United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017 No. 53

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 27, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF DENHAM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

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

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House Your grace. Endow them with the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

In so many places in our world, there are people living with unrest and uncertainty, most especially in Syria and South Sudan. In our own country, there is great concern about the future of health care among our citizens. Bring comfort to all who live in fear of their lives and welfare into the future, and empower those who have the access and ability to be of meaningful assistance.

May all that is done this day 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. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MESSER 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.

NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR THREAT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the bizarre totalitarian regime in North Korea continues to threaten American families and our South Korean allies by testing nuclear capabilities and intermediate- to long-range missiles. I am grateful that, this week, the House Foreign Affairs Committee will consider H. Res. 92, a resolution I introduced in February, condemning North Korea for their recent missile testing and calling for additional sanctions.

The committee will also consider H.R. 479, designating North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism, and H.R. 1644, to enhance sanctions with respect to companies and individuals doing business and enabling the regime in North Korea.

I appreciate the leadership of Chairman ED ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL of the House Foreign Affairs Committee as we address the threat posed by North Korea, where its dictatorship has reduced its citizens to starvation.

Additionally, congratulations to the University of South Carolina men's basketball team and Head Coach Frank Martin on their victory at the Elite Eight last night in New York. I look forward to joining the rest of Gamecock Nation and cheering the Gamecocks in their first-ever Final Four participation on Saturday.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

OBAMACARE IS NOT OKAY

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, Hoosiers don't like ObamaCare, and they have worked hard for 6 years to stop it: electing a Republican House majority, a Republican Senate majority, and, eventually, President Trump, all on the promise to repeal and replace this failed law.

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That is what has made last week's failure to vote in the House so disheartening. It is inside baseball, politics as usual, and it is not okay.

It is not okay to the millions of families facing soaring premiums and worse health care under ObamaCare, and it shouldn't be okay to any of us. We cannot walk away now without even a vote with so much at stake.

This debate has gotten really complicated, but to me, it is really simple. We need to do what we said we would do: keep our promise to the American people, and repeal this failed law with something better.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1701

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) at 5 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

REQUIRING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO SUBMIT A REPORT REGARDING EMERGENCY OR DISASTER ASSISTANCE APPLICANTS AND GRANTEES

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1117) to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report regarding certain plans regarding assistance to applicants and grantees during the response to an emergency or disaster, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1117

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

SECTION 1. ACTION PLAN TO IMPROVE FIELD TRANSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) shall report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding the plans the agency will undertake to provide the following:

(1) Consistent guidance to applicants on FEMA disaster funding procedures during the response to an emergency or disaster.

(2) Appropriate record maintenance and transfer of documents to new teams during staff transitions.

(3) Accurate assistance to applicants and grantees to ease the administrative burden throughout the process of obtaining and monitoring assistance.

(b) MAINTAINING RECORDS.—The report shall also include a plan for implementing operating procedures and document retention requirements to ensure the maintenance of appropriate records throughout the lifecycle of the emergency or disaster.

(c) NEW TECHNOLOGIES.—Finally, the report shall identify new technologies that further aid the disaster workforce in partnering with State, local, and tribal governments and private nonprofits in the wake of a disaster or emergency to educate, assist, and inform applicants on the status of their emergency or disaster assistance applications and projects.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1117, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have seen firsthand in my district how disasters devastate communities and their citizens. In the aftermath of these disasters, while facing the devastation and the daunting task of recovery, many communities encounter even more challenges caused by FEMA, which has been sent there to help.

I continue to hear from my colleagues in Congress about conflicting guidance received from FEMA officials, who constantly change on the ground. I have heard stories of lost documents, lengthy delays, and huge administrative burdens placed on communities doing their best to recover from disasters. And in the worst cases, the guidance provided by FEMA results in the community losing disaster assistance.

Unfortunately, in Missouri, they have faced many of these challenges following floods in August 2013. Congresswoman HARTZLER has taken the lead to push FEMA to fix these issues by introducing this bill. I am proud that we are moving H.R. 1117.

One of my focuses as chair of the subcommittee is how we can make disaster assistance programs more effective and efficient and ensure the wise investment of taxpayer dollars. H.R. 1117 will certainly help us do that.

This legislation helps communities struggling to recover from disasters by improving transparency, consistency, and communication with FEMA. It also requires FEMA to leverage technologies to ease the administrative burden on local governments for maintaining documents, applying for assistance, and providing information to FEMA to speed recovery. The House adopted similar language last year when it passed the FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act.

Again, I commend the gentlewoman from Missouri for introducing this bill to ensure that those impacted by disasters are receiving accurate, up-to-date information about their assistance and the status of recovery.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1117 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report on how it will improve field staff transition.

As the gentleman from Pennsylvania has explained, there has been a good deal of confusion with high turnover, repetitive and lost paperwork, and inconsistent guidance.

FEMA has implemented several new technologies to manage its full-time employees, but they have not made similar efforts for field and temporary disaster response personnel. It is time for FEMA to do so.

This bill requires FEMA to submit a report on how it plans to address the disaster workforce issues, their continuing inconsistent guidance, and keeping appropriate records.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask all of my colleagues for their support of H.R. 1117, the FEMA Relief Improvement Act, which will require the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, to refocus their efforts on the core of their mission, which is helping people recover from grave loss in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

In August of 2013, as the chairman and the ranking member mentioned, the southern portion of my district experienced a major disaster involving heavy flooding which devastated infrastructure, and it caused significant hardship for many of my constituents.

Unfortunately, the Federal recovery efforts to this devastated region added insult to injury. Local officials dealt with multiple uncoordinated teams conducting duplicative site visits due to lost paperwork, inconsistent messages between various survey and evaluation teams, and unnecessarily long

delays in recovery and reimbursement. Such a response to any disaster is unacceptable, and change is necessary.

As I work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I have learned that these issues are not unique to central Missouri. I have worked diligently with Chairman BARLETTA in crafting this bill to call attention to and to rectify FEMA's shortcomings.

This legislation is designed to address the deficiencies of the FEMA response to the 2013 flooding in my district to ensure future disaster recoveries in Missouri and elsewhere are as painless and efficient as possible.

Specifically, this bill requires FEMA to create an action plan to address inconsistent guidance, to establish appropriate recordkeeping procedures, and to improve overall assistance to local officials.

Additionally, this simple bill directs FEMA to issue a forward-looking report to identify new technologies that could further aid the disaster workforce in partnering with private nonprofits as well as State and local governments in the wake of a disaster or an emergency.

FEMA processes need to be streamlined and consistent in order to help those recovering from a disaster feel supported and assured relief will come in a timely, efficient manner.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to bring the certainty and the assurances of quick relief to all of our constituents because they deserve the best. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 1117, the FEMA Relief Improvement Act, which passed by voice vote out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in February.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairmen SHUSTER and BARLETTA and Ranking Members DEFAZIO and JOHNSON, as well as their staffs, for working with me in this bipartisan, commonsense effort to make the people get the help and assistance they so desperately need in times of crisis.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1117.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 1117.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1117, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DISASTER SIMPLIFIED ASSISTANCE VALUE ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1214) to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a program to use simplified procedures to issue public assistance for certain projects under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1214

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Disaster Simplified Assistance Value Enhancement Act'' or the ''Disaster SAVE Act''.

SEC. 2. SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE PROGRAM.

(a) THRESHOLD.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall immediately establish the threshold for eligibility pursuant to section 422(b)(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189(b)(2)) at $500,000.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than May 1, 2021, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing the results of a comprehensive review of the program conducted under section 422 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189), as modified by this section, to include an assessment of cost-effectiveness, speed of recovery, capacity of the grantees, past performance, and accountability measures.

(c) SUNSET.—This Act shall expire on September 30, 2021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1214, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of H.R. 1214, the Disaster SAVE Act, is to speed up small disaster reconstruction projects and lower their costs by removing red tape.

One of my biggest priorities since becoming chairman of the subcommittee has been reducing disaster costs and losses and reducing disaster risks. I was mayor for 11 years, and I saw so many friends' and neighbors' businesses and communities impacted by disasters.

One of the things I hear most often from my colleagues in Congress is frustration about inconsistent guidance from FEMA and funding take backs, even when there is no evidence of misuse. If you have ever had a big disaster in your district, you know exactly what I am talking about.

In my district, FEMA reversed its prior approval and has been fighting for years with the local government over whether or not they should have paved a temporary access road that was built after a major flood. The cost of the gravel road was $230,000. The extra cost to pave it, which the community covered with its own funds, was about $50,000.

The amount of money FEMA has wasted in salaries, administration, and legal fees trying to take back the $230,000 likely exceeds the entire project cost. This is red tape out of control, and it doesn't serve the taxpayers well. We know there is a better way to manage these projects.

Under current law, FEMA runs projects under $130,000 in a manner similar to an insurance settlement. FEMA reviews the damage, makes a cost estimate, and issues a repair grant. The local government is responsible for managing the grant on time and on budget.

In exchange, they have greater flexibility in how they bill back, and they can enhance a project with their own funds. This approach dramatically cuts administrative costs, rebuilds infrastructure faster, eliminates the cost overruns for Federal taxpayers, and gives local governments the flexibility to rebuild in a way that best meets their needs.

The success of FEMA's small project program is well proven thanks to the prior efforts of the Transportation Committee. The former chairman of the subcommittee, from California, worked diligently to give FEMA the flexibility to administratively increase the small project threshold, which finally passed as part of the Hurricane Sandy supplemental package.

H.R. 2114, the Disaster SAVE Act, will raise the current project cap for this program from $130,000 to $500,000 and help all of our constituents avoid the project nightmare my district is experiencing right now. This will speed up rebuilding efforts and reduce disaster recovery costs.

□ 1715

The vast majority of FEMA's rebuilding projects are less than $500,000, but FEMA continues to micromanage the administration of these projects at a tremendous cost in time and money. FEMA testified in 2015 that increasing this threshold would result in lower administrative costs, faster project completions, and fewer deobligations.

After 4 years, the program will sunset and Congress will decide, based on outcomes, lessons learned, and stakeholder input, if the program should continue or not. The House adopted

similar language last year when it passed the FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

FEMA provides public assistance funds after a disaster or emergency to State, tribal, and local governments and some private nonprofits. These funds reimburse communities and other entities for activities such as debris removal costs, emergency protective measures, and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities.

Currently, for projects under—however they chose that number—$122,100—I am surprised they didn't add on 10 cents—reimburses grantees based on cost estimates rather than actual costs. This bill would require FEMA to increase this threshold to $500,000. This would be temporary authority, expiring on September 30, 2021. We would require that this be closely tracked. There is a strong indication that this will actually expedite reimbursement, ultimately save funds, and will not subject these projects to abuse.

I am hopeful that my colleagues will support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 1214, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1214, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2017

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 654) to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a plan for the purchase and installation of an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 654

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Pacific Northwest Earthquake Preparedness Act of 2017''.

(b) CASCADIA SUBDUCTION ZONE DEFINED.—In this Act, the term ''Cascadia Subduction Zone'' means the landward-dipping fault that is approximately 684 miles long, separates the Juan de Fuca and North America plates, and stretches along a portion of the western coast of the United States beginning off Cape Mendocino, California, along the State of Oregon, the State of Washington, to Northern Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

SEC. 2. EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR CASCADIA SUBDUCTION ZONE.

(a) PLAN FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

(A) develop a plan for the purchase and installation of an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone; and

(B) identify the funds necessary for implementation of the plan.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a copy of the plan.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that summarizes the actions taken to implement the plan.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(2) EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM.—The term ''earthquake early warning system'' includes—

(A) improvements to regional and geodetic networks that support building a capability for an earthquake early warning system; and

(B) seismometers, Global Positioning System receivers, and associated infrastructure.

SEC. 3. EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI TASK FORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish an Earthquake and Tsunami Task Force for the purpose of developing a comprehensive strategy and recommendations on how the Nation should prepare and plan for, mitigate against, respond to, recover from, and more successfully adapt to a covered event in the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

(b) TASK FORCE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of the Task Force shall include a cross section of subject matter experts representing the following:

(A) Relevant Federal agencies.

(B) The States of Oregon, Washington, and California.

(C) Indian tribes, local governments, and private sector representatives that may be impacted by a covered event in the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

(D) Universities, academia, and research institutions with expertise in topics relevant to the work of the Task Force.

(2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Administrator (or the Administrator's designee) shall serve as the chairperson of the Task Force.

(3) DETAILED EMPLOYEES.—Members of the Task Force may detail employees to assist the Administrator (or the Administrator's designee) in fulfilling the responsibilities of the Task Force.

(c) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY.—

(1) STRATEGY.—The comprehensive strategy to be developed under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(A) A description of how Federal agencies will coordinate to develop the ability to prepare and plan for, mitigate against, respond to, recover from, and more successfully adapt to the impacts of a covered event in the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

(B) A strategy to ensure collaboration between the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy, the Coast Guard, the Corps of Engineers, and other Federal agencies, as appropriate, for purposes of—

(i) completing a needs assessment of Federal facilities in need of hardening for a covered event; and

(ii) developing a strategic plan to mitigate and retrofit Federal, State, tribal, and local critical assets for freight, energy, and transit purposes to withstand a covered event and to help save lives during and immediately after a covered event.

(C) A strategy—

(i) to assist State, tribal, and local governments in developing and implementing a coordinated and comprehensive plan to prioritize Federal, State, tribal, local, and private investments and activities to develop the ability to prepare and plan for, mitigate against, respond to, recover from, and more successfully adapt to the impacts of a covered event in the Cascadia Subduction Zone; and

(ii) to link any existing statewide mitigation plan with such a coordinated and comprehensive plan.

(D) With respect to the strategy described in subparagraph (C), an examination of the feasibility of the public sector, the private sector, and individuals to acquire earthquake insurance.

(E) An identification of funding opportunities to implement the comprehensive strategy and any recommendations made by the Task Force, including—

(i) existing funding opportunities across Federal agencies and other sources; and

(ii) potential new funding opportunities.

(F) An identification of barriers to obtaining funding for the implementation of the comprehensive strategy and recommendations on how to remove the barriers.

(G) A strategy for appropriate Federal agencies to collaborate with and assist State, tribal, and local governments in developing recommendations for cost-effective mitigation alternatives for aging State, tribal, and locally owned critical infrastructure.

(H) A strategy for assisting State, tribal, and local governments in developing a recovery plan prior to a covered event in the Cascadia Subduction Zone that addresses how State, tribal, and local governments may want to rebuild after the event.

(I) An identification of the steps taken to date to develop an onshore and offshore earthquake early warning system and a description of the purpose and scope of such a system.

(J) An evaluation of the types of offshore earthquake early warning systems and recommendations and a cost estimate for an earthquake early warning system appropriate for the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

(K) Recommendations on how an earthquake early warning system should operate, including whether and how the system should interface with the private sector.

(L) A description of appropriate roles and responsibilities for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, including who should operate and maintain an earthquake early warning system, the cost of the system, and possible funding sources for the system.

(M) A plan on how to integrate an earthquake early warning system into existing and new public alert warning systems and technologies, including mobile systems.

(2) USE OF EXISTING PLANS.—In developing the comprehensive strategy, the Task Force may use existing plans, studies, and other resources.

(d) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The recommendations to be developed by the Task Force under subsection (a) shall include recommendations on—

(1) potential administrative or legislative changes required to implement the comprehensive strategy;

(2) the funding required to implement the comprehensive strategy and the recommendations; and

(3) the order of priority for implementation of the comprehensive strategy.

(e) NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—

(1) COLLABORATION.—The Task Force shall work simultaneously and collaboratively with the National Academies.

(2) AGREEMENT.—The Task Force shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies under which the National Academies shall develop recommendations for a Federal research strategy to advance scientific understanding of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and resulting tsunami preparedness, including the following:

(A) Geologic conditions, ground motions, and tsunami hazards.

(B) Implications of an effective automated early warning system.

(C) Effects of mega-earthquake and tsunami events on the built and natural environment.

(D) Social and behavioral factors for effective disaster preparedness and response.

(E) Cost-effective mitigation alternatives for legacy and aging infrastructure.

(F) Strategic planning for freight, energy, and transit network robustness.

(G) Tools that help communities invest their resources for the greatest benefit.

(H) Any other topics identified as necessary by the Task Force or the National Academies.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report of the Task Force that includes the following:

(1) The comprehensive strategy to be developed under subsection (a).

(2) The recommendations to be developed under subsections (a), (d), and (e).

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) COVERED EVENT.—The term ''covered event'' means an earthquake, tsunami, or combined earthquake and tsunami event.

(3) TASK FORCE.—The term ''Task Force'' means the Federal interagency task force to be established under subsection (a).

SEC. 4. NATIONAL PREPARATION AND RESPONSE EFFORTS RELATING TO EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS.

The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall be responsible for the Nation's efforts to reduce the loss of life and property, and to protect the Nation, from an earthquake, tsunami, or combined earthquake and tsunami event by developing the ability to prepare and plan for, mitigate against, respond to, recover from, and more successfully adapt to such an event.

SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIVITIES.

Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) USE OF ASSISTANCE.—Recipients of hazard mitigation assistance provided under this section and section 203 may use the assistance to conduct activities to help reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering in any area affected by earthquake hazards, including—

''(1) improvements to regional seismic networks in support of building a capability for earthquake early warning;

''(2) improvements to geodetic networks in support of building a capability for earthquake early warning; and

''(3) improvements to seismometers, Global Positioning System receivers, and associated infrastructure in support of building a capability for earthquake early warning.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 654, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

We know earthquakes pose one of the greatest natural hazards here in the United States. They strike without warning and result in potentially catastrophic casualties and damage to buildings and infrastructure.

The Pacific Northwest is at risk of severe earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. According to the experts, a massive earthquake is coming to the area. We just don't know when. Six years ago this month, a 9.0 earthquake in Japan created a tsunami that killed over 15,000 people and caused a nuclear disaster.

Earthquakes cannot be prevented, but their impacts on life, property, and the economy can be managed. FEMA is responsible for coordinating the Federal response to a catastrophic earthquake, and has been diligently working to help States plan and prepare for an earthquake. Good planning and preparedness can save lives and property.

H.R. 654, the Pacific Northwest Earthquake Preparedness Act of 2017, directs FEMA to plan the development of an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The bill also directs the President to establish an earthquake and tsunami task force to develop a comprehensive strategy and recommendations on how to prepare and plan for seismic events.

I want to commend the ranking member for his leadership on this critical national issue. He has been an advocate for his State and the Pacific Northwest, supporting preparedness and mitigation efforts and the development of a public West Coast earthquake early warning system.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, March 27, 2017.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,

Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 654, the ''Pacific Northwest Earthquake Preparedness Act of 2017,'' which was reported by your Committee on March 9, 2017.

H.R. 654 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. In order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would request that, in any final version of the legislation, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology be included as a recipient of the reports called for in Sections 2 and 3 of the bill.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, March 27, 2017.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,

Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 654, the Pacific Northwest Earthquake Preparedness Act of 2017. I appreciate your willingness to expedite consideration of this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will not seek to litigate its claim of jurisdictional interest in this bill.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing the litigation of its claim of jurisdictional interest in the bill at this time, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology does not waive any claim to jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill become necessary, I would work with the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to litigate its jurisdictional claim and, if such a claim is established by the Parliamentarians, support your request to be represented on the conference committee.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration on the House floor. I look forward to working with the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

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

I thank the chairman for his kind words for the work I have been doing for a number of years on this issue.

