippi River Basin produces 92 percent of the Nation's agricultural exports and 78 percent of the world's exports in feed grains and soybeans, while 60 percent of all grain exported from the United States is shipped via the Mississippi River from ports throughout the region, including the Port of New Orleans, the Port of South Louisiana, and the Port of Greater Baton Rouge. Barge traffic and navigation on the Mississippi River also carries a vast array of coal, fertilizer, cement, chemicals, and petroleum products, so any significant disruption to this navigational channel has huge consequences for the entire U.S. economy.

Unfortunately, the recent winter and spring floods in the Mississippi River Valley have severely impeded navigational traffic along significant stretches along the Mississippi River ship channel. For example, at Southwest Pass along the lower Mississippi River ship channel, the authorized draft is 47 feet, but due to the excess sand and silt washing downstream from the flooding, the ship channel had draft restrictions of 41 feet for a month earlier this year. Economically, for each foot of draft loss a vessel either on the inbound or outbound voyage must leave behind approximately \$1 million, per foot, in cargo behind. This is particularly problematic because the last foot of draft is often where a vessel makes any profits. So during a month timeframe, each vessel traveling along the Mississippi River at Southwest Pass could potentially have had to leave behind \$6 million in cargo, an average of 30 vessels per day moving through the channel. An unreliable ship channel threatens the viability of barge traffic along the entire Mississippi River system by raising the transportation costs to move cargo.

Navigation along the Mississippi River system is just one example of many maritime infrastructure challenges our Nation faces. Congress has

the responsibility for providing the resources necessary to keep America's infrastructure open for business. Inaction is not an option if we want to keep United States competitive in the global marketplace. Across America, the domestic maritime industry includes approximately 40,000 vessels, supports 478,440 jobs, and has an annual economic impact of \$92.5 billion. The industry also generates approximately \$92.5 billion in wages and \$10 billion in tax revenues. In honor of this quintessentially American industry and National Maritime Day, I look forward to working with my colleagues to find solutions for America's maritime infrastructure challenges.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ROBERT DONNELL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize LCDR Robert Donnell of the U.S. Coast Guard on his upcoming promotion to commander and for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and other members of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee over the past several years.

An aviator by training, Lieutenant Commander Donnell has ably contributed to the committee's work and has been an invaluable asset in the passage of two U.S. Coast Guard Reauthorization bills, the Port Performance Act, and a number of key freight rail issues. He has made himself available to my staff and other members to help with all matters pertaining to the committee.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to congratulate and thank him and his family for their selfless and dedicated service to our Nation. This well-deserved promotion recognizes his leadership and commitment to serving others. He is a valued member of my Commerce Committee staff who will be truly missed. At the same time, we wish him every success in his new position as operations officer, U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, MI.

DISCHARGE PETITION—S.J. RES. 28

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 28, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Secretary of Agriculture relating to inspection of fish of the order Siluriformes, and further, that the resolution be placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Kelly Ayotte, John McCain, Patrick J. Toomey, Marco Rubio, Mike Lee, Michael B. Enzi, Chuck Grassley, Jeanne Shaheen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Maria Cantwell, Bill Nelson, Jack Reed, Dianne Feinstein, Jeff Flake, Richard Burr, Ted Cruz, Daniel Coats, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Thom Tillis, James Lankford, Ron Johnson, Al Franken, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Angus King, Jr., Ed-

ward J. Markey, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Ron Wyden, Mike Crapo.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING LEX "BUTCH" EDWARD DAVIS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to remember the life of Lex "Butch" Edward Davis, who passed away on April 11, 2016.

Butch Davis called Sherwood, AR, home. He was born in Des Arc, AR, on August 8, 1944. When he was 16, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. His service from 1961 to 1969 included two tours in Korea and one in Vietnam, before receiving an honorable medical discharge from injuries he received.

Butch was awarded the Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Purple Heart.

His service resulted in severe wounds that left him with very limited use of his legs and arms and a 100 percent VA disability rating. Despite these setbacks, Butch continued an active role in his community and among veteran organizations.

He served as a VFW commander at Post 395 in Sherwood. He was a member of both the Camp Robinson/Camp Pike and Little Rock Air Force Base community councils. He launched the community's Veterans Day parade and was the caretaker of the Sherwood Rotary Club Veterans Memorial. Butch could always be counted on to help at every air show and many other activities at Little Rock Air Force Base. His commitment earned him the recognition of "honorary commander" at Little Rock Air Force Base. In 2011, he was honored as one of 15 inductees into the Arkansas Military Veterans Hall of Fame.

He also gave back to his community in other ways, including serving as an alderman in Sherwood from 1998 until 2010 and was even named Sherwood Volunteer of the Year. He served as co-organizer of the Wheel Chair Olympics and played an active role in his community and the greater central Arkansas area for many years.

A true family man and dear friend, Butch leaves behind many loved ones, including his wife, Judy, three children, and many other friends. I want to offer my prayers and sincere condolences to his loved ones on their loss. Butch's service and sacrifice speak for themselves, but I would like to take this time to recognize him and join with his family and friends in expressing my immense pride in his life and legacy. ●

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged by petition, pursuant to 5