I traveled with the committee last year to Japan to see what lessons they learned from the horrible earthquake 6 years ago, in which more than 15,000 people perished. They did have in place a land-based and near-ocean early warning system, which gave them enough time to shut down the high-speed trains, get people out of elevators in buildings, shut down production lines, mitigating economic losses

and property damage. But, unfortunately, the system was not adequate to predict the height of the tsunami, and 15,000 people died.

They are now deploying a realtime deep ocean system. It is time for the United States to emulate that. The Cascadia Subduction Zone, off the coast of northern California and Oregon, has had at least a dozen massive earthquakes over the last 5,000 years. It is currently well overdue for an earthquake. If we had in place a deep ocean system near the southern end of that fault where they expect the major quake will start, it would give enough warning time for people on the coast of Oregon, and at least those a little further up the coast, to seek higher ground and not be inundated. It would provide more time in the valleys, and up in Portland and up in Seattle for transit systems to be shut down and people to take shelter. So this could save many lives.

This bill directs FEMA to develop a plan to identify the necessary funds and the potential costs to purchase the equipment for an earthquake early warning system. It is basically off-the-shelf technology.

It requires the President to establish an earthquake and tsunami task force. The task force will consist of representatives from potentially impacted areas, as well as earthquake and tsunami experts to develop comprehensive strategy recommendations on how the Nation should prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, recover from, and adapt to an earthquake, tsunami, or combined event in the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

I strongly recommend this bill to my colleagues. We should learn from the disaster in Japan and take action here to save lives and property in the event of this quake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

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

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 654, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 654, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVS,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 27, 2017, at 2:41 p.m.:

Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy.

National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1430, HONEST AND OPEN NEW EPA SCIENCE TREATMENT ACT OF 2017

Ms. CHENEY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115–60) on the resolution (H. Res. 229) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1430) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 34, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUBMITTED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Ms. CHENEY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115–61) on the resolution (H. Res. 230) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 34) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to ''Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services'', which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1117, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 654, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

REQUIRING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO SUBMIT A REPORT REGARDING EMERGENCY OR DISASTER ASSISTANCE APPLICANTS AND GRANTEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1117) to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report regarding certain plans regarding assistance to applicants and grantees during the response to an emergency or disaster, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 408, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 195]

YEAS—408

Abraham	Brooks (AL)	Comstock
Adams	Brooks (IN)	Conaway
Aguilar	Brown (MD)	Connolly
Allen	Brownley (CA)	Conyers
Amash	Buck	Cook
Amodei	Bucshon	Cooper
Arrington	Budd	Correa
Babin	Burgess	Costa
Bacon	Bustos	Costello (PA)
Banks (IN)	Butterfield	Courtney
Barletta	Byrne	Cramer
Barr	Calvert	Crawford
Barragán	Capuano	Crist
Bass	Carbajal	Crowley
Beatty	Carter (GA)	Cuellar
Bera	Carter (TX)	Culberson
Bergman	Cartwright	Cummings
Beyer	Castor (FL)	Curbelo (FL)
Biggs	Castro (TX)	Davidson
Bishop (GA)	Chabot	Davis (CA)
Bishop (MI)	Chaffetz	Davis, Danny
Bishop (UT)	Cheney	Davis, Rodney
Black	Chu, Judy	DeFazio
Blackburn	Cicilline	DeGette
Blum	Clark (MA)	Delaney
Blumenauer	Clarke (NY)	DeLauro
Blunt Rochester	Clay	DelBene
Bonamici	Cleaver	Demings
Bost	Clyburn	Denham
Boyle, Brendan F.	Coffman	Dent
	Cohen	DeSantis
Brady (PA)	Cole	DeSaulnier
Brady (TX)	Collins (GA)	DesJarlais
Brat	Collins (NY)	Deutch
Bridenstine	Comer	Diaz-Balart

Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Ellison
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Esty
Evans
Farenthold
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gottheimer
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (MN)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas J.
Rosen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce (CA)
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Rutherford
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—21

Aderholt
Barton
Bilirakis
Buchanan
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Duncan (SC)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Holding
Huffman
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Marino
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rush
Simpson
Slaughter
Titus
Visclosky
Yoder

□ 1853

Messrs. ESPAILLAT and MCHENRY changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President shall immediately disclose his tax return information to Congress and the American people.

Whereas, the Emoluments Clause was included in the U.S. Constitution for the express purpose of preventing federal officials from accepting any ''present, Emolument, Office, or Title . . . from any King, Prince, or foreign State'';

Whereas, in Federalist No. 22 (Alexander Hamilton) it is said, ''One of the weak sides of republics, among their numerous advantages, is that they afford too easy an inlet to foreign corruption,'' and;

Whereas, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention specifically designed the Emoluments Clause as an antidote to potentially corrupting foreign practices of a kind that the Framers had observed during the period of the Confederation, and;

Whereas, Article 1, section 9, clause 8 of the Constitution states: ''no person holding any office of profit or trust . . . shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State'', and;

Whereas, in 2009, the Office of Legal Counsel clarified that corporations owned or controlled by foreign governments presumptively qualify as foreign States under the foreign Emoluments Clause, and;

Whereas, the word ''emoluments'' means profit, salary, fees, or compensation which would include direct payment, as well as other benefits, including extension of credit, forgiveness of debt, or the granting of rights of pecuniary value, and;

Whereas, according to The New Yorker, in 2012, The Trump Organization entered into a deal with Ziya Mammadov to build the Trump Tower Baku in the notoriously corrupt country Azerbaijan in possible violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and, by profiting from business with the Mammadov family, due to their financial entanglements with the Iran Revolutionary Guard may have also violated the Emoluments Clause if income from this project continues to flow to The Trump Organization, and;

Whereas, The Trump Organization has deals in Turkey, admitted by the President himself during a 2015 Brietbart interview, and when the President announced his travel ban, Turkey's President called for President Trump's name to be removed from Trump Towers Istanbul, according to The Wall Street Journal, and President Trump's company is currently involved in major licensing deals for that property which may implicate the Emoluments Clause, and;

Whereas, shortly after election, the President met with the former U.K. Independence Party leader, Nigel Farage, to get help to stop obstructions of the view from one of his golf resorts in Scotland, and according to The New York Times, both of the resorts he owns there are promoted by Scotland's official tourism agency, a benefit that may violate the Emoluments Clause, and;

Whereas, at Trump Tower in New York, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China is a large tenant, according to Bloomberg; the United Arab Emirates leases space, according to the Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority; and the Saudi Mission to the U.N. makes annual payments, according to the New York Daily News, and money from these foreign countries goes to the President, and;

Whereas, according to NPR, in February China gave provisional approval for 38 new trademarks for The Trump Organization, which have been sought for a decade to no avail, until President Trump won the election. This is a benefit the Chinese Government gave to the President's businesses in possible violation of the Emoluments Clause, and;

Whereas, the President is part owner of a New York building carrying a $950 million loan, partially held by the Bank of China, according to The New York Times, when owing the Government of China by the extension of loans and credits by a foreign State to an officer of the United States would violate the Emoluments Clause, and;

Whereas, NPR reported that the Embassy of Kuwait held its 600 guest National Day celebration at Trump Hotel in Washington, D.C., last month, proceeds to Trump, and;

Whereas, according to The Washington Post, the Trump International

Hotel in Washington, D.C., has hired a ''director of diplomatic sales'' to generate high-priced business among foreign leaders and diplomatic delegations, and;

Whereas, according to his 2016 candidate filing with the Federal Election Commission, the President has 564 financial positions in companies located in the United States and around the world, and;

Whereas, against the advice of ethics attorneys and the Office of Government Ethics, the President has refused to divest his ownership stake in his businesses, and;

Whereas, the Director of the nonpartisan Office of Government Ethics said that the President's plan to transfer his business holdings to a trust managed by family members is ''meaningless'' and ''does not meet the standards that . . . every President in the past four decades has met'', and;

Whereas, in the United States' system of checks and balances, Congress has a responsibility to hold the executive branch of government to the highest standard of transparency to ensure the public interest is placed first and the Constitution is adhered to, and;

Whereas, the House Judiciary Committee has the first responsibility among the committees of the House to see that elements of our Constitution are adhered to and, in furtherance of that responsibility, Judiciary Committee members have historically utilized fact-finding and research prior to formal hearings, and;

Whereas, tax returns provide an important baseline disclosure because they contain highly instructive information including whether the filer paid taxes, what they own, what they have borrowed and from whom, whether they have made any charitable donations, and whether they have taken advantage of tax loopholes and that such information would be material to members of the Judiciary Committee as research is undertaken on whether President Trump is in violation of the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution, and;

Whereas, disclosure of the President's tax returns would be an effective means for the President to provide evidence either refuting or confirming claims of violations of the Emoluments Clause, and;

Whereas, the President's tax returns are likely to be essential as members of the Judiciary Committee work to research potential violations of the Emoluments Clause, and;

Whereas, the chairmen of the Ways and Means Committee, Joint Committee on Taxation, and Senate Finance Committee have the authority to request the President's tax returns under section 6103 of the Tax Code, and this power is an essential tool in learning whether the President may be in violation of the Emoluments Clause, and;

Whereas, questions involving constitutional functions and the House's constitutionally granted powers have been recognized as valid questions of the privileges of the House.

Resolved, that the House of Representatives shall:

One, immediately request the tax return information of Donald J. Trump for tax years 2000 through 2015 for review by Congress, as part of a determination as to whether the President is in violation of the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentlewoman from California will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 654) to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a plan for the purchase and installation of an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 11, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 196]

YEAS—395

Abraham
Adams
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barragán
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Carbajal
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Ellison
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Esty
Evans
Farenthold
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gottheimer
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hurd
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (MN)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Mast
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas J.
Rosen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce (CA)
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Rutherford
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)

Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
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Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NAYS—11

Amash
Gaetz
Garrett
Gosar
Hunter
Jones
Massie
McSally
Meadows
Sanford
Yoho

NOT VOTING—23

Aderholt
Buchanan
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Castro (TX)
Duncan (SC)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Holding
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Marino
Rice (SC)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Simpson
Slaughter
Suozzi
Titus
Visclosky
Wilson (FL)
Yoder

□ 1913

Mr. SANFORD changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE FOOD TRUST

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition to honor The Food Trust on celebrating 25 years of helping improve food security in Pennsylvania.

The Food Trust is a nonprofit founded in 1992 in Philadelphia that works to develop a stable food supply in underserved communities, educate youth and family about healthy eating, and improve the connection between urban communities and regional farmers.

A number of Food Trust programs have become national models that have expanded beyond Philadelphia to other regions in need of healthy food access and nutrition education. The Food Trust provides nutrition education for youth and adults in Philadelphia and the wider region, serving more than 70,000 lower-income individuals.

It also increases access to nutritious food in underserved communities by operating a network of 22 farmers markets in lower-income city neighborhoods, which accept SNAP benefits for the use of onsite wireless card readers.

I commend The Food Trust for the fine work it does promoting food education and to ensure that no one goes hungry in America.

Congratulations on 25 years.

CALLING FOR INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ACTIVITIES OF THE KREMLIN

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, as revelations of Russian interference in our democracy continue to emerge, the need for a full and transparent investigation by an independent commission could not be more clear. The reason is simple: We need badly to restore trust in our government.

Though the House and Senate Intelligence Committees have begun related inquiries, neither will have fully investigated the activities of the Kremlin or its agents. Not a single member of the administration has testified under oath about their contacts with Moscow. The inherent politicization of these committees has made it nearly impossible for any congressional body to render the nonpartisan, irrefutable answers the American people deserve.

As a member of the House Oversight Committee, I echo Senator JOHN MCCAIN's call that Congress ''no longer has the credibility to handle this alone.'' Now is the time for an independent commission to fully investigate the ties between the Kremlin and the White House, along with Russia's broader interference in our democracy.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

(Mr. BERGMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, 35 years ago yesterday, ground was broken on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Today, there are 58,272 names listed on that memorial. We still have work to do.

There are 1,615 names listed as MIA. As a Vietnam veteran, I want to call your attention to all of the men and women who served, the 2.7 million who served in Vietnam, a lot of whom are with us today, and a lot of those who will continue to celebrate the losses of our comrades.

Please remember that we all served honorably at the request of our government, and we will continue to serve as long as the cause is just.

CALLING FOR INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE RUSSIAN ATTACKS ON OUR DEMOCRACY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, courageous Russians took to the streets to protest the repressive Russian Government led by Vladimir Putin. All of our major newspapers report the stories of these brave souls.

Their protests were met by brutal tactics of Putin's Russia, which bludgeons opposition, and, even worse, in the case of Denis Voronenkov, a former Russian member of parliament, who, on March 23, had spoken against Putin and Kremlin policies and was shot in broad daylight outside a hotel.

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko pointed the finger at Russian authorities, calling the assassination an act of state terrorism. Political assassinations are not new to Russia. Violent tactics are what we have come to expect from Putin's Russia.

As we follow the facts on the Trump administration's ties to Russia, I urge my colleagues to think of the violence and assault on our democratic values that happen daily at the hands of Putin's Russia.

As we learned last week, this includes Russia's attacks on our democracy here at home. Congress must leave no stone unturned and get to the bottom of these shady connections through empowering an independent commission.

America leads when it protects our basic values as the global champion for liberty and freedom throughout the world.

INF TREATY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently, U.S. officials stated that Russia deployed a fully operational cruise missile. This is a violation of the arms control treaty between the United States and Russia.

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty bans the U.S. and Russia from possessing, producing, or testing a ground-launched cruise missile with a range capability of 500 to 5,000 kilometers.

We have suspected Russia of violating the treaty in the past—for at least the last 10 years—but the last administration didn't pay much attention to it. He asked the State Department to gently ask the Russians to please come back into compliance, but that did not work. So last year, in the NDAA bill, Representative MIKE ROGERS and I sanctioned Russia for INF violations for the first time.

Now we have introduced H.R. 1182, preparing the United States to develop its own missiles. It is not in the United States' national security interest to abide by a treaty when we are the only ones abiding by it.

And that is just the way it is.

ABOUT GOVERNANCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the question we raise this evening is about

governance. In the debacle of last Friday, when the administration failed to carry forward on its promise to pass the worst healthcare bill in the history of the United States, the administration offered a definition or an explanation: the ACA was exploding. It is not exploding. The CBO has indicated that the ACA needs improving, but it has insured some 20 million-plus people and protected children—unlike the administration's bill, Mr. Trump's bill which, in fact, would throw 24 million people off of health care and cut $880 billion. It is about governance.

That is why it is important to have a full investigation of the Russian collusion of all of those who are involved in Mr. Trump's campaign, and in his administration, including very close members of his senior staff.

That is why we should have a full investigation, which would include the Judiciary Committee. I demand that the classified documents that we have requested in a bipartisan letter should be given to the Judiciary Committee, and we should begin investigations on whether there are any questions of criminality.

It is about governance, Mr. Speaker; and the House of Representatives must know the truth so the American people can know the truth.

STAND STRONG AGAINST PREJUDICE

(Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make it very clear that the people's House stands strong against prejudice.

Since January, we have seen a disturbing rise in bomb threats and violence targeted at Jewish Community Centers all over the country, including the Stroum Jewish Community Center in Mercer Island, Washington.

Our Nation is better than this. Today I am joining one of the strongest leaders I know on this issue—Representative KUSTOFF—in introducing the Combating Anti-Semitism Act. This bill is a direct response to the bad actors who are terrorizing our neighbors and friends.

If you threaten someone because of who or how they worship, this bill ensures you will be prosecuted for committing a hate crime. No matter your background, your religion, your walk of life, you should be safe and free to worship without fear in this country. With this bill, we are supporting our Jewish communities all across the country, and I am proud to give it my full support.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AMERICANS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the American people for what you did over the course of a few months since January, when you found out that your healthcare benefits were threatened by the TrumpCare repeal-and-replace attempt.

Because you went out into the streets, because you marched, because you attended townhall meetings, and you made your feelings known about the fact that you wanted to save the Affordable Care Act, you were successful. You gave backbone to the moderate Republicans who stood up and said no to the Trump replacement.

For that, I congratulate you, and I congratulate the American people.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1695

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1695.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

CELEBRATING THE USS ''OMAHA''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the past and future of the United States Navy, the strongest and the best Navy in the world.

On this day, March 27, President George Washington signed an ''Act to Provide a Naval Armament'' authorizing the construction of six frigates, which includes the USS *Constitution*, the world's oldest commissioned naval vessel afloat.

The passage of the Naval Act of 1794 was, in part, a response to threats to American merchant ships from the Barbary pirates in the Mediterranean. 223 years later, the men and women of the U.S. Navy continue to protecting the goods and information we transport via ships and undersea cables to our overseas trading partners.

This includes securing the resources and services we import to fuel our industries. Paraphrasing Admiral Jonathan Greenert: the mandate of the Navy in modern times is to be in the right place, at the right time, ready and able to respond.

The 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review signed by then-Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel—may I add a Nebraskan—states that in order to support this mission, we need to ''continue to build a future Fleet that is able to deliver the required presence and capabilities and address the most important warfighting scenarios.''

In that light, I look forward to the commissioning of the USS *Omaha* this fall, and to congratulating the crew of the newest addition to the United States naval fleet.

The USS *Omaha*, LCS–12, is an Independence-class littoral combat ship, and the fourth ship to bear the name USS Omaha. It is a chain dating back to the commissioning of a sloop-of-war in 1869. The last USS *Omaha* was a nuclear attack submarine that served in the Navy from 1978 to 1995.

According to the Omaha World-Herald, a great source of intelligence, the ship is the sixth in line of *Independence*-class littoral combat ships with a futuristic trimaran design that sits high above the water.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work once compared it to a Klingon Bird-of-Prey ship in the movie ''Star Trek.'' The ship was christened on December 19, 2015, by Susie Buffett.

The ship's Latin motto is derived from its namesake, the city of Omaha, Nebraska. It translates to ''Courageously in Every Enterprise,'' which denotes her crew's willingness to brave any future endeavor.

□ 1930

While I am very proud of the future crew of the USS Omaha, I am equally proud of the members of the Nebraska Navy League and their counterparts for supporting the Navy's missions, their personnel, and their families. In an effort to strengthen the connection between the USS Omaha and the citizens it serves, the Nebraska Navy League has committed to bringing several members of the crew to our community each year. This endeavor helps to enhance the morale of the Active Duty personnel and their families, but it also helps to inform the American public of the importance of a strong United States Navy.

The people in the Second Congressional District are proud to have a fantastic new ship bearing the name of Omaha. It honors our community and the many men and women from Omaha and the surrounding metro area who proudly serve in the United States Armed Forces.

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

WHAT DO WE HAVE TO LOSE: $54 BILLION IN DOMESTIC SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today's Special Order is going to be about the theme: What do we have to lose?

That was something that you heard during the Presidential campaign. Specifically, we want to focus on what do we have to lose: $54 billion in domestic spending.

Earlier this month, President Trump released his budget named America First, a Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again. After reading Trump's budget, I can't help but wonder: Is this truly a mirror of his campaign to put Americans first?

The easy answer to that is ''no.''

According to the Trump budget, America comes dead last. In fact, this budget proposal is all talk when it comes to helping U.S. students access education and well-paying jobs. One of the most alarming things about the budget is how it affects the education of students at minority-serving institutions.

Mr. Speaker, HBCUs, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, were first created in 1964 to educate Black Americans excluded from segregated public and private universities, and this budget will perpetuate the inequalities that currently exist for Black students.

Today, HBCUs continue to provide students—no matter their race or their economic background for that matter—the ability to receive a quality education. According to the United Negro College Fund, 70 percent of all HBCU students rely on Federal grants and workstudy programs to finance their education.

After Trump pledged to support and strengthen HBCUs during a meeting with the presidents of HBCUs in the Oval Office, the budget at hand is another unfulfilled promise. A recent letter from the president of the UNCF, United Negro College Fund, explained the complete elimination of the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, as proposed under the Trump budget. This would negatively impact more than 55,000 HBCU students.

Helping low-income students achieve higher education is very serious, and we know that these cuts would hurt. Proposed reductions would also hurt the Federal workstudy initiatives, and it would eliminate another 26,000 students the ability to pay for college expenses or to improve their employment prospects.

I knew a lot of students who worked under the college workstudy program when I was a student in college, and I can tell you just how critical that program is. For a lot of kids, that is the difference between going to college and not being able to go to college. Having that job on campus allows you to earn money, but stay on campus, affording you more time to be able to study and do other things that you need to do in order to be a successful student.

Also, according to the Center for American Progress, the Trump budget will hit minority communities the hardest. The budget also calls for $200 million in cuts to Federal TRIO programs, which help low-income, first-generation, and disabled students; and GEAR UP, a program that helps prepare low-income middle and high school students for college.

It shouldn't be any surprise to us that President Trump would want to gut funding to help disabled students succeed. We saw this sort of nastiness on the campaign trail, and we really do need to see how we can, again, boost these programs because they have been helping so many kids for a long time.

I can tell you of someone who utilized a Pell Grant Program. I am sure there are many Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle that had to use the Pell Grant Program. Similarly, the Trump budget keeps the Pell Grant Program, but it cuts $3.9 billion in critical funding for many students.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the Pell Grant Program is the largest Federal grant program. The same study found that the program sends up to $5,900 to students and families that earn less than $40,000 a year and prioritizes funding for families earning closer to $20,000 or less.

Again, if you are a low-income family, being able to utilize that money, particularly at that level—$40,000 and below, $20,000 and below—even if you were doing a little bit better than that, you know that that is not a lot of money, and that is why these Pell Grant Programs are so important.

Pell Grant continues to be an important program that helps level the playing field for African Americans and helps to minimize student loans after graduation.

A study by Brookings reported that Black students who graduated, as of October 2016, owed over $52,000 in student loan debt, compared to White graduates who owed approximately $28,000. By reducing funding, Trump is limiting a child's ability to achieve economic mobility and move toward the American Dream.

I am going to ask that my colleague from the great sunshine State of Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS), who is going to help lead this Special Order hour, talk a little bit about how important a lot of these programs are to her State. Her State has many great universities, including, in Tallahassee, Florida A&M University, one of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities that have produced so many great graduates from that school. Although the African-American students may not go to FAMU—but they may go to Florida State, they may go to Gainesville to the University of Florida, they may go to the University of Miami—they need this money in order to be successful.

In the gentlewoman from Florida's work as a Member of Congress and her previous work in law enforcement, the gentlewoman works closely with families, with kids who are trying to pull themselves up and make a difference. I think that America would love to hear from the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) just because she has seen firsthand, again, what these grants, this job training, TRIO, and these other programs mean to these students.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS).

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I also rise tonight to talk about America First, the proposed budget of the 45th President of the United States, President Donald Trump.

It has been said that a budget of a local, State, Federal Government, corporation, nonprofit organization, small business, even a personal budget, really defines one's priorities, one's values, one's vision for the future. The proposed budget gives us a look into one's vision, our President's, for the future of America.

When I think about a vision for the future of America, I personally think of a vision that exceeds our wildest expectations. This is a vision where every boy and girl, regardless of the color of their skin, their gender, their religion, sexual orientation, where they live or how much money their parents have in the bank, has an opportunity to succeed, particularly in this country that we say is the greatest country in the world, and I do believe it to be so.

There is a famous Scripture that says: Because of a lack of a vision, the people perish.

I ask the question tonight: What is the vision for America under this budget?

My colleague has so eloquently laid out that education truly is the key. It starts in education for higher learning. But what about secondary education, where every child should have an opportunity to receive quality education?

We know that the budget proposed in America First cuts very necessary important programs that particularly hit the State of Florida, for example, the Teacher Quality Partnership, and Impact Aid support payments for Federal property, and international education programs. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers supports before- and after-school programs where children are able to receive tutoring, learn about the arts and music, and receive a meal during those programs.

Florida would be particularly hurt. Those programs are designed particularly for children that come from at-risk and poverty-stricken areas.

In those before-school and after-school programs, there is a focus on reading and math. And those programs often offer literary services to families of children that participate in those programs.

So back to the gentleman from Texas' question about what do we have to lose? In Florida, the overall graduation rate is 80 percent. But for African Americans, the graduation rate is about 72 percent, and lower for African-American boys. I can tell you, it is the lowest group.

We can't afford to pull more resources from the Department of Education—a proposed budget cut of 13.5 percent, in the double digits—resources that have been dedicated to lifting up all children, but particularly children of color and children from low-income neighborhoods. In President Trump's budget, that 13.5 percent is about $9.2 billion from education.

What is being cut?

Not only the programs that I named, but about 20 other programs: $3.7 billion in grants for teacher training to make sure that children not only receive the best education that money can buy, but also have the best, most qualified, most prepared, most trained teachers. Programs aimed at helping to ensure vulnerable children in low-income neighborhoods are able to succeed. They, too, really deserve a fair shot.

These Federal programs were created to ensure that every child, no matter who they are, has access to education.

This budget cut completely eliminates Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants. The name alone says it all, opportunity grants, grants that could offer need-based aid to around 1.6 million low-income undergraduates every year.

What do we have to lose?

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, we have a lot to talk about tonight dealing with HBCUs, dealing with TRIO, dealing with these programs like GEAR UP, Pell Grants, jobs and job training, college workstudy.

I want to invite one of our colleagues up, one of our leaders, Representative JIM CLYBURN from the State of South Carolina. One of the demographics that often go overlooked in this debate is the plight of rural African-American students. Representative CLYBURN, not only does he understand and empathize with the plight of the urban African-American student, but he also understands again some of the struggles that the rural African-American student faces and how their ticket out of their hometown to be able to go experience something different is education. Many of these kids, Representative CLYBURN will tell you, have never had the opportunity to get far outside of their hometowns in rural America.

□ 1945

These programs give them the opportunity to do so. So I want to invite our assistant leader to come up. He is a graduate of South Carolina State University, the Bulldogs, one of our esteemed HBCUs, and again, I just appreciate his voice on this topic.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) for conducting this Special Order this evening. I appreciate it.

Yes, I am a graduate of South Carolina State University, but I also represent the University of South Carolina here in this body. And I just want to note that—with all that is going on around us, I want to say congratulations to the men of the University of South Carolina's basketball team for getting into the Final Four, and I am looking forward to, a few moments from now, watching the women do the same.

I met, along with other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, last week with President Trump, and we had an opportunity to share with him some of the fears that we have of his budget and what it would do to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

As both the gentleman and gentlewoman have mentioned, I represent seven of these institutions. I said to the President that there is something that most people miss about the value of these colleges and universities; and I shared with him a little experience I had last December.

While kicking off the annual Christmas festivities, I was having a conversation with a very good friend, who I have known for a long time, who is an outstanding cardiologist, recently retired from Charlotte, North Carolina, and we were talking about all the discussions that were taking place during last year's campaign about HBCUs.

Of course, I said to him that I thought that there was significant misunderstanding about the value of these institutions. In fact, I wrote an op-ed piece a few days ago, published in the Charleston, South Carolina newspapers. I talked about a State official, an elected official in my State who made the comment that those students who went to South Carolina State, like yours truly, did so because they were not qualified to go anywhere else.

Well, this gentleman, David Dowdy—I hope he doesn't mind me calling his name—David Dowdy said to me, as we talked: You know, when I left that little, rural, underfunded high school in Eastover, North Carolina, and got up to North Carolina A&T, I had to take remedial everything—simply because he went to an underfunded rural school.

In South Carolina, of course, these schools have been underfunded for generations, and the State has been fighting a lawsuit for some 24 years to keep from funding these schools properly and adequately.

He said, when he got up to North Carolina A&T, he had to take these remedial courses, but he went on to become a very successful heart doctor.

Now, I said to the President, after telling him this story: That is not an unusual case.

All of us have heard of the astronaut, Ronald McNair. Ronald McNair is also a South Carolinian. He graduated from a little high school in Lake City, South Carolina, a town most people never heard of.

Everybody talks about how successful he was as an astronaut, having lost his life in the accident, the Challenger. And when people refer to him, they always talk about him being a physicist from MIT. They never talk about the fact that, before he ever went to MIT for his master's degree, he went to North Carolina A&T for his bachelor's. It was there at North Carolina A&T where he was nurtured, and how he developed in those small classes, the remediation that he needed in order to unlock all that was within him.

So I shared with the President, and he assured me that he had no intentions of cutting funding to these Historically Black Colleges and Universities. I applaud him for that, and I thank him for that.

But I also said to him that I think it is important for us not to just maintain level funding but to make the kind of investments in these colleges and universities that are needed for them to get these young minds that have been disadvantaged, because of State action, and help turn them into productive citizens who will make significant contributions to our society.

Now, I want to talk, just a moment though, about another part of the President's budget. You know, I served on three budget committees recently. In fact, I was on Vice President Joseph Biden's bipartisan group for deficit reduction. I also served on the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction that everybody called the supercommittee.

And then I served on the budget committees that negotiated the Budget Control Act of 2011, an enactment I am not all that proud of, because we put in this thing we now call sequestration, which has wreaked havoc on military installations and military spending, as well as discretionary programs of the government.

Now, the hallmark of each successful budget agreement has been to increase defense spending by the same amount as spending for nondefense discretionary agencies. President Trump's proposed budget ignores this principle and would destroy many critical programs throughout all of the nondefense Federal agencies.

In 2016, the bipartisan budget agreement added $25 billion in defense spending above the sequester levels. Importantly though, it paid for this increase with responsible revenue-raising provisions and also increased the nondefense side of the budget by $25 billion as well.

For 2017, it is a similar story, where defense and nondefense are increased by $15 billion, both paid for responsibly. President Trump proposes to go far beyond these agreements, proposing for 2018, $54 billion in increased defense spending, and he pays for it by cutting the nondefense side of the budget by a corresponding $54 billion next year.

Mr. Speaker, there is a responsible way to provide our military relief from sequestration. I support doing so, as do my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus. This is not the way to do it.

Much of the proposed investments will go to draconian immigration enforcement and an ineffective border wall. The President even has the audacity to propose ignoring the budget agreement for 2017, that was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama over 2 years ago.

What exactly does proposing $54 billion below sequester level caps for the nondefense side of the budget mean? What effect would it have on our constituents? The President's budget decimates funding for critical infrastructure in low-income communities, I dare say, rural communities.

For example, the President proposes to eliminate $500 million in funding for the rural water and wastewater program in the Department of Agriculture. In my congressional district alone, this agency has funded drinking water infrastructure in poor, rural communities like Turbeville, Bowman, and Brittons Neck, that had previously limited access to clean water.

The President also proposes to eliminate the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER grants, which invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects on a competitive basis all around the country.

In South Carolina, TIGER grants have funded the I–95/301 interchange in rural Santee, Main Street revitalization in Columbia, and upgrades at the Port of Charleston to the tune of more than $32 million. The resulting economic and community development have proved to be well worth the Federal investment.

The President's proposal would also eliminate the Legal Services Corporation and LIHEAP. That is the program for low income home energy assistance that allows homes to be weatherized, and Meals on Wheels. This can only be seen as an attack on the poor and the elderly.

These cuts would leave thousands of poor senior citizens unable to heat their homes in the winter and deny thousands more legal aid they need to seek relief from domestic violence and avoid homelessness by staying in their homes.

The notion that Meals on Wheels doesn't produce results is totally ridiculous. In my district, Senior Resources in Columbia currently serves more than 500 seniors.

Mr. Speaker, Federal funding accounts for 37 percent of their budget. Cutting those funds would callously kick 180 homebound seniors to the curb, forcing them to join the already 130 people who are on the waiting list. These are unconscionable cuts made with no regard for the most vulnerable in our society.

The Congressional Black Caucus budget will take the opposite approach. By repealing sequestration, making the Tax Code fairer to increase the level of investment in critical programs, and targeting Federal funds to communities mired in persistent poverty through the 10–20–30 formula, the CBC's budget responsibly funds our military, while also lifting millions out of poverty.

I want to close by thanking the gentleman from Virginia, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, my friend and classmate, for pulling that budget together, and doing so showing the kind of compassion that ought to exist in every public servant.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the assistant leader. I really appreciate his comments, and I want to thank him for standing up for these students and everyone else out there who is trying to do something to help eliminate poverty.

The gentleman's 10–20–30 plan was really hailed as something that we should all take a closer look at. It was a bipartisan approach and a look at poverty because it affected so many different people's districts. I just want to thank the gentleman for being an advocate in this area.

□ 2000

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of California (Ms. BASS).

KAREN BASS also is someone that really takes these topics seriously. She has always been someone who has delved very deeply into the budget and into domestic spending and how it impacts our communities. I just really appreciate her taking part to really share what we think is important as it relates to this budget.

Ms. BASS. I thank the gentleman, Mr. VEASEY, and also Mrs. DEMINGS for their leadership in this hour.

I know that our theme is ''What Do We Have to Lose''? That is something that the President, during his campaign, asked the African-American community: What do you have to lose? Why don't you think about voting Republican this time?

So I was a part of the group that Mr. CLYBURN referred to that went and met with the President last week. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus Executive Committee met with the President. We went over to the White House to answer the question: What do we have to lose?

As my colleagues who have spoken before me mentioned, we believe that we have a lot to lose. I think that the budget is a reflection of all that we have to lose.

As my colleague, VAL DEMINGS, said, a budget is a reflection of your values. It is a reflection of where you think taxpayers' money should be spent. So, in the opportunity that I had to speak with the President, I mentioned to him that I was sure that he was aware that, in the United States, over 2 million people are incarcerated. In fact, we incarcerate more people in the United States than any other country on the planet.

What I told him that he probably wasn't aware of was that this was an issue—a bipartisan, bicameral issue—that Members of Congress in both Houses were looking at because we recognized, over the years, that incarceration is not the solution to communities that are experiencing crime. We told him that there was a trend in Congress to actually reconsider policies that led to overincarceration. We told him that the Congressional Black Caucus was concerned about messages that we heard from him: one that is reflected in his budget; two, that was reflected in his new deal for Black America where the focus was on law and order.

We told him that we were concerned about his proposals to address problems in poor communities, and our chair, CEDRIC RICHMOND, specifically pointed out that he was concerned about the way African-American communities were consistently described as riddled by violence and as almost uninhabitable.

We told him that we thought he probably wasn't aware that 95 percent of prisoners return to communities and that maybe he was not aware that many of these inmates return to certain ZIP Codes. If you have a community in certain ZIP Codes where a number of people have been released from prison without any services, then, naturally, you are going to have a problem with recidivism. We have people coming out of prison who then find out that they are prohibited from working and that they are ineligible for public benefits, including even a driver's license.

In the State of California, we had a program in State prisons where we trained you to be a barber, but then we didn't allow you to have a license if you had been a prisoner. So we had to change State law to change that.

We told him that, if we don't find ways to reintegrate people into society, he needed to understand that that was actually a contributing factor to crime and violence in many communities.

When we went to the White House, we didn't just go to point out problems, but we also went to talk about solutions. Here is the concern when it comes to the budget. The budget that the President delivered to Congress so far is so general that we don't know whether or not some of the cuts to discretionary spending would include programs like the Second Chance Act.

The Second Chance Act is a program that provides funding to States to address and reduce recidivism. The Second Chance Act has programs that work with inmates before they are released to address the root causes of why they offended in the first place. Many people in prison—a large percentage—did not graduate high school. So services that are provided by the Second Chance Act include employment services, mental health, substance abuse, housing, education, and family reunification.

As we talked about a budget being a reflection of values, for the values to

me that will help the African-American community, we need to make sure that the Second Chance Act is fully funded. We won't know what is fully funded in the President's budget until he sends us more details in the month of May. But it is my hope that he listened to the presentations that members of the Congressional Black Caucus made when we had a meeting with him last week and that, when the budget comes out in May, we will see that the Second Chance Act is fully funded.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BASS very much for her comments and remarks. I really appreciate the gentlewoman always taking this subject to task very seriously and to heart.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUDD). The gentleman has 26 minutes remaining.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), who has really made this, again, one of his priorities also. Philadelphia is one of those cities where many people have benefited by a lot of these domestic spending programs, including students like I talked about a little earlier. I would now like to hear from my esteemed colleague from the State of Pennsylvania, Mr. DWIGHT EVANS.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his leadership, along with my classmate, who is also a very fantastic person. So I thank both of you for your leadership in terms of the Congressional Black Caucus and exactly what that means.

My colleague from Florida said that budgets are values. Something that you may not know, I have spent 36 years in the Pennsylvania Legislature. Of those 36 years, I spent 28 years on the appropriations committee, and 20 of the 28 years as the chairman of that committee. So my colleague from Florida is absolutely correct that it is put your money where your mouth is, and that sets a tone for what you believe and what you think.

The President's proposed budget puts America's middle neighborhoods at greater risk, tilting towards decline.

What do I mean by ''middle neighborhoods''?

Middle neighborhoods are the neighborhoods that are caught between growth and decline, neighborhoods that, with just a little love and a little help, you can keep those neighborhoods. Those neighborhoods are all over America. Those are communities that we should value. We should understand that affordable housing and stable communities in those neighborhoods are very important to the backbone of America.

So these American middle neighborhoods are neighborhoods we should relish. We should value the importance of these communities. But under the proposed budget, they do not give our seniors, our children, or our working families a chance to get ahead—major cuts, Mr. Speaker, in funds for Federal student services, such as LIHEAP, grants for afterschool programs, community development block grants, community service block grants, and others to help families and help raise them out of Pennsylvania poverty.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, I met with students from the Pennsylvania TRIO, Gear Up, and Upward Bound programs. President Trump's budget proposes cuts for millions of these programs, which would support first-time, first-generation college students through outreach to low-income and minority middle and high school students.

This is our future. This is our future. We are in the 21st century. We understand if we are to be very competitive in the world, we must leave no child behind.

It is important, Mr. Speaker, to recognize that the investments we are talking about benefit all of us. If we want a strong economy, these middle neighborhoods are essential. These middle neighborhoods are where people grow and develop. They go on to college. They do well in school, and they hold our society together.

The President's budget undermines and cuts the crucial investments we have made in our cities and our neighborhoods, neighborhoods that we all come from, neighborhoods where we all recognize the importance of these communities. We should not take this for granted because the reality is, as my colleague from Florida said, our values are where our dollars are.

I totally agree with her because she is really telling us all that you can pay now or you can pay later. It is better to pay on the front end rather than the back end. It is better to understand that these communities are communities that help America be what it is today.

The President's budget undermines and cuts critical investments. The President's budget does not give our cities the adequate resources to invest in our communities and moves our cities in the wrong direction.

I think that the President, as my colleague just said earlier, says: What do we have to lose? Well, we have a lot to lose under this proposed budget.

This budget is no new deal for Black America. As a matter of fact, this is no deal at all. We clearly understand that this means cuts in health care, education, affordable housing, and food nutritional programs.

This is no deal because we understand that we must make investments. If we are talking about moving America forward and we are talking about making it what we know it can be in terms of America, we must make this investment. But we cannot make these investments, we cannot be talking out both sides of our mouths, and we cannot, on one hand, say what do we have to lose and then, on the other hand, do nothing in the budget whatsoever. So it is clear, Mr. Speaker, that we have a missed opportunity here.

I am proud to stand as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and join with all of my colleagues, as the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus has said, as being the conscience of the Congress. It is important to understand that we don't take that lightly. That is why we stand here today, Mr. Speaker.

We stand here to raise the voice, to stress to people that we are not going to give up, that we recognize that we all have a responsibility and an obligation in this democracy, that this is our democracy and it is something that we should never take for granted.

We have a lot to lose. We stand to lose everything that made our neighborhoods stronger block by block. So, Mr. Speaker, I stand here with all of my colleagues to carry this message to everyone that we are never going to give up—never, never, never.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate Representative EVANS' thoughtfulness and his participation on the topic.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS), who is my colleague from Los Angeles County. The gentlewoman is known as a fighter in her district not only on these domestic spending issues and not only in her district, but throughout the entire United States.

I am very happy that she is participating, and I know that she has been very vocal about those developments, dealing with the budget and dealing with other issues that affect us here in Washington, D.C. I really appreciate the gentlewoman's participating in tonight's discussion.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the time that I have been allotted here this evening, joining with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to answer the question that was posed to us by this President. I rise to answer President Trump's question to the Black community.

Now, all throughout his campaign, President Trump declared that Black people all across this country just live in hell and fear each day, and we may be shot on the street. He basically said that we have nothing, our education is no good, on and on and on. Then he went on to say that only he can solve the challenges African Americans face.

Unfortunately, this kind of talk is typical of this President: boasting, bragging, and making promises. This President will say anything and promise anything, of course, with no intention of living up to his promises. One should not believe anything he has to say.

As a matter of fact, the African-American community understands very well when these kinds of empty promises are made. As a matter of fact, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the presidents of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities organized, put together, a proposal, and they went to meet with the President at the White House.

□ 2015

They didn't even have an opportunity to present the proposal. They were just ushered around in a photo op, and that was all that happened, without any real conversation, without any proposals being produced. They were treated in a disrespectful way.

This, basically, is what I have decided we can expect from the President. His budget and policy priorities reveal his true intentions and what so many of us already know about this President. He really doesn't care about the issues facing the African-American community, and he doesn't care to learn about those issues or advance any meaningful legislation to provide jobs and economic opportunities for our Nation's most vulnerable communities.

If you take a look at Trump's HUD budget, you find a $6 billion reduction. He wants to eliminate the Community Development Block Grant program, which supports our cities and various urban renewal projects. He wants to eliminate the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. This President wants to eliminate the Choice Neighborhoods program. He wants to eliminate the homeownership program and on and on and on.

Just last week, this President tried and failed to repeal the Affordable Care Act. If that unconscionable bill had passed, 14 million people would have lost insurance coverage next year, and the American people would have seen billions of dollars in Medicaid cuts.

Trump's empty promises do not end with the budget. He has also filled his Cabinet with millionaires and billionaires who don't have a clue about the challenges facing the African-American community.

Trump's Treasury Secretary was known as the ''Foreclosure King,'' who profited off the backs of vulnerable homeowners during the 2008 recession.

Trump's Education Secretary knows nothing about public education, did not attend public schools. Her children didn't attend public schools. She was not chosen to repair public education; she was chosen to break it.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who lied under oath before the Senate, opposed the Violence Against Women Act. He has taken hardline positions against our efforts to reform the criminal justice system, which disproportionately incarcerates African Americans. Of course, we knew about his background and his history and what he is known for, and that is discrimination, disrespect for African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, my position against this President and his administration is clear: I oppose this President. I do not honor this President. I do not respect this President. He has disrespected the office and offended so many people across this country and around the world with his disgusting and indecent rhetoric against women, the Black community, Muslims, immigrants, and disabled Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is not just the African-American community who will lose under this President. It is everyone who isn't a millionaire or billionaire that stand to lose under this administration. I will continue to oppose him and fight him every step of the way.

While I am talking about where he has put his priorities—and, of course, I think the budget really does reflect your priorities—he has reduced the education budget by 13 percent, or $9 billion less than last year; a $168 billion increase for charter schools, 50 percent above current levels.

Let's take a look at labor. It reduces the budget by 21 percent, a $2.5 billion decrease from last year. Health and Human Services, decreased funding by $15 billion, the lowest in 20 years.

It reduces funding for the National Institutes of Health by 19 percent. For the Environmental Protection Agency, it reduces the budget from $8.1 billion to $5.7 billion. Housing and Urban Development, again, reducing the budget by just about $6 billion, or 13.2 percent.

He claims he cares about small businesses. He reduces the SBA budget by 5 percent, or $43.2 billion less than last year. It goes on and on and on.

Homeland Security, increases the budget by only 6.8 percent, to $44 billion, even though he claims he cares a lot about the security of this country.

What am I saying? I am simply saying that African Americans have struggled and fought, historically. Many African Americans have paid a huge price fighting for justice and equality in this country and have died for it. I don't have to call the names of Martin Luther King and all the others. We have paid a price. We have fought.

But guess what? Despite the fact that America has not always been there for us, we have always been there for America. We have fought in America's wars. We have suffered discrimination. We have suffered isolation and undermining. But we stand up for America, oftentimes when others who think they are more patriotic—who say they are more patriotic—do not.

When we fight against this President and we point out how dangerous he is for this society and for this country, we are fighting for democracy. We are fighting for America. We are saying to those who say they are patriotic but they turn a blind eye to the destruction that he is about to cause this country: You are not nearly as patriotic as we are.

We not only have fought in America's wars, have stood up for America, have been there whenever this country was threatened in any way, we say now that this country is threatened with a President who does not belong there, a President who does not understand how this government works, a President who goes down to Mar-a-Lago every weekend and plays golf. He is not huddling with Members of Congress and trying to figure out how to form a consensus. Rather, he thought he could come in here and run roughshod over everybody. But that is how he works, that is how he acts.

He is not good for America. African Americans know this. The Black Caucus understands this. And for those members of the Black Caucus representing our leadership who went to meet with him, they have laid out to him all of this, what our care and concerns are all about. But in the final analysis, we really don't expect anything from him. My mission and my goal is to make sure that he does not remain President of the United States of America.

Mr. VEASEY. I thank Representative WATERS for her comments on this very timely matter.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 9¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), my good friend, who is also a leader on education issues and domestic spending. I thank him very much for participating tonight.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentleman for his good work on the budget.

Mr. Speaker, the budget is about choices, and those choices involve arithmetic. Apparently, the Republican strategy on the budget does not recognize arithmetic. When you start with a deficit, their strategy to deal with the deficit is to increase defense spending and to pass massive tax cuts. That will not end up helping the deficit.

As we have seen with the choice in health care, they made bad choices. Whatever you think about the Affordable Care Act, their plan was demonstrably worse. Their plan would increase the number of people uninsured by 24 million, bring higher prices and worse policies, but tax cuts for millionaires.

What I couldn't understand was not what were the ups and downs for politics, but who was for that—24 million more uninsured, higher prices, and worse policies?

Democrats will work with Republicans to improve the Affordable Care Act, but we are not going halfway and saying only 12 million uninsured and slightly higher prices and slightly worse policies. If we are going to have a policy to increase the number of insured, lower prices, and provide better policies, we will work.

We can also produce a better budget. For almost an hour, we have heard the problems with the budget introduced by the President of the United States. The Congressional Black Caucus is not just about complaints. We have a budget, and it is a responsible budget.

We make choices. The choices avoid those devastating cuts that we have heard about. The Congressional Black Caucus budget is realistic. It requires $3.9 trillion in additional revenues, but it outlines over $10 trillion in choices that could be made to come up with

that money, possibilities like canceling the Bush tax cuts. That is $3.9 trillion right off the bat. Over $10 trillion in total choices.

First, with that revenue, we cancel the sequester both for nondefense and for defense. Then we make investments in the future of American families with investments in education, job-creating infrastructure, the environment, scientific research, and maintain a strong social safety net. In the end, we reduce the deficit by a cumulative amount of an over $2 trillion reduction in the deficit.

So let's be clear. we are going to make choices with the budget, choices like we made a few years ago. People say a lot about the proposal by Senator BERNIE SANDERS and $900 billion for free college. Could we afford that? Just think, a couple of years ago, we passed, with one vote, an extension in tax cuts of $3.9 trillion. We could have, with the same amount of money, extended $3 trillion in tax cuts, and with the money left over, free college, but we didn't make that choice. All $3.9 trillion went to tax cuts. The $900 billion could have gone to free college.

Make no mistake about it, we are making choices. This year, again, we will make choices with our budget: massive tax cuts, or we can focus on a better feature and produce a more humane and responsible budget. I would hope that this year we make the right choice.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, before I close out this Special Order hour, I do want to thank my colleague from Florida, Representative VAL DEMINGS, for participating, and I want her to just share some last words on this subject: What do we have to lose? I know she has a few more things that she wants to share with everybody.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I spent 27 years in law enforcement, and I realized early in my career that we cannot arrest our way out of the challenges that we face, that we have to address some of the social ills that cause decay in communities in the first place if we are going to make those communities better.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson commissioned a group to look at crime in America. I would like to share just a short paragraph of their report. It says:

''Every effort must be made to strengthen the family, now often shattered by the grinding pressures of urban slums.

''Slum schools must be given enough resources to make them as good as schools elsewhere and to enable them to compensate for the various handicaps suffered by the slum child—to rescue him from his environment.''

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that we are still trying to rescue children that that particular child represents from their at-risk environments. If we are going to put America first, it starts with putting the American people first.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DEMINGS for her words and inspiration, and I really appreciate her perspective, again. Now she is getting an opportunity to see this as a Member of Congress, but the 27 years that she spent in law enforcement, it gave her a bird's-eye perspective on what happens when we don't invest in education, when we don't invest in health care, when we don't invest in things that help families uplift themselves and give themselves opportunities to pull one another out of poverty. I just want to thank her again for participating in tonight's Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, we have a lot to talk about because we do have a lot to lose, and I thank everybody for participating.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when President Trump spoke on the campaign trail, his message to the African American community was clear: "What do you have to lose?" Today, just 9 weeks into his presidency, we now know that in a Trump Administration, the American people stand to lose their access to robust medical care, jobs, and more than $54 billion used to fund critically important programs and Departments through the Federal government.

President Trump's fiscal year 2018 budget proposal to Congress seeks roughly $54 billion in dramatic cuts to social programs and domestic spending in order to accommodate an equal increase in spending through the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs. His proposal is a poor reflection of the priorities that we hold as a nation and undermines—or eliminates entirely—many of the very programs that millions of Americans rely on the most.

For example, the President's budget proposal slashes funding for education by cutting grants for after school programs and reduces financial aid for low-income students, such as Pell Grants. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will also see a thirteen percent—or $6.2 billion—reduction in its budget, which is reflected in the elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the HOME Investment Partnerships program, and Section 4 Community Development and Affordable Housing.

I cannot help but notice that there is a certain degree of hypocrisy reflected in the President's budget proposal when comparing to what he has touted during the campaign. For example, the Department of Transportation will suffer significant cuts to programs such as TIGER, which has been an incredibly successful discretionary grant program used to fund projects of nation significance in communities all across the country. President Trump's budget proposal also looks to eliminate funding for the Capital Investment Grant program, which the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) in Texas has utilized for many years to respond to the explosive population growth within my district and build up our transportation infrastructure. This moves our nation further away from the $1 trillion in transportation infrastructure spending that the President has proposed during the campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot support the President's budget proposal in its current form. The cuts included in his proposal are irrational and ignore the dire needs of our people to bolster our transportation infrastructure, create jobs, and pave the way for greater economic opportunity for all Americans—not just a select few. President Trump also wants to slash taxes for the wealthy and our biggest corporations. He will pay for those tax breaks by placing the burden on lower- and middle-class Americans. Just months into his presidency, it is already crystal clear that the American people have a lot to lose under his vision for America and I am proud to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to oppose these devastating cuts and the entire Trump agenda.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MARINO (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. SIMPSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and March 28 on account of business in the district.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled Joint Resolutions of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker.

H.J. Res. 69. Joint Resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of the Interior relating to ''Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska''.

H.J. Res. 83. Joint Resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Clarification of Employer's Continuing Obligation to Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury and Illness''.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WOODALL: Committe on Rules. House Resolution 229. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1430) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing and disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible

(Rept. 115–60). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 230. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 34) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to ''Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services'' (Rept. 115–61). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1387. A bill to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes; (Rept. 115–62). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 1431. A bill to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; (Rept. 115–63). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 1726. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to improve the organization of such title and to incorporate certain transfers and modifications into such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mrs. LOWEY):

H.R. 1727. A bill to prohibit use of body-gripping traps by personnel of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture and on lands of such departments; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. LABRADOR):

H.R. 1728. A bill to modify the boundaries of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRAT (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 1729. A bill to provide the public with access to the laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. KILMER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS):

H.R. 1730. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of community centers with religious affiliation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky (for himself, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 1731. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DENT (for himself, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. BARLETTA):

H.R. 1732. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to add certain synthetic substances to schedule I, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 1733. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to review and update a report on the energy and environmental benefits of the refining of used lubricating oil; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. YOUNG of Iowa (for himself, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 1734. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 1735. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to issue guidance regarding implementation of certain buy-outs or the acquisition of property for open space as a flood mitigation measure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 1736. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the process for inspections of device establishments and for granting export certifications; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. JONES, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LONG, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. HURD, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. STEWART, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HARPER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. BOST, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas):

H.R. 1737. A bill to amend the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 with respect to the application of the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure rule to certain farms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 1738. A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILMER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 1739. A bill to modernize laws and policies, and eliminate discrimination, with respect to people living with HIV/AIDS, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself, Mr. MAST, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KATKO, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LANCE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. FASO, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SIRES, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 1740. A bill to allow Homeland Security Grant Program funds to be used to safeguard faith-based community centers across the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 1741. A bill to prohibit the intentional hindering of immigration, border, and customs controls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 1742. A bill to require the Archivist of the United States to compile all applications, and rescissions of applications, made to the Congress to call a convention, pursuant to article V of the Constitution, and certain related materials, and to transmit them to Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 1743. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit a candidate for election to the office or Representative in Congress or Senator from accepting contributions from any political committee other than an authorized committee of the candidate and from establishing a leadership PAC; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. SIRES, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LANCE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MARINO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 1744. A bill to direct the President to submit to Congress a report on fugitives currently residing in other countries whose extradition is sought by the United States and related matters; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 1745. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to eliminate the section 251A sequestrations; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H. Res. 231. A resolution celebrating the importance of the 15th Anniversary of the Arab Peace Initiative as a meaningful effort by Arab countries to the commitment of peace in the Middle East; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H. Res. 232. A resolution recognizing linemen, the profession of linemen, the contributions of these brave men and women who protect public safety, and expressing support for the designation of April 18, 2017, as National Lineman Appreciation Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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. HUNTER:

H.R. 1726.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 1727.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 1728.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. BRAT:

H.R. 1729.

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

The volumes of the United States Statutes at Large compile the legal acts of the government of the United States, including legislative measures enacted pursuant to powers throughout Article I of the Constitution and constitutional amendments proposed under Article V of the Constitution. It is both necessary and proper (Article I, Section 8, Clause 18) for the legal history of the United States to be accessible to the People in an accessible format on the Internet.

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee:

H.R. 1730.

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

Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.R. 1731.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare) and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. DENT:

H.R. 1732.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana:

H.R. 1733.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Iowa:

H.R. 1734.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 1735.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 1736.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 1737.

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

The enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8, which includes the power to ''regulate commerce . . . among the several States . . .''

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 1738.

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

Article I Section 8

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 1739.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 1740.

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

The Constitution of the United States, Article One, Section 8, Clause 18: ''The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Ms. MCSALLY:

H.R. 1741.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 1742.

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

Article V of the Constitution requires Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution ''on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states.'' In order to fulfill this obligation, Congress has the authority to enact legislation to ensure accurate recordkeeping of state applications submitted pursuant to Article V.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 1743.

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

Section 4 of Article I of the Constitution: The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1744.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 1745.

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

Article I, section 8, clause 1, 2, 14, 18 of the U.S. Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 24: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. ROSS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, and Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H.R. 25: Mr. BANKS of Indiana.

H.R. 82: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 102: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 173: Mr. BACON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 179: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 184: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 233: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 257: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 314: Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. BARR, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. FLORES, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BARTON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 352: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 367: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 392: Mr. FASO, Mr. NEAL, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 449: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 486: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 488: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 559: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 576: Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 754: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 757: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 772: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 807: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 816: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 820: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 828: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 873: Mr. NEAL and Ms. ROSEN.
H.R. 877: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MAST, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.R. 904: Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. POCAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 911: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 920: Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 921: Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 931: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mrs. LOVE.
H.R. 960: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1007: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 1017: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 1031: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 1046: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 1049: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1057: Mr. HIMES and Mr. RUSSELL.
H.R. 1069: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1098: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 1119: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1135: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1136: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BACON, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1158: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1175: Mr. ARRINGTON.
H.R. 1206: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1241: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1242: Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. NADLER, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 1267: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mrs. TORRES.
H.R. 1311: Mr. BUCK, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 1380: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 1381: Mr. ARRINGTON.
H.R. 1384: Mr. KIND, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mr. MAST, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.R. 1409: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 1419: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 1436: Mr. GARRETT.
H.R. 1439: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1440: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1444: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1456: Mr. SOTO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 1503: Mr. RUSH, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 1551: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 1552: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ARRINGTON, and Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH.
H.R. 1555: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 1613: Mr. COMER.
H.R. 1626: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1627: Mr. MESSER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 1635: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. ALLEN, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1644: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BERA, and Mr. ABRAHAM.
H.R. 1661: Mrs . WALORSKI.
H.R. 1673: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
H.R. 1697: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 1698: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.J. Res. 6: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.J. Res. 59: Mr. MCCAUL.
H. Con. Res. 4: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. NUNES.
H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. BYRNE.
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. YODER.
H. Res. 31: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H. Res. 54: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. ROYCE of California.
H. Res. 184: Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. BASS, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. KILDEE, and Miss RICE of New York.
H. Res. 186: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCEACHIN, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H. Res. 188: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H. Res. 218: Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H. Res. 220: Mr. SHERMAN.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 1695: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017 No. 53

Senate

The Senate met at 3 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, our hearts are steadfast toward You. Lead us safely to the refuge of Your choosing, for You desire to give us a future and a hope. Provide us with grateful hearts to appreciate Your mercies that are new each day.

Today, give our Senators the power to do Your will, as they realize more fully that they are servants of Heaven and stewards of Your mysteries. Lord, give them Your perspective on their daily tasks and every decision they must make. May faithfulness to You become the focus of their living, keeping them from becoming careless about their spiritual and moral growth.

We pray in Your sacred 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 (Mr. YOUNG). The majority leader is recognized.

MONTENEGRO'S ACCESSION INTO NATO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, at the end of the Cold War, many wondered whether NATO could or should survive absent the glaring threat from the Soviet Union, which tied together a diverse coalition of Western countries. That Soviet threat held the alliance together through myriad issues and challenges of burden sharing, nuclear doctrine, and how to balance the roles of the European Union and a security alliance.

The United States, as a global superpower, was at times criticized for not paying enough attention to the alliance and at other times for its heavy-handed leadership.

When the Berlin Wall came down, NATO was forced to evolve. At its core, the alliance is not only about defeating a common threat but also about common values.

When our Nation was attacked on September 11, NATO acted on September 12 and invoked article 5 of the Washington Treaty for the first time in history, and NATO partners have worked to assist us in the war on terror ever since.

With Russia's resurgence and quest for renewed greater power status, NATO has given notice that it will stand up for Western democracies, as well, and has continued to do so.

Let's be clear. President Putin mourns the fall of the Soviet Union. He is intent on using all elements of national power to expand Russia's sphere of influence. He is also threatened by the examples of representative democracies anywhere near Russia's borders, and he is accordingly trying to intimidate other nations from seeking entry into the alliance.

The Partnership for Peace, established in 1994, has given newly independent states a path toward developing capabilities that would bind them closer to the democracies of the West. It has given them something to strive for. Through the use of the Membership Action Plan, NATO is capable of setting forth the various reforms required for membership of those countries that aspire to join the alliance.

This is the path Poland took—and Romania, the Czech Republic, and so many of our friends in Eastern Europe. Today it is the path Montenegro is taking.

A positive vote on the NATO accession treaty that is before us tells those countries that complete NATO member action plans that this undertaking, while difficult, is not futile.

Let us remember that we face a variety of threats in the world—from ISIL to the Syrian civil war to China's military buildup and territorial ambitions—and our European allies face many threats as well.

NATO remains an incredibly valuable alliance. It is an alliance, however, that must be sustained. That is why we ask our partners to meet their commitments to NATO by spending 2 percent of GDP on defense so the alliance can improve its capabilities, and that is why we must meet our own commitments, including voting yes on the accession treaty before the Senate today.

NOMINATION OF NEIL GORSUCH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, last week Supreme Court nominee Judge Neil Gorsuch came before the Senate Judiciary Committee for his confirmation hearing. His testimony reaffirmed what we already know about Judge Gorsuch. He is fair and impartial. He has an outstanding legal mind, and he is humble and well respected. He also has a record of building consensus.

Here is what he said about that record at his hearing.

I have decided . . . over 2,700 cases, and my law clerks tell me that 97 percent of them have been unanimous, 99 percent I've been in the majority. They tell me as well that according to the Congressional Research Service, my opinions have attracted the fewest number of dissents from my colleagues of anyone I've served with that they studied over the last 10 years.

So let's repeat that. Judge Gorsuch has ruled in more than 2,700 cases. He has been in the majority 99 percent of the time, and 97 percent have been unanimous decisions.

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

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It is no wonder the American Bar Association—an organization that the Democratic leader and the former Democratic Judiciary Committee chairman have called the ''gold standard''—gave Judge Gorsuch its highest rating, unanimously ''well qualified.''

In that ABA rating, it noted: ''Based on the writings, interviews, and analyses we scrutinized to reach our rating, we discerned that Judge Gorsuch believes strongly in the judicial branch of government, and we predict that he will be a strong but respectful voice in protecting it.''

The ABA isn't alone in its support for Judge Gorsuch. In fact, people from across the political spectrum have sung his praises, including many on the left that you might not expect—people like Professor Laurence Tribe, former President Obama's legal mentor, who called Gorsuch ''a brilliant, terrific guy who would do the Court's work with distinction,'' and Neal Katyal, former President Obama's top Supreme Court lawyer, who called him ''one of the most thoughtful and brilliant judges to have served our nation over the last century.''

This is the Obama Solicitor General saying that he is ''one of the most thoughtful and brilliant judges to have served our nation over the last century.''

There are liberal law professors, including Alan Dershowitz, who said Gorsuch would be ''hard to oppose on the merits,'' and Donald Elliot, who called him ''a brilliant mind'' who ''tries very hard to get the law right . . . [and] follows the law as best he can wherever it might lead.''

At his confirmation hearing last week, we heard from former and current colleagues on the Federal bench who enthusiastically support his nomination. These are all Federal judges who know him well.

Judge John Kane, who was appointed to the district court in Colorado by President Carter, wrote that Judge Gorsuch has voted both to affirm and reverse his decisions. ''In each instance,'' he remarked, ''I have felt I was clearly understood and properly informed.'' He goes on to say:

> I think Judge Gorsuch listens well and decides justly. His dissents are instructive rather than vitriolic. In sum, I think he is an excellent judicial craftsman.

Former colleagues on the Tenth Circuit testified last week on his behalf as well. Two former chief judges of that circuit—one appointed by President Reagan and another appointed by President Clinton—have written that Judge Gorsuch was ''like most good judges, assiduously attentive to the facts and law in each case.'' Judge Deanell Tacha and Judge Robert Henry went on to say that if Judge Gorsuch were confirmed to the Supreme Court, his other important traits are not likely to change either—things like ''his fair consideration of opposing views, his remarkable intelligence, his wonderful judicial temperament expressed to litigants and his collegiality toward colleagues.''

They conclude by saying:

> If we seek to confirm to the Supreme Court a noted intellect, a collegial colleague, and [a] gifted and eloquent writer—as well as a person of exhibited judicial temperament—Gorsuch fits that bill. He represents the best of the judicial tradition in our country.

Perhaps David Frederick, a board member of the left-leaning American Constitution Society, best summed up why the Senate should confirm Judge Gorsuch. In a recent Washington Post op-ed, he praised Judge Gorsuch for his ''reverence for our country's values and legal system.''

Mr. Frederick states:

> The facts developed in a case matter to him; the legal rules established by legislatures and through precedent deserve deep respect; and the importance of treating litigants, counsel, and colleagues with civility is deeply ingrained in him.

Therefore, this self-proclaimed ''long-time supporter of Democratic candidates and progressive causes,'' said that ''the Senate should confirm [Gorsuch] because there is no principled reason to vote no.''

Let me repeat that. ''The Senate should confirm him,'' he said, ''because there is no principled reason to vote no.''

Unfortunately, some of our Democratic colleagues are trying desperately to find any excuse to block this nomination. Although this is unfortunate, it is not surprising. Recall that the Democratic leader stated before Judge Gorsuch was even nominated that he would oppose any person on the President's long list of qualified candidates, even if it meant keeping the seat open for years.

Look, we know that our Democratic friends are under an enormous amount of pressure from some on the far left who want them to ''resist.'' It is clear that many radical special interest groups simply refuse to accept the results of the election and would like nothing more than to obstruct the serious work before the Senate.

We saw the impact that had on the Cabinet confirmation process, which represented a historic level of obstruction. We are seeing the same calls for obstruction now.

This much is clear. If our Democratic colleagues choose to hold up this nominee, then, they are acknowledging that they will go to any length—any length—to block any Supreme Court nominee of a Republican President. If Neil Gorsuch can't be confirmed, there is no nominee of any Republican President who our friends on the other side would argue deserves 60 votes. This isn't about the nominee at all. It isn't about his background. It isn't about his temperament. It isn't about his reputation as a judge. It is about those on the far left who want to prevent our country from moving forward.

Judge Gorsuch's suitability for the appellate court was so noncontroversial that not a single Senate Democrat opposed his nomination—not then-Senator Obama, not then-Senators Biden, Clinton, or Kennedy, not even my good friend the Democratic leader—and there is no reason that Judge Gorsuch shouldn't receive similarly overwhelming bipartisan support now. This is an important moment for our country.

I urge each of our colleagues to rise to the moment and together move forward with the confirmation of our next Supreme Court Justice, Judge Neil Gorsuch, and give him the up-or-down vote that he deserves.

Will the Presiding Officer announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PROTOCOL TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY OF 1949 ON THE ACCESSION OF MONTENEGRO

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 1, the Montenegro treaty, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

> Treaty document No. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

AMENDMENT NO. 193

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment that is at the desk that I ask the clerk to report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

> The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 193.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

> At the end add the following:
> ''This Treaty shall be effective 1 day after ratification.''

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 194 TO AMENDMENT NO. 193

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 194 to amendment No. 193.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike ''1 day'' and insert ''2 days''.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

RUSSIA AND TRUMP CAMPAIGN INVESTIGATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon on a few topics. First, on the investigation into the Trump campaign's potential ties to Russia, this is a matter of such gravity, we need to get it right. There should be no doubt about the integrity and impartiality of the investigation, either in the executive branch, where the FBI and Department of Justice are looking into it, or in Congress, where the Intelligence Committees of both Chambers are conducting an investigation.

Unfortunately, the House Intelligence Committee has come under a cloud of suspicion and partisanship. A few months ago, Chairman NUNES spoke to reporters at the request of the White House to tamp down stories on the links between the Trump campaign and Russia, which is exactly what his committee now must investigate. This past week, Chairman NUNES broke with the committee process and tradition to brief the President on information he had learned but hadn't yet shared with the committee. We have learned this morning that Chairman NUNES was at the White House the day before that event—doing what? We don't know. It could very well be the case that Chairman NUNES was briefing members of the administration about an investigation of which they are the subject.

Chairman NUNES is falling down on the job and seems to be more interested in protecting the President than in seeking the truth. You cannot have the person in charge of an impartial investigation be partial to one side. It is an inherent contradiction, and it undermines decades of bipartisan cooperation on the Intelligence Committee, which handles such sensitive information paramount to national security. It undermines Congress as a coequal branch of government meant to hold the executive branch accountable for its actions, and it corrodes the American people's confidence in our government.

If Speaker RYAN wants the House to have a credible investigation, he needs to replace Chairman NUNES. Congress was meant by the Framers to be separate and equal, and I sincerely worry that under his direction, Mr. NUNES is pushing the committee into a direction of obsequiousness and not one that is asking the hard questions and getting the important answers.

There has always been a grand tradition of bipartisanship on the Intelligence Committee. When Members go into the SCIF, the room where they get secure briefings, they check their partisanship at the door. Chairman NUNES is right on the edge of doing permanent damage to that grand tradition of bipartisanship. Chairman NUNES seems to be more of a partisan for the President than an impartial actor. He has not been cooperating like someone who is interested in getting to the unvarnished truth. His actions look like those of someone who is interested in protecting the President and his party, and that doesn't work when the goal of the committee is to investigate Russia and its connection to the President and his campaign.

Without further ado, Speaker RYAN should replace Chairman NUNES.

TRUMPCARE

Mr. President, on another matter, the failure of TrumpCare this past Friday was a good day for the American people. We can finally put to bed the disaster of a bill that was TrumpCare, which would have resulted in spottier coverage, 24 million fewer Americans with health coverage, and higher costs, premiums, and deductibles for the middle class, the working poor, and older Americans, all to finance close to $600 billion in tax breaks for wealthy Americans. Americans should breathe a sigh of relief that TrumpCare will not become law. We are happy that it is gone. We can finally move on.

As I have said many times, we Democrats, provided our Republican colleagues drop ''replace'' and stop undermining the ACA, are willing to work with our Republican friends to improve the existing law. No one ever said the Affordable Care Act was perfect. We have ideas to improve it; hopefully, our colleagues on the Republican side do as well. I hope once ''replace'' is dropped and the ACA is no longer undermined by the administration, we can sit down and talk about it.

Unfortunately, the administration has already done several things that undermine the law and hurt the people. During the final weeks of open enrollment, the Trump administration discontinued the public advertising campaigns that encouraged people to sign up for insurance. The administration is working behind the scenes to give insurers flexibility to offer Americans less coverage for the healthcare they need, and the Executive order that President Trump issued directing agencies to facilitate the repeal and replacement of the ACA has destabilized the marketplace. Now that TrumpCare is off the table, the President should rescind the Executive order.

Today, I am urging the President and his entire administration to immediately cease all efforts to undermine the ACA. People's lives are at stake.

The President should not hope that the healthcare system for tens of millions explodes. He should not want premiums to go up on his watch. He should not hope that Americans lose treatment for opioid addiction on his watch. This approach is wrong, and wrong in two ways: First and foremost, it is wrong because it hurts people. The President must be a leader. It is not leadership for the President to hurt people and actively work to undermine our Nation's healthcare system simply because he is angry that he didn't get his way on repealing the ACA. That is not Presidential, that is petulance.

Secondly, this approach will not work politically. Donald Trump is no longer an outsider; he is President. The American people are looking to him to help solve their problems. If he doesn't, it is going to hurt him and his party. Pointing the finger of blame isn't going to solve anyone's problems. That strategy is not only bad for the American people and beneath the Presidency, it will backfire politically. He is in charge. People want him to make their lives better, not make them worse because of some political anger or vendetta.

I know many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do care deeply about fixing the Nation's healthcare problems, and we are ready to do that with them in a bipartisan way. But, of course, repeal must be taken off the table, and the President must stop hurting citizens by undermining the Affordable Care Act.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, finally, on tax issues, now that the jig is finally up on healthcare, our Republican friends have signaled they will turn to taxes. I hope they have learned the lessons of TrumpCare. One of the reasons TrumpCare failed so spectacularly was that Republicans tried to rush and ram it through via a reconciliation process, even though it was deeply unpopular with the public. The last poll showed only 17 percent of Americans supported TrumpCare, so that means a large number even of Trump supporters were opposed to it.

Why was it so unpopular? Probably because TrumpCare would have given the wealthiest among us a monster tax cut while hammering older Americans and the middle class with higher costs for less care.

So I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle: If you try to pass a Republican tax plan using the same reconciliation method in order to get a huge tax break for the wealthy and already profitable and powerful corporations, it will fail. The American people are not crying out for tax breaks on

the wealthiest Americans. God bless the wealthy. They are doing just fine without the tax breaks, but thus far it seems our Republican colleagues are headed in that direction.

Even though the President campaigned as a populist, his administration has been all hard-right, pro-corporate, pro-special interests, totally against the working people. If the President and Republicans in Congress continue in that direction, proposing policies that shift burdens off the wealthy and powerful, not aiming to help the middle class and working families, their efforts will continue to fail, and it will turn tax reform into a partisan issue. The White House says tax reform isn't partisan, but it surely will be if they propose massive tax cuts only for the wealthy. My prediction: If Republicans go down that road, the Republican tax scheme will meet the same fate as TrumpCare. I hope they will not go down that road; I hope they will not.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BORDER ADJUSTMENT TAX

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, last week TrumpCare died, and lots of people are trying to figure out exactly what happened. In my view, it was not a lack of strategy; it was not a lack of effort; it was not a lack of personal relationship between the Speaker and the President. It died because the policy stank. It died because people actually—left, right, and center—decided that cutting Medicaid by $900 billion in order to provide a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans of the exact same amount was just not a good idea in policy or in politics.

Now that TrumpCare has crashed and burned, Republicans are essentially going to try to do the same thing—tax cuts for the rich. Yet, this time, instead of funding it by cutting Medicaid, they are going to charge people more for groceries. Here is their proposal: They want to cut taxes for corporations again. That is what they want to do. Whether one is talking about infrastructure or whether one is talking about healthcare or whether one is talking about so-called tax reform, their solution to everything is to cut taxes for corporations. They want to cut taxes for corporations again, but this time American families will pay for it through taxes on groceries and the other stuff they have to buy on a day-to-day basis.

We have seen this before. It is a giveaway for corporations and the wealthiest among us, but, as usual, they have to find a pay-for, a way to make the arithmetic work, a way to pay for it. They are going to keep proposing so-called solutions for healthcare, infrastructure, or in this case tax reform, but they are basically the same proposal. It is a subsidy for Wall Street. It is because they cannot help themselves.

This particular giveaway will cost the average American family thousands of dollars. Families will have to pay more for gas, medicine, clothes, cars, food. That is how a so-called border adjustment tax works. Everything one buys in the United States will be taxed, and everything outside of the United States will not be taxed. The sort of principle behind that is that somehow we are going to stimulate exports and disincentivize imports. It is not just that you are paying more on the stuff that is imported; it is that everything in the United States that you purchase you will have to pay more for in order to incentivize exports. But all you are doing is charging the American people more. This is essentially a sales tax.

I talked to members of my staff, and they were trying to get into the sort of technocratic, legal details about whether it is technically a sales tax or a value-added tax or a border adjustment tax that fits into some other legal category. But for a regular person, it does not matter what you call it; if you pay more and the government is collecting it, it is an increase in taxes.

They are going to dazzle you with complexity, and I think some in the House Republican leadership are very skillful at trying to make this more complicated than it is. They are trying to dazzle you with complexity so you do not know what they are doing. They are raising taxes on groceries and all of the stuff you buy. That is their version of tax reform.

I can understand. The Tax Code is awful, it is a mess, and we have been trying to do tax reform for I think 30 years. It is not unreasonable for the average American to say ''Yes, you ought to reform the Tax Code,'' but, remember, when they talk tax reform, they want you to have to go to the store and buy a steak, a hotdog, a head of lettuce, gasoline, pillows, diapers, paper—whatever you need—and it is going to cost more with so-called tax reform. If they succeed, the average American family could pay up to $1,700 more per year in order that corporations can get their tax cuts. Think about what $1,700 means for families across the country. For a family of four, with two kids in middle school, $1,700 pays for a few months' worth of groceries. In Hawaii, $1,700 will cover rent for a month, and in lots of other places, it will cover rent for 4 or 5 months. For some people, it pays a year's worth of an electric bill. In the State of Hawaii, it will pay for 4 or 5 months of your electric bill.

We know for certain this will hurt consumers, but on a macroeconomic level—in other words, for the entire country—we have no idea what a border adjustment tax would actually do in terms of our international relationships.

I understand. I voted against the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the trade promotion authority. I have been very, very concerned about the extent to which we have not been getting the better of these trade deals, especially when it comes to people who are in unions across the country. But we do not want to engage in a trade war. We do not want to screw up American manufacturing, American farming. We have no idea what the impact would be. Even if one is willing to accept increasing the cost of goods in the United States for some theoretical possibility that this will incentivize exports, we have no idea what it is going to do to the American economy overall. Even in the best-case scenario, entire industries will fall apart.

Take tourism. In 2016 alone, tourism supported nearly 5.5 million American jobs directly and almost 10 million more in industries like restaurants and retail. The tourism industry pumps $2.6 billion into our economy every day. That is more than $30,000 per second.

I will say one other thing about tourism. As we worry about automation, as we worry about artificial intelligence, as we worry about a global economy that is going to eviscerate some of our core industries, tourism is one thing that cannot be taken away from us. If people want to go to Los Angeles, if people want to go to Cleveland, if people want to go to Hawaii, if people want to go to St. Louis, MO, or Kansas City, MO, or Florida, these are jobs that cannot be taken away. So if you want to infuse cash into an economy, create a tourism economy—all of these jobs and all of this revenue will be under threat if this works out the way they want it to work out because the dollar will be so strong that Americans will want to travel abroad and foreigners will want to travel far, far away from us.

Why are we punishing consumers and small businesses? Why are we putting entire industries at risk? House Republicans will tell you it is because they think the corporate tax is too high, but here is the truth: Right now, major corporations have huge teams of tax lawyers who set up fake shell companies so that they get around paying Federal taxes at all, or they abuse loopholes to drastically lower what they owe to the U.S. Government. That is why we see some corporations that end up paying zero dollars in Federal income tax year after year even though they are making a healthy profit in the United States.

Together, Republicans and Democrats should be going after these tax dodgers. Instead of just getting rid of loopholes, they have decided to tax consumers. This makes no sense, and that is why we have to stop it.

Last week, we saved healthcare for 24 million Americans because people

across the country of all political persuasions stood up to fight. This week, the fight goes on. Once again, far too many people are in the crosshairs. I believe strongly that so long as we continue to stand together, we can win this one too. A huge tax cut for the wealthy cannot be funded by increasing the cost of groceries.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF JUDGE NEIL GORSUCH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, earlier today in the Senate Judiciary Committee, we considered the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to serve as the next Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. According to Judiciary Committee practice, that nomination was held over for a week, which means that Judge Gorsuch will be voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 3, and it will be available for floor action thereafter.

As the Nation—and perhaps even the world—knows, we held lengthy hearings last week to review his qualifications, his experience, and his approach to judging. I have to say that he really impressed everybody who approached this whole issue with an open mind about whether he was qualified to serve on the High Court. But unfortunately, as those of us who work in the Senate know, there has already been a threat by the Democratic leader to filibuster his nomination.

It is really important for the country to recall that there has never been a successful partisan filibuster of a nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court. Sometimes people want to talk about Abe Fortas in 1968, but ultimately Abe Fortas, who was nominated to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court by his friend and mentor, Lyndon Johnson, asked to withdraw his nomination after one failed cloture vote and ultimately ended up resigning from the Supreme Court of the United States in disgrace. It is hardly a precedent for what Democrats have said they are going to do with regard to this good man and this good judge, Neil Gorsuch.

I understand my friend the Democratic leader has a tough job. He has a split caucus—those who want to take Democrats over the ledge and those who would like to try to find some way to work out a reasonable accommodation. Unfortunately, he is under a lot of pressure from the radical groups on the left to do whatever he can to tank this superb nominee. Again, this would be unprecedented in American history.

It is true that Democrats in 2013 did the so-called nuclear option, which has established a new precedent in the Senate with regard to lower court judges—circuit court judges and district court judges—along with Cabinet nominees. Ironically, the so-called Reid precedent of 2013 has kind of come back to bite them a little bit, as President Trump now has been able to see all of his Cabinet members confirmed with 51 votes, or, in the case of one, 50 plus the Vice President.

I was glad to see a quote from a report in a Vermont publication from our friend the senior Senator from Vermont, the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, in which he said he wasn't inclined to filibuster the nomination of Judge Gorsuch and that he deserves a minimum of an up-or-down vote. So I hope others will follow the lead of Senator LEAHY, who has been in the Senate a long time in the majority and in the minority. He realizes it is important to maintain a certain level of tradition and decorum here in the Senate, because usually what goes around comes around. Unfortunately, this new precedent of filibustering Supreme Court Justices, if allowed to happen, is going to continue to be very damaging to the Senate and even to the country.

I hope he is still of that same mind—that he is not inclined to filibuster the nomination of Judge Gorsuch. If he takes that position, I know he will influence a lot of colleagues on the other side of the aisle because of his distinguished record of service in the Senate and in the Judiciary Committee.

I look forward to the committee approving Judge Gorsuch's nomination next week and then taking that nomination up on the Senate floor and confirming the nomination of Neil Gorsuch to serve as the next Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

OBAMACARE

Mr. President, last week, a lot of attention was focused on the House of Representatives and their efforts to fix our Nation's healthcare system.

We have said for a long time that ObamaCare needs to be repealed and replaced. I stand by that comment, and I know many of our colleagues do as well. But I want to make something else clear. The failure of ObamaCare isn't a problem for Democrats or Republicans alone. It is a problem for the entire country, and particularly those who find their premiums going up by double digits every year, their deductibles unaffordable, or even choices drying up because insurance companies simply have withdrawn from the individual market. Our colleagues on the Democratic side have repeatedly recognized the problems with ObamaCare, even though they pushed it through on a partisan vote 7 years ago.

The fact of the matter is that the President promised: If you like your healthcare policy, you can keep it; if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor; and, premiums for a family of four will go down by an average of $2,500. None of that has proven to be true. People were misled into believing that ObamaCare would somehow be the gold standard for healthcare in the country, and people are being hurt now by high premiums, high deductibles, and fewer choices. Indeed, 30 million people remain uninsured in this country because of the cost or the fact that they just decide that they don't want to buy government-mandated healthcare. They either pay a penalty through the IRS or they simply get a hardship exemption. There are 30 million people currently uninsured, more or less, under ObamaCare.

I want to remind our colleagues on the other side that they understand ObamaCare needs some work, and many of them have made repeated calls to fix it. Last year, for example, the junior Senator from Wisconsin said of ObamaCare:

> There were things obviously that need perfecting, need revisiting. Even if it were perfect, over time we would have to make adaptations, and so I think we would absolutely want to strengthen it.

Not even our colleague, the junior Senator from Wisconsin, is saying ObamaCare is delivering 100 percent on the promise. She is saying it needs some work.

The senior Senator from Indiana has echoed this sentiment. He said:

> I supported the Affordable Care Act because I wanted to help working- and middle-class families to have access to healthcare. That doesn't mean the law is perfect, and it doesn't mean that we don't still have work to do. That's why I'm working with my colleagues to make this bill stronger.

We haven't seen any proposals from our friends across the aisle on how to fix the law, which they concede is far from perfect. Instead, what we have seen is their standing back, watching Republicans trying to do this by ourselves and coming up short last week in the House of Representatives. To my mind, that is not commendable behavior on their part. I thought we all came here to the U.S. Senate to try to do things and fix problems for the constituents we represent. It is purely partisan to say: We know ObamaCare is falling apart, and it is not delivering as we promised. And, oh yes, you Republicans can try to fix it, but if you don't have the votes to do it, we are just going to sit back and applaud or react with glee from a partisan perspective because our political opponents somehow came up short when it came to the votes in the House.

The truth is, ObamaCare didn't bring massive relief for working- and middle-class Americans. For many, it made life more difficult with skyrocketing premiums, losing their plans and the doctors they wanted, and having fewer options to choose from.

I will quote one of our colleagues on the other side of the isle, the junior Senator from North Dakota. Her website says: "With any major legislation, there are improvements that need to be made so that it works as well as possible, and that holds true for the

healthcare reform law,'' speaking of ObamaCare.

She goes on to say that she is committed to ''correcting the parts of the healthcare reform law that do not make sense, improve on others, and implement new ideas to improve on healthcare costs and improve quality.''

I am grateful to our colleague from North Dakota for her honesty and open take on where things stand with respect to ObamaCare, but that is just a start. What we need to do now is work together to try to address the failings of ObamaCare where it is not delivering as promised and where even our colleagues across the aisle have said that it needs to be fixed in order to make sure that people have access to affordable, accessible quality healthcare. They don't have that now.

My point is that ObamaCare was a bill sold to the American people under false pretenses by the previous administration, and it has proved to be a disaster for many people. I was reading an article—I think it was either in the Washington Post or the New York Times today—about a woman in Texas who runs a hair care salon and who has intentionally kept her number of employees under the threshold under which ObamaCare's employer mandate would be invoked. So rather than spending time focusing on growing her business and improving her business, she has consciously kept it smaller, with fewer employees, because she knows that the burden of complying with the ObamaCare employer mandate will ultimately make her business less profitable. And when her business is less profitable, it means she can hire fewer people and perhaps can't pay the wages or the benefits she would like to pay her employees.

So I would just say to our colleagues across the aisle that I understand you think you had a pretty good day last week when the Republicans couldn't pass the healthcare plan on their own in the House, but I don't think this is a time for people to enjoy other people's failed efforts to try to improve the status quo. It is a mandate, I believe, for all of us to work together to address the flaws that we know exist—that they admitted exist—to try to do better when it comes to affordable, accessible healthcare for the American people.

This law will fail. Insurance companies will withdraw from the market, and the individual market serving roughly 18 million people will literally dry up and go away. Imagine how those families are going to be impacted.

I wouldn't want to be somebody who said: Well, I had an opportunity to fix it; yes, I had an opportunity to address your concerns when it came to affordable healthcare, but for partisan political reasons, I simply stood down and did nothing and literally washed my hands of it.

So before this law collapses—and it will—I hope our colleagues across the aisle will start offering their ideas and their solutions to bring better healthcare to families across the country. That is what I think our constituents expect of us. That is in the finest tradition of the U.S. Senate, and our constituents deserve no less.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I am pleased that in the Senate we are about to take a vote on ratifying the protocol of the accession of Montenegro to NATO.

What I wanted to do was to take a few moments to explain to people why I think this is an important vote and an important moment for our security as a nation but also to protect our interests abroad and that of our allies.

We all know that NATO—the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—was started right after World War II. It was primarily designed in the Cold War to confront the threats posed by the Soviet Union and its allies in the Warsaw Pact. Of course those threats have changed since the end of that Cold War.

Here is what hasn't changed. What hasn't changed is the need for America and her allies in a strong way to remain engaged in the world. That need has not changed. What has not changed is the need for democracies to be able to come together and collectively defend not just their interests but the interests of all people around the world where freedom is threatened. The difficult, painful lesson of history is that dictators and tyrants are never pleased with what they have. They always want more. They always need more. That is why it is so important that those nations on Earth—luckily and in a blessed way, more people than ever before find themselves living in societies where the people get to choose their leaders.

These alliances we have around the world—NATO being chief among them—help advance our strategic and economic interests, but most importantly, they help to keep our country safe.

There is a lot of talk about how much countries are paying into NATO, and it is true that the United States is by far the largest contributor to NATO. I think that is a combination of two things: one, decisions that were made by some of our allies in Europe on how they want to spend their government's money, and the other is just the reality that we are the United States of America, and as the United States of America, we will always find that we are always making a disproportionate share and contribution on everything, from global aid to fight off hunger and disease, to collective security.

While we can urge our allies, encourage our allies, and ask our allies to make a greater contribution to their own defense, we should not fall into the trap of diminishing what they are doing and what they have done.

First of all, in Europe today, many of our NATO allies are increasing their defense spending. They are doing so in response to Russia's aggression in Ukraine and its increased aggression elsewhere in the region. Their soldiers are joining ours in deploying to Central and Eastern Europe to reassure our allies who are facing aggression and potential aggression from Vladimir Putin.

With all this talk about NATO and money and how much everyone is giving, I think it is important to take a moment to also understand that our NATO allies have fought beside us and have died beside Americans in Afghanistan, where more than 1,100 soldiers of the NATO-led coalition paid the ultimate price with their lives. It is important to note this because on September 11, 2001, Paris was not attacked, Berlin was not attacked, and London was not attacked on that horrible day; yet these nations and others, our partners, invoked a shared commitment that led them to stand beside us on the other side of the world in an effort to prevent another attack like September 11 from taking place again on American soil or anywhere in the world.

Montenegro is not even a member of NATO yet. Yet it sent hundreds of servicemembers to join the American-led coalition in Afghanistan.

I have always argued that when our alliances, such as NATO, are under pressure from our potential adversaries and foes, we need to continue to expand and allow countries that meet the standards set by the alliance to join. That has never been more important than it is now, given the uncertainty and security challenges we face in Europe, especially as Vladimir Putin continues his aggression and continues to threaten stability in the region.

To be frank, Putin would love nothing more than to destroy NATO. In fact, you can see him trying to do that on a regular basis. He has tried to divide these countries, turn them against each other. He supports candidates throughout Europe who would take their countries out of NATO, constantly calling into question its viability. Vladimir Putin wants countries like Montenegro to remain in his sphere of influence and what I would call his sphere of threat, as his recent attempts to deploy his asymmetrical tools to influence Montenegrin politics have shown. That is why it is so important that we are moving to ratify Montenegro's access to NATO and to strengthen our relationship with Montenegro through NATO.

As the Senate and as a country, we are sending a clear message to Vladimir Putin that we will not accept the establishment of a Russian sphere of influence over countries that desire to

ally themselves with the free and democratic community of nations.

Today, I have tried to refrain from using the term ''Russian'' sphere of influence or ''Russia'' because the fact is, as I said to someone earlier today or yesterday, there is a difference between Russia and Vladimir Putin, and the events of the last 48 hours remind us of that. We are watching as many Russians who also desire to join the community of nations have turned out in cities and in places across Moscow and in other places in the thousands. They have turned out to protest the rampant corruption that fuels the Putin regime. And the Putin regime, as all totalitarian regimes do, has cracked down. They have arrested and detained hundreds of peaceful protesters. I ask you to compare that to Montenegro, whose membership in NATO will help the United States and Montenegro deepen our already strong bilateral relationship.

The stakes here are extraordinarily high for the United States and for our European allies. The Senate needs to send a strong message of solidarity with those in Europe who are standing up to the anti-democratic tactics of Vladimir Putin and his cronies.

That is why today I will be proud to cast my vote in support of Montenegro's accession into NATO, and I hope my colleagues here in the Senate will do the same and join me in doing so as well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HEALTHCARE

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, last week Republicans in Congress came within an inch of ripping health insurance away from 24 million people in order to give tax breaks to rich people. That collapsed, and it collapsed because the American people stood up and said no—no to kicking seniors out of nursing homes, no to booting kids with rare diseases off of their treatments, no to gutting funding for opioid addiction.

All across this country—in every corner of this country—for months people spoke up about how the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid are saving their lives and saving their families from financial ruin. They poured their hearts out, they raised their voices, and they demanded to be heard. Last week they won.

The collapse of the Republicans' cruel scheme is a huge relief to millions of people in this country, but I am not here to celebrate. I am here to warn the American people about what is coming next, because instead of listening to the American people about what they want, the President of the United States has threatened to sabotage healthcare in America. It isn't subtle. One hour after the Republicans admitted they didn't have the votes in Congress to destroy the Affordable Care Act, President Trump sat behind his desk in the Oval Office and told the entire Nation that he wants to trigger a meltdown of our healthcare system because he thinks that would be helpful to him politically.

Just so there is no confusion, I want to quote him word for word. He said: ''The best thing we can do, politically speaking, is let ObamaCare explode.''

Now let's be clear. It is deeply wrong for the President of the United States—whose one and only job is to look out for the American people—to root for the failure of our country's healthcare system. It is deeply wrong for the President of the United States to announce that he is going to drag down our entire healthcare sector—a sector that accounts for more than one-sixth of the entire U.S. economy—just so he can stand on top of the wreckage and waggle his fingers and say: I told you so.

Healthcare for millions of Americans is not a game. It is not entertainment. It is not a reality TV show. Healthcare is literally life and death, and it touches everyone in this country from elderly grandparents to tiny babies.

President Trump is responsible for making healthcare in this country work. It is his job. He is President of the United States. His party controls both Houses of Congress. A legitimate President doesn't clap and cheer when things get worse for the American people. A legitimate President doesn't pound his chest about sabotaging the health and security of the American people because it is politically expedient. A legitimate President does his job.

The President's admission that he wants our healthcare system to collapse is a dangerous sign of where things are headed. For 7 years Republicans in Congress have rooted against healthcare in this country, cheering every stumble and working at every turn to hobble the law and make it harder for people to get affordable insurance. President Trump cannot repeal the Affordable Care Act on his own, but he can strip healthcare from millions of Americans and make it too expensive for millions more. He can do that all on his own. In fact, he is already working on it.

A few days after he took office, President Trump signed an Executive order directing his agency to use every tool at their disposal to try to disrupt the Affordable Care Act. In January, he also pulled down government's efforts to get more people signed up for health insurance. Why? So fewer people would use the health exchanges, fewer would get insurance, and premiums would go up for those who did sign up—all in an effort to make ObamaCare fail.

Senator PATTY MURRAY and I asked the inspector general at the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate this reckless move, and now an independent investigation has been launched into this despicable incident. But the President has more tools at his disposal to undercut the Affordable Care Act all by himself. The President can redefine what insurance plans have to cover, stripping out critical benefits like birth control coverage. The President can withhold payments that insurers rely on to keep private health plans affordable. The President can allow States to put new conditions on Medicaid, conditions like taking away healthcare coverage if a woman doesn't get back to work soon enough after giving birth.

If the President decides to launch an all-out effort to sabotage American healthcare so he can manufacture a crisis to score political points, he can hurt a lot of people.

But there is a better way. If Republicans want to work on ideas to actually improve healthcare in America, to expand coverage, to expand access, or to reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs, I am eager to throw up my sleeves and go to work. For years, Massachusetts has led the Nation in bipartisan health reform. We have lots to contribute on this, and lots of other Democrats are ready to get to work, too.

The American people aren't stupid. They know the difference between a bill that kicks 24 million people off of their health insurance and a bill that actually improves care. They know the difference between a President who fights to make health care better and a President who plans to sabotage healthcare. They know the difference between a fireman and an arsonist. If this President and this Congress continue to play politics with the lives of millions of people, I promise you that the American people will see it, they will know it, and they will rise up once again to fight it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I take the floor to urge an ''aye'' vote on invoking cloture on the issue of Montenegro's admittance into NATO. I would point out that 25 of the 28 nations in NATO have already voted in favor of Montenegro's accession into NATO. Only the United States, Spain, and the Netherlands have yet to weigh in.

I would like to point out that Montenegro's admittance into NATO is a critical test of the alliances's open-door policy. I don't ask my colleagues to take my word for it. I would just like to point out that our Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, General Curtis Scaparrotti, last week declared that Montenegro's accession into NATO is ''absolutely critical,'' that they have had this desire. They have met the map, and they understand NATO'S outreach and ability to bring

in those who want to determine their own means of government and become part of NATO.

If we were to lose this, it would be a setback to many of the other nations and peoples, particularly in Eastern Europe, who were looking forward to and have their eyes on the West and becoming part of NATO.

I would point out to my colleagues that the Russians attach some importance to Montenegro because they tried a coup to overthrow the government. The Russians tried a coup to overthrow the government of this small, beautiful, and strategically important nation.

I would just point out that our Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, wrote a letter urging Montenegro's membership to be ratified, saying that it was ''strongly in the interests of the United States.'' In his letter he strongly emphasized that Montenegro's accession to NATO would support greater integration, democratic reform, trade, and security and stability in the entire Balkans region.

I won't take too much time in the Senate except to say that I think this is more than an accession or non-accession of a small 750,000-person nation. It is a test in this contest that we are now engaged in with Vladimir Putin, who has committed to extending the reach and influence of the Russian Government and Russian influence to the point where he attempted a coup to overthrow the freely elected government of Montenegro. That coup failed, but I can assure my colleagues that if we turn down Montenegro, it will not remain the democracy that it is today.

General Breedlove, who is our former commander in Europe said:

> Montenegro is a very strategic place. Can you imagine A2/AD Bubbles in Montenegro?

I urge my colleagues for a resounding ''aye'' vote in bringing cloture to an end and bringing Montenegro into the community of NATO, which is needed more now than at any time since the end of the Cold War. I, also, by the way, recommend to my colleagues a visit to, really, one of the more beautiful countries on Earth.

I yield for the Senator from South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, for one, I want to let the people of Montenegro know that this day has been a long time coming. We would not be here had it not been for Senator MCCAIN's constant, persuasive, passionate voice, and this day has finally arrived in the Senate.

As to Senator MCCONNELL, I want to thank him for making floor time. I regret we had to do it this way, but when one Senator objects, then, it puts the pressure on the rest of us. One Senator can stop legislation like this. It was one Senator, and he has every right to do so. But I want to thank Senator MCCONNELL for putting aside floor time so that we can vote in the Senate to allow Montenegro to be a part of NATO.

Senator MCCAIN has traveled the world as much as anybody I know. I have been to Montenegro with him at least once, if not twice. It is a beautiful place. They share our values. They want to move forward in terms of their democracy. They want to be part of NATO. They want to be part of free markets. They want the rule of law to replace the rule of the gun. Montenegro is trying to do everything that Putin hates—where you can actually vote for your own leaders, where you can have a judicial system that works, where people can walk the streets without fear, and where the leadership doesn't steal the country blind.

I want to let the people of Russia know—for those who went into the streets yesterday or the day before to protest the corruption of the Putin regime—that you have my undying respect and admiration, because I can only imagine how hard that was.

For the people of Montenegro, I know they have been waiting a long time for this day to come because Russia and, generally, Putin have been trying to overthrow their government.

To those people in this body who proclaim they are for freedom and liberty, here is what I suggest. If you are not for other people's freedom and other people's liberty, you will eventually lose yours. The idea that we can be safe and free and not engage the world and sit on the sidelines and watch people like Putin turn the world order upside down and not be affected is at best naive. It is worse than naive, but I want to be nice and say it is just naive.

What Putin is doing throughout the world is trying to break the backs of the world order, NATO, and the European Union. He is trying to drive a wedge between the NATO countries, and he will be the biggest beneficiary of that. He is trying to break the back of the European Union. Alliances of democracy are his worst nightmare. This is a huge step in the right direction.

I want to thank Senator MCCAIN for being the most consistent voice in this body, and Senators MCCONNELL and SCHUMER for allowing this vote. But our work is not done because it is one thing to vote in favor of Montenegro's entering NATO over Russia's objections. That is not enough. Senator MCCAIN and myself, Senators CARDIN and RUBIO—Democrats and Republicans—all have crafted legislation to punish Russia for interfering in our elections. And they did. They are trying to break the backs of democracy in Ukraine, Georgia, and the Baltic nations. I hope the next thing we do in this body, in short order, on Russia is to punish them for their efforts to interfere and change and destabilize American democracy. I don't think they changed the outcome, but it was the Russians who did this to the Democratic Party, and I think every Republican should be equally offended.

I hope we can find some time on the floor, starting in the committee, to pass a Russia sanctions bill that, I believe, would get 80 votes. This is a great step in the right direction for people in Montenegro. It is a rebuke of Putin, but it is not enough.

Again, I thank Senator MCCAIN for his leadership toward the people in Montenegro, and I know he has been worried about what is happening in America. I hope he finds some comfort in what we are doing here today.

I hope the rest of the world, particularly Europe, which is in the crosshairs of Putin, will understand that America is coming back and it is coming back strongly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from South Carolina, particularly on the issue of Russian sanctions.

Yesterday, we saw the people of Russia, particularly the younger people, demonstrating peacefully in the streets of the cities and towns throughout Russia in order to protest the corruption and dictatorship of Vladimir Putin. At the time, the leader of the opposition was jailed. He was in the process of putting together a study that showed that Medvedev, who was Putin's puppet, was one of the wealthiest people on Earth.

I was heartened by the willingness and the courage of the people of Russia to stand up and protest a corrupt, dictatorial, and brutal government that, unfortunately, they are saddled with.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, one of my chief responsibilities as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is to help protect the men, women, and institutions that keep America safe, including not only the State Department but the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance.

NATO was founded in 1949 as an alliance that was committed to the collective defense of its members—that an attack on one constitutes an attack on all. The alliance's self-defense clause has only been invoked once, after 9/11, when our allies deployed with us to Afghanistan.

Our militaries, in their working together, allow NATO to function. NATO members have committed to spending 2 percent of their GDPs on their militaries, but only the United Kingdom, Estonia, Poland, Greece, and the United States currently hit that goal. While the other members are working on growing their defense budgets, I have long held the belief that they must do so faster.

Regardless, part of what makes NATO great is its open doors. States that are interested in becoming allies are encouraged to join the Partnership for Peace. When those states then meet the criteria for membership, they are welcomed into the alliance.

This process is exactly what occurred with Montenegro. Just after becoming

an independent country in June of 2006, Montenegro joined the Partnership for Peace in December 2006. Exactly 3 years later, Montenegro obtained its Membership Action Plan. Six years after that, NATO recognized that Montenegro had met all of the necessary standards for membership and invited the country to begin talks to become part of the alliance. Then, in May of 2016, NATO's Foreign Ministers signed the protocol to formally open the way for Montenegro to join. As of today, every other NATO member has already ratified this treaty and Montenegro's inclusion.

Beyond such procedural steps, Montenegro has long been contributing to shared security challenges. For example, Montenegro actively supported the NATO-led operation in Afghanistan from 2010 until its end in 2014 and now is supporting the follow-on mission to train, advise, and assist Afghan security forces. It is important to note that Montenegro has taken these steps despite Russia's best efforts to undermine their progress every step of the way.

I thank Senator BEN CARDIN; the Europe and Regional Security Cooperation Subcommittee chairman, RON JOHNSON; and my other colleagues on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for their support and constructive work during this process.

We have moved this treaty ratification twice now—once in the last Congress and again in January—to demonstrate our commitment to NATO and to Montenegro.

I also thank Senator MCCAIN, both as a former member of our committee as well as the chair of the Armed Services Committee, for his unwavering support in bringing Montenegro into the alliance.

Lastly, on behalf of the committee, I urge all of my colleagues to support this treaty amendment that serves American security interests for a strong NATO.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, President Trump said in his inaugural address that we have defended other nations' borders while refusing to defend our own. I think he was right. Today, the question is, Will we add another commitment to defend yet another foreign country?

For decades, NATO has been an organization in which the United States disproportionately spends our blood and our treasure. The other NATO countries have largely hitched a ride on a U.S. train that subsidizes their defenses and allows them to direct their revenues to their own domestic concerns. In short, Uncle Sam is the Uncle Patsy for the rest of the world.

The question today is, Will adding to NATO another country with fewer than 2,000 soldiers be in our self-interest?

It has fewer than 2,000 soldiers and is a small country in a distant part of the world. Will they make you sleep safer at night? The answer is an emphatic no.

There is no national security interest that an alliance with Montenegro will advance. If we invite Montenegro into NATO, it will be a one-way street, with the United States committing to defending yet another country and with you, the taxpayer, being stuck with the bill.

Even the advocates of Montenegro's joining NATO admit as much. The Senate hearing on admitting Montenegro to NATO was really just a punching session about Russia. Not one word was said about allowing Montenegro into NATO or how it would advance our own national security. We were going to send a message to Russia. Even the citizens of Montenegro are divided on this. About half of them want to be in NATO, and the other half does not want to be in NATO.

But it is not really about them; it is about us. Is admitting Montenegro to NATO good for us? Our national security is our national security. Is Montenegro going to defend the United States? Are they of any importance to our national security or, perhaps, will they entangle us in local, historic, regional conflicts in the area?

We must ask: Is Montenegro an asset to the defense of the United States? That is the question at hand.

The answer is a simple one. Admitting Montenegro to NATO will do nothing to advance our national security, and it will do everything to simply add another small country to NATO's welfare wagon.

Advocates for expanding NATO believe that, unless the whole world joins NATO, Russia will conquer the world, but the truth is more nuanced. During the Cold War, the myth of Russian might was endlessly circulated here at home, and the effect was the production of endless munitions and ever-expanding debt. You are still paying the tab for that. The Cold War ended, and the Soviet Union failed, not because our military might overcame them but because our economic system outlasted them. They were defeated. Capitalism defeated socialism.

If there is one message that Americans should get, it is that capitalism is stronger than socialism. We should not flirt with political leaders in our country who promote what caused the Soviet Union to fail.

Now we are told we must fear Russia again—fear the Russian bear. Yet, if you look closely, you will see that Russian aggression around the world and particularly around the former Soviet satellites is an attempt to mask a weak economy that runs the same risk of overextension that caused the Soviet Empire to collapse. Russia is weak. Russia is weak because of corruption, oligarchy, and human rights abuses. If Russia continues on this path, it may well encounter the same cataclysm that brought down the Soviet Empire.

Without question, Russia is an adversary, a country that ignores international norms, does not respect the territorial integrity of its neighbors. Yet someone must ask: Is it in our national interest to insist that countries of the former Soviet Union be in NATO?

The debate today is not just about Montenegro. The same cheerleaders for Montenegro's being in NATO want Ukraine in NATO and want Georgia in NATO. This is about NATO's expansion in general, and this is a chance to have a real debate.

If both Ukraine and Georgia were in NATO today, we would be involved in a world war with Russia. Shouldn't someone speak up? Shouldn't we have some sort of national debate before we commit our sons and daughters to war in a faraway land?

One thing is for certain: Russia will always care more about those lands than we will. Does that make Russian aggression right? Absolutely not.

Our decision—the decision at hand—is: Are we willing to send our sons and daughters to fight in border disputes over Montenegro? Most Americans couldn't find Montenegro on the map. Are you willing to send your kids there to fight?

That is what this is about, and this is sluffed over. They are going to forbid amendments. I forced this debate. Nobody wanted to have this debate. They want to rubberstamp it. They want no debates, and they want to send your kids to war with no debate. Today, they will pass this over my objections, but they will allow no amendments. When I finish this speech, I will ask for an amendment, and it will be denied because they do not want to debate whether your sons and daughters go to war. I find that appalling. I am ashamed of a Senate that will not have a debate and will not have a vote.

From the very beginning, our Republic was founded on a deep suspicion of entangling alliances. Our Founders wanted to do everything possible to avoid the endless, chronic wars in Europe. In Europe, for centuries, Kings from one nation fought their brothers and their cousins in other nations. This meaningless fratricide continued even into the 20th century.

The Founding Fathers were emphatic in their desire to avoid endless war. Washington wrote that our true policy was to steer clear of a permanent alliance with any portion of the foreign world. Jefferson echoed this when he famously wrote of peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations and of entangling alliances with none.

Even in modern times, such military heroes as President Eisenhower opposed intervention in Hungary, even when the naked aggression of the Soviets was appalling. Eisenhower likely may have had no real opportunity, though, because the Soviet Union had rolled in with 200,000 troops and 4,000 tanks.

At least part of the decision not to go into Hungary in the fifties was not for a lack of sympathy for freedom, not for

a lack of sympathy for self-determination of a country. It was the real politic decision of a nuclear confrontation with a nuclear Russia.

Fast-forward to today. For 16 years, we have been at war in the Middle East—16 years. If I had been here, I would have voted for going after the people who had attacked us on 9/11. Our justified response, though, has drug on and on. There are people who are fighting in the war who were not born on 9/11. The Congress voted after 9/11 to go to war. It voted to go after the people who planned and plotted the attacks on the World Trade Center. That vote from 15 years ago is used to justify all war that is everywhere on the planet.

There has been no meaningful debate on the wars we are currently involved in in the Middle East. We currently fight illegally and unconstitutionally in the Middle East because your representatives are afraid to have a public debate. They will stifle debate at all costs, and they will broker no amendments. They will allow no amendments to occur.

Our unrestricted, unvoted-upon involvement in war everywhere informed my opposition to expand NATO. Everyone likes to talk about NATO's article 5 obligation to come to the defense of any NATO allies that are attacked. That is in the treaty. If Montenegro is attacked, we will have to respond, but my concern is that many in Congress believe that article 5, in saying that we have to defend Montenegro, farms out to an international body this power to declare war, and they do not think they have to vote again.

You don't believe me?

They have not voted for 15 years for war, and we are still at war. We continue to go to new countries for war with no vote. Do you think that Montenegro will not be attacked and that there will not be a war without a vote? This is their history. Their history is one of not obeying the Constitution. David Fromkin puts it this way: ''If it is now agreed by treaty that an attack on a . . . NATO ally is deemed an attack on the United States, then it can be argued that the President is empowered without congressional authorization to send us to war.''

Don't believe me? We have been at war for 15 years. We have been at war with dozens of new tribes, dozens of new countries, with no votes on war.

The most important vote a legislator will ever take is whether to go to war. Yet today we will vote for an automatic war if somebody invades Montenegro. And mark my words—they won't obey the Constitution. They will say: We voted to put them in NATO. Article 5 says we have to defend them.

That is not the law of the land, and we should have to vote in Congress. But nobody obeys the law. So if you are worried about whether your kids will be sent to the Balkans or whether your kids will be sent to Ukraine or Georgia, call your representative and tell them: Stop.

This is the crux of the debate. Congress has abdicated its role in declaring war. For 16 years, we have been at war in the Middle East with dozens of different tribes and dozens of countries and yet no vote. People say: Well, we should fight ISIS. Well, let's vote on it. Let's declare war or not. But you can't tell me that ISIS has anything to do with 9/11. They don't. Many of their fighters weren't even born then.

The authorization for war in Iraq was specific to a specific enemy in a specific place. So was the authorization after 9/11. The authorization for war in Afghanistan was specific. It says: necessary and appropriate force against those who planned, authorized, committed, or aided the September 11 attacks. It was actually put in the authorization for force that it was about 9/11. None of what is going on is about 9/11 anymore. They are not the same people. Some of the people we are fighting now didn't like those people.

There is a whole confusing set of religious wars that have been going on for 1,000 years in the Middle East. Yet your representatives will say: Send me your son, send me your daughter, but we don't have time to vote on whether it should be a declared war.

This vote is now used to justify a war around the globe, a vote from 9/11—from 15 years ago. It is a lie, and it is a disservice to our young men and women to have them fight under false pretenses where the Senators don't seem to have time to have a debate. No active war anywhere around the globe that the United States is involved with has been authorized by Congress.

We dropped more bombs the other day in Pakistan. We sent a man right into Yemen. Raise your hand if you know what the hell is going on in Yemen and who is fighting whom and who is our enemy. The one we killed the other day was al-Qaida—probably a bad guy. He was actually fighting against the Houthis, whom we are also fighting against.

Who are the good guys? Shouldn't we have a debate? Shouldn't we decide whether we are going to war in Yemen? Should we be giving the Saudis bombs? They bombed a funeral procession. They killed 150 civilians and 500 people. We just let it go on. We keep giving them weapons. I have tried to stop selling bombs to the Saudi Arabians, but the majority up here says: Keep giving them to them. Keep giving them the weapons, and let them indiscriminately kill whoever the hell they want.

So NATO—should we expand it? Perhaps what we should do is make it clear that the NATO treaty is not a blind, open-ended promise to go to war anywhere, anytime.

Before we go to final passage, I will offer one amendment. This amendment will be blocked because they do not want debate and because they will be embarrassed if they have to vote against this amendment. But realize what this amendment asks. My amendment states that nothing in the NATO treaty—particularly the article 5 promise to come to the rescue of anyone attacked—none of this can happen without an official vote to declare war. So what is my amendment stating? The Constitution—article I, section 8—says we don't go to war without a vote and a debate. Do you know what they will do to get around it? I think we can assume that they are against the Constitution because they are not going to allow the amendment. How long would it take? It takes 15 minutes to vote around here. I am about done speaking. We could have one 15-minute vote on an amendment. I would grant back the time if we would have a vote, but they don't want to debate it because they are embarrassed that they are sending your sons and daughters to war without ever debating or voting on it.

This, to me, is a tragedy. It is sad to me. It makes me ashamed of the body that we will do this. Probably what is worse is then they clamor to the floor, their mouths agape, ajar, calling other people traitors, acting as if I care less about your sons and daughters because I want to have a debate on war before we go to war, preventing an amendment from happening and then having the gall to come to the floor and accuse their philosophic opponents of being traitors and being allies with the Russians.

Is this what we have come to? Is this where we are as America, that you can't take a principled stand against war; that you can't stand up on principle and say: Are we really going to go to war over Montenegro, over Ukraine? Are we really going to go to war over Georgia? And then you are accused of not being patriotic to your country.

I care as much as anybody about our soldiers. When I talk to our young men and women who serve, do you know what they tell me? They want someone to stand up and have a debate. They will do what they are told. Our soldiers are brave, and they will go where they are told, and they will obey orders. But the people here who are these mouthpieces for war, who think every soldier wants to go to war, I suggest they go out and meet the soldiers and ask them whether they want the civilian Senators to debate and have a formal declaration of war. That is all I am asking for—15 minutes and an amendment that says we will obey the Constitution.

If article 5 says we need to go to war and Montenegro is attacked, we will do the proper thing. We will come to the floor of the Senate. We are not sending troops to Montenegro without a vote on the floor of the Senate. Is that too much to ask for? We will see.

Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 199 that says we should obey the Constitution and that we should declare war before we go to war.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Is there objection to setting aside the pending amendment?

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I work very close with my friend from Kentucky. There were some awfully strong things that were just said. I don't think they were directed necessarily at me.

I think there has been a little bit of an evolution here. I know that the reason we are having to go through this process of filibustering a treaty is the fact that the Senator from Kentucky wanted a vote on an unrelated amendment relative to surveillance here in our own country. When he was unable to get that agreement, he decided to filibuster a treaty. So that is what is happening here.

I am interested to hear this evolution of why we are having this debate. Let me just say, having dealt with this issue firsthand—and I know he knows this—this filibuster is about something totally unrelated to the amendment that is being offered right now.

I know the Senator from Kentucky, my friend, knows that I have offered authorizations for the use of force. I did so against Syria, and I am glad to have a debate on authorizations for the use of force, and I think we should. I know the administration is developing a strategy around ISIS right now, and when they complete that, it is my hope that we will, in fact, update the 2001 AUMF.

I think it has been stated by past administrations that the authorization they are utilizing as it relates to ISIS is legal. I believe them to be correct. But I will say that I agree we ought to have another debate on the issue of authorizing the fight against ISIS, and I hope we will do so as soon as this administration completes the process of laying out what their plan is. Then we can debate that and then hopefully update that authorization. I don't know what that has to do with a treaty with Montenegro. There has been a lot that has been said, and I don't know how it necessarily ties together. But the fact is, when you enter into an article 5 treaty—which has, by the way, passed out of our committee on two occasions—you are, in fact, saying under article 5 that a war against one is a war against all and that we will come to their defense. So the amendment itself, if we were to vote on it, would basically negate that.

I think the Senator from Kentucky could have had this vote, but the fact is that 98 Senators wanted to have this vote—have wanted to have this vote for months, I might add—and we have had to come to this point of filing cloture.

So, with that, with good will toward the Senator, with good will toward the other 97 Senators here who would like to pass this posthaste, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, it is important to know what just happened. We closed off the debate, and as far as a filibuster goes, we are having a debate and a vote. What they wanted was a rubberstamp and an easy passage without debate. We are having a bit of a debate, and that is good. Unfortunately, we will not be allowed to amend the bill.

My amendment is germane to the bill. It has to do with what article 5 means in the treaty we are signing. What it says is that we will not necessarily take article 5 to mean that we are going to war, that we would do the constitutional duty, and that is to vote about whether we go to war. So the amendment is very clear that we would obey the Constitution.

By blocking the vote, we have to realize that those blocking the vote have decided that really it should be automatic, that your sons and daughters will be sent to war automatically without a vote, without a declaration of war. You say: Well, maybe they don't mean that. Maybe they would obey the Constitution.

They don't now. So everything in evidence shows us that the chance that in the future they will obey the Constitution is about zero. But so ashamed are they of the fact that we will fight more wars without a declaration, without a vote—they won't allow a vote on the amendment because they would be voting against the Constitution. So, instead, they will block the amendment.

That is essentially what this debate is about: Are we automatically obligated to go to war without a vote by Congress? That is what the vote is about. It is incredibly germane. It goes to the heart of the bill. It goes to the heart of the NATO treaty. Does article 5 mean you automatically go to war, or would you go through the normal processes of going to war? Now, some will say: Oh, well, we would never go to war. It might not be so bad, but it would be difficult.

Do you know when we have gone to war? We have actually gone unanimously when we have done it the right way. When we were attacked on 9/11 and they came to Congress, do you know what the vote was? Unanimous. We are not about letting people attack us as a country, and I would have voted for that.

When we were attacked in Pearl Harbor, what did FDR do? The thing that great leaders would do—and I am not a huge fan always of FDR, but he did the right thing. He came to Congress the next day. I think it was on December 8 that they voted unanimously to go to war. That is the way it was done once upon a time.

When you are attacked, people do rally to the country and they rally to the flag, but we shouldn't have an automatic stamp that says: We are going to war anywhere without any restraint, without any control or separation of power.

So I object strenuously to this, and I wish we were more open in this body and in our country to a debate about when we are going to go to war.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, before I suggest the absence of a quorum, I would like to say that the Constitution calls for treaties to be enacted by this body, which is what we are doing today. Everybody understands what NATO is and has understood it since the late 1940s. This is the kind of treaty that we would like for other people to be a member of, and today Montenegro, which has gone through the full process of accession, hopefully will be passed through this body.

This is the last country, by the way—every other country that is a member of NATO has voted to cause Montenegro to join NATO.

I know my friend from Maryland, the ranking member, Senator CARDIN, has just arrived. I know he has a few words to say. He is a strong supporter of Montenegro's accession, as is the vast majority of this Senate.

I will let the comments from the Senator from Kentucky lie. We are doing our constitutional duty by passing a treaty that we all understood. It has been debated fully in committee. It has been passed out twice. I am glad we are doing so. The fact is, this has been blocked by one Senator who wanted to vote on something totally unrelated to this and was using this as leverage. That is what is occurring here, nothing else. We are finally, through cloture, having a vote on something that the majority of people in the Senate want to pass.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 7 minutes prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I thank Chairman CORKER for the manner in which this resolution of ratification has been handled in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It has been handled in a nonpartisan way. We have had hearings, we have had votes, we have had a lot of conversations about it, and at last we are going to get a chance to vote on the ratification. So I come to the floor to speak in support of this resolution of ratification regarding the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

I have been a strong supporter of Montenegro's bid to join NATO. It will enhance our security, it will strengthen the alliance, and it will send a strong message of resolve to Russia as it invades its neighbors and seeks to upend the international order. Montenegro's inclusion in NATO will have positive repercussions across the continent and will send an important message of hope to aspirant countries.

Last week, I met with Montenegro's Foreign Minister, and he described Russia's persistent efforts to weaken support for NATO membership in Montenegro. Last October, Russia interfered in the Montenegrin elections.

There was a plot to assassinate the former Prime Minister of Montenegro and take over the Montenegrin Parliament. The suspects in that case scurried back to Moscow, and the Russian authorities refused to turn them over to the Montenegrins or even make them available for questioning in Moscow. To this day, Russian-supported NGOs and media propaganda continue to rail against Montenegro's NATO membership.

Russia does not get a veto over decisions of the alliance. We need to send a strong message of resolve. This is not an isolated circumstance with Russia. We have seen how they interfered in our elections. We have seen what they are doing in Europe today.

We see all these different activities by Russia, and we have to protect ourselves. One way we protect ourselves is by making our own decisions as to who should be admitted into NATO. Another is that we should have an independent commission take a look at what Russia was doing in their interference with our elections and what they are trying to do in trying to compromise our democratic system of government. I think the events that occurred in recent weeks of additional contacts that Russia made with members of the Trump administration just underscore the importance for that independent commission to take a look at what happened.

I stand here today in support of NATO enlargement. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee recently voted by voice vote in support of this bid—unanimously, Democrats and Republicans. This is not a partisan issue. We have had a request from the President to take up this issue. Nearly all NATO members have approved Montenegro's bid. We are among the last to ratify, and we must get the job done. Tonight, we can take a major step forward in that regard.

What is the case for Montenegro's membership? Admission of Montenegro would mark another important step forward, fully integrating the Balkans into international institutions that have helped to contribute to peace and stability over the years in Europe. Croatia and Albania joined the alliance in 2009 and have been valuable contributors to accomplishing NATO's objectives since then. I hope that Montenegro's admission will help them motivate the reforms necessary for other Balkan countries to join.

Montenegro has made outsized contributions to NATO missions, despite not being a full member. I understand that in Afghanistan, Montenegro has rotated 20 percent of its armed forces through the ISAF and the resolute support missions. Twenty percent of their force—that is a substantial contribution. It also contributed to the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo and other NATO missions.

No country outside the alliance gets a veto over who gets to join, especially Russia. So we must send a strong signal. I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution and get it to the President so the President can deposit the instrument of ratification at NATO in support of Montenegro's bid. I urge my colleagues to support the mission.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Treaties Calendar No. 1, treaty document No. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

Mitch McConnell, Cory Gardner, Steve Daines, John Barrasso, Joni K. Ernst, Bob Corker, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Jeff Flake, James M. Inhofe, Roy Blunt, David Perdue, John McCain, Pat Roberts, Tom Cotton, Jerry Moran, Mike Rounds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 97, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 97 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Daines	Kennedy
Baldwin	Donnelly	King
Barrasso	Duckworth	Klobuchar
Bennet	Durbin	Lankford
Blumenthal	Enzi	Leahy
Blunt	Ernst	Manchin
Booker	Feinstein	Markey
Boozman	Fischer	McCain
Brown	Flake	McCaskill
Burr	Franken	McConnell
Cantwell	Gardner	Menendez
Capito	Gillibrand	Merkley
Cardin	Graham	Moran
Carper	Grassley	Murkowski
Casey	Harris	Murphy
Cassidy	Hassan	Murray
Cochran	Hatch	Nelson
Collins	Heinrich	Perdue
Coons	Heitkamp	Peters
Corker	Heller	Portman
Cornyn	Hirono	Reed
Cortez Masto	Hoeven	Risch
Cotton	Inhofe	Roberts
Crapo	Johnson	Rounds
Cruz	Kaine	Rubio
Sanders	Strange	Warner
Sasse	Sullivan	Warren
Schatz	Tester	Whitehouse
Schumer	Thune	Wicker
Scott	Tillis	Wyden
Shaheen	Toomey	Young
Shelby	Udall	
Stabenow	Van Hollen	

NAYS—2

Lee Paul

NOT VOTING—1

Isakson

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 97, the nays are 2.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in favor of the resolution of ratification for Montenegro's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, better known as NATO.

Many of my colleagues are unaware of the fact that the State of Maine has a special relationship with Montenegro. It is through the National Guard State Partnership Program.

I thank the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, Chairman CORKER, Senator MCCAIN, the Democratic leadership, Senator JOHNSON, Senator MURPHY, and all of those who were instrumental in bringing this resolution to the floor for consideration today.

Montenegro's accession to NATO will serve the strategic interests of the United States, it will help to promote stability in the Balkans, and it will make us safer. Montenegro has already proven its support for American interests, having sent troops to Afghanistan in support of NATO- and U.S.-led operations there. Although not yet a member of the European Union, Montenegro also voluntarily joined the EU sanctions regime against Russia in response to Moscow's illegal annexation of Crimea and destabilizing actions in eastern Ukraine. Most important, I have great confidence that Montenegro will meet the collective defense obligations of NATO membership.

For the past 10 years, with the assistance of the Maine National Guard through the State Partnership Program, Montenegro has worked hard to reform its military and to strengthen the rule of law to come into compliance with NATO requirements, as defined in NATO's Membership Action Plan. Even today, Maine National Guard members are deployed to Montenegro to assist its Ministry of Defense in furthering its integration into NATO standards and processes.

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of the

members of the Maine National Guard who have participated in this operation, including the former and current adjutant general, GEN Bill Libby and GEN Doug Farnham, as well as our current guardsman stationed in Montenegro, Army CPT Nicolas Phillips. All of them have worked very hard during the past 10 years to help Montenegro get ready for this highly significant moment.

We must be clear-eyed about the fact that the Russian Federation has undertaken an extensive overt and covert campaign to derail Montenegro's bid to join NATO. These efforts include a brazen plot to disrupt Montenegro's elections last October and to turn the public against the pro-NATO ruling government there. According to Montenegro's special prosecutor assigned to the investigation, at least two Russian intelligence officers actively participated in this plot, which fortunately was disrupted.

Ratifying Montenegro's NATO membership demonstrates our firm resolve against Russia's efforts to deny other countries the opportunity to participate in NATO free from outside interference. That is why the Supreme Allied Commander for Europe and NATO testified just last week before the Senate Armed Services Committee that it is ''absolutely critical'' that Montenegro join NATO.

As President Trump prepares to travel to the NATO leaders' summit in Brussels at the end of May, I can think of no better action for the Senate to have taken ahead of his visit than our action tonight to finally ratify Montenegro's membership in NATO. In the meantime, I also look forward to the continued special relationship between Montenegro and the great State of Maine.

Thank you, Mr. 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. 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. 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.

WEEK ON THE STATUS OF BLACK WOMEN

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I wish to request that the U.S. Government officially recognize the last week in March as the Week on the Status of Black Women. During the week of March 27, 2017, as part of Women's History Month and in honor of the United Nations Declaration designating 2015 as the Decade of Afro-Descendants, this week marks the perfect occasion on which to begin an annual recognition and celebration of Black women's contributions to American society.

Black women have long gone above and beyond the call of duty in their contributions to American society through civic engagement, high voter turnout, and serving as leaders in their communities. Even in the face of grave oppression throughout our Nation's history, Black women have continued to stand strong and contribute to the well-being of their families, communities, and our country as a whole. A recognition of the Week on the Status of Black Women by the Trump administration and Congress would send a clear message that the Federal Government recognizes the unique struggles and achievements of Black women in America.

Black women have consistently played a leading role in shaping our Nation's history, often behind the scenes and with little recognition. Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and bravely returned to the enslaved South over a dozen times to lead her people to freedom on the Underground Railroad. A century later, Rosa Parks witnessed the oppression of her fellow Black women and took an active role in organizing the Montgomery Bus Boycott, while also taking up Black women's sexual harassment claims. Today, a Black woman, Carla Hayden, is our Nation's Librarian of Congress. Recognition of the Week on the Status of Black Women would honor the sacrifices of women such as Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks, who paved the way for so many Black women in public service, business, and other industries today.

Yet even as Black women throughout our Nation's history have been leaders in American civic life, Black women today still continue to face many undue burdens. No one in America should have to choose between earning a paycheck and taking care of their family, but too many Black women who serve as primary family breadwinners are forced to make this painful choice. Black women continue to earn less than their male counteiparts and also less than women who are not Black. Black women remain at the economic margins of society, and we all have a responsibility to help fix that.

This year, a coalition of organizations advocating for the well-being of women and communities of color will partner to elevate the stories, histories, and realities of Black women's lives. Each day of the week, starting on March 27 and continuing through March 31, will focus on a different challenge Black women face in society today, ranging from disproportionate experience with police violence to discriminatory media representation. Exploring these issues and acknowledging the centrality of Black women to our history and social fabric, along with recognizing the unique intersection of gendered and racialized inequities they face, is critical. As we continue to work to extend equal rights to all Americans, we must ensure that Black women are a leading part of this movement. I hope and request that this year will be a continuation of years past in celebration and intentional recognition of Black women in America through the Week on the Status of Black Women.

REMEMBERING ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and dedicated service to our country of my friend and colleague, Eni F. H. Faleomavaega of American Samoa. I had the honor of serving with him in the U.S. House and was deeply saddened to hear of his passing on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.

Eni served 13 terms as the Delegate from American Samoa, and we worked together because of his close ties to Hawaii. Eni's strong ties and service to Hawaii makes him a ''keiki o ka aina.'' He was a graduate of Kahuku High School and the Church College, the forerunner to Brigham Young University in Laie, HI. Eni was a passionate advocate for indigenous peoples including native Hawaiians. Whether it was Federal recognition or health and housing programs for native Hawaiians, Hawaii could always count on Eni's outspoken support and assistance. One of the stories Eni enjoyed sharing was about his experience sailing on the voyaging canoe Hokulea in 1987, and in August 2014, he welcomed the arrival of the Hokulea and Hikianalia arrival in American Samoa and offered his best wishes to Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage.

I always appreciated his warm presence at the annual Kamehameha Day Lei Draping Ceremony at the capitol where he would often perform traditional Samoan chant and dance. Of course, he also served his American Samoa constituents in Congress with distinction for two decades. During his service in the House, he rose to become the first Asian-Pacific American to serve as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. He brought his unique perspective as a Pacific Islander to this post and constructively worked to raise the concerns of the region in Congress.

Eni was also a veteran of the Vietnam war and a selfless advocate for his fellow veterans in American Samoa and across the Nation. Thanks to Eni's efforts, American Samoa veterans can now receive their healthcare from a Department of Veterans Affairs clinic built in Pago Pago with funds he helped secure. It is therefore most appropriate that the House and Senate

recently passed H.R. 1362, a bill to name this clinic after him.

I join my colleagues in extending my deepest sympathies to his wife, Hinanui Hunkin, their 10 children, and their 15 grandchildren. Eni will be dearly missed by his extended ohana in Hawaii and all whose lives were touched by his leadership and 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

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolutions:

H.J. Res. 69. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of the Interior relating to ''Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska''.

H.J. Res. 83. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Clarification of Employer's Continuing Obligation to Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury and Illness''.

The enrolled joint resolutions were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 3:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1302. An act to require an exercise related to terrorist and foreign fighter travel, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1365. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain acquisition innovation, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1302. An act to require an exercise related to terrorist and foreign fighter travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1365. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain acquisition innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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–1092. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1093. A communication from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act for 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1094. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Minority and Women Outreach Program'' (RIN2590–AA87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1095. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Walk-in Coolers and Walk-in Freezers'' (RIN1904–AD72) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1096. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Efficient Standards for the Design and Construction of New Federal Low-Rise Residential Buildings' Baseline Standards Update'' (RIN1904–AD56) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1097. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Ceiling Fans'' (RIN1904–AD28) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1098. A communication from the Division Chief, Freedom of Information Act Public Liaison, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Freedom of Information Act Regulations'' (RIN0412–AA89) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2017; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1099. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1100. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to U.S. support for Taiwan's participation as an observer at the 69th World Health Assembly and in the work of the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1101. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) program for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1102. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2017–0032 - 2017–0049); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1103. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Open Licensing Requirement for Competitive Grant Programs'' (RIN1810–AA07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1104. 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 ''Presiding Officer for an Appeal and Informal Hearing; Technical Amendments'' (Docket No. FDA–2017–N–0011) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1105. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Part 4022 and 29 CFR Part 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1106. 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 ''Clarification of When Products Made or Derived From Tobacco Are Regulated as Drugs, Devices, or Combination Products; Amendments to Regulations Regarding 'Intended Uses'; Further Delayed Effective Date; Request for Comments'' ((RIN0910–AH19) (Docket No. FDA–2015–N–2002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1107. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''UDC's Vision 2020 Plan: How Much Progress Has Been Made?''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1108. A communication from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1109. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of

Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps'' (RIN1904–AD71) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1110. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Compressors'' (RIN1904–AD43) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1111. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Efficiency Standards for the Design and Construction of New Federal Low-Rise Residential Buildings' Baseline Standards Update'' (RIN1904–AD56) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1112. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Eastport Breakwater Terminal, Eastport, Maine'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–1037)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1113. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Cooper River Bridge Run, Cooper River and Town Creek Reaches, Charleston, SC'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2017–0021)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1114. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone, TICO Warbird Air Show; Indian River, Titusville, FL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2017–0130)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1115. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; James River, Newport News, VA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2017–0051)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1116. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Anchorage Regulations: Special Anchorage Areas; Marina del Rey Harbor, Marina del Rey, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0142)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1117. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulated Navigation Areas; Escorted Submarines Sector Jacksonville Captain of the Port Zone'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2016–0032)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Special Report entitled ''History, Jurisdiction, and a Summary of Activities of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources During the 114th Congress'' (Rept. No. 115–10).

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 269. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115–11).

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. BURR (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 723. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 724. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize authorizations for necessary hydropower approvals; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. McCAIN:

S. 725. A bill to prohibit the intentional hindering of immigration, border, and customs controls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 726. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to declassify certain documents related to incidents in which members of the Armed Forces were exposed to toxic substances; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 727. A bill to increase the worldwide level of employment-based immigrants and to reauthorize the EB–5 regional center program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 728. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 729. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, for inclusion in the John Muir National Historic Site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 730. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 731. A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 732. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 733. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 734. A bill to extend a project of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission involving the Cannonsville Dam; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 735. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require disclosure to States of the basis of determinations under such Act, to ensure use of information provided by State, tribal, and county governments in decisionmaking under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 736. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 737. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve coal leasing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 738. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 98. A resolution designating the first week of April 2017 as ''National Asbestos Awareness Week''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. Res. 99. A resolution recognizing the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were massacred in Wereth, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 100. A resolution condemning illegal Russian aggression in Ukraine on the three year anniversary of the annexation of Crimea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 27

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 27, a bill to establish an independent commission to examine and report on the facts regarding the extent of Russian official and unofficial cyber operations and other attempts to interfere in the 2016 United States national election, and for other purposes.

S. 175

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 175, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 198

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 198, a bill to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

S. 236

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 236, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 261

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 261, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants and similar retail food establishments, and to amend the authority to bring proceedings under section 403A.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 292, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 324

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to clarify that a State has the sole authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing on Federal land within the boundaries of the State.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 357

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 357, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public lands in San Bernardino County, California, to the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and to accept in return certain exchanged nonpublic lands, and for other purposes.

S. 364

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 364, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to exempt certain recipients of Department of Agriculture conservation assistance from certain reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 372

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 372, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to ensure that merchandise arriving through the mail shall be subject to review by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and to require the provision of advance electronic information on shipments of mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements.

S. 376

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 376, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 381, a bill to repeal the Act entitled ''An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation''.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 415

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 415, a bill to nullify the effect of the recent Executive order that makes the vast majority of unauthorized individuals priorities for removal and aims to withhold critical Federal funding to sanctuary cities.

S. 422

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 422, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 447

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 447, a bill to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 447, supra.

S. 588

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 588, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to clarify what constitutes a general solicitation under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes.

S. 602

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 602, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 605

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 605, a bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to discourage litigation against the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management relating to land management projects.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 655, a bill to exempt certain 16- and 17-year-old individuals employed in logging operations from child labor laws.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 672, a bill to require a report on designation of North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 681

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 692

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to provide for integrated plan permits, to establish an Office of the Municipal Ombudsman, to promote green infrastructure, and to require the revision of financial capability guidance.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 720, a bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 721

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 721, a bill to require the disclosure of certain visitor access records.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S. RES. 93

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 93, a resolution congratulating the European Union on the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, which established the European Economic Community and laid the foundation for decades of European peace and prosperity.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 728. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 728

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and Investing More Act of 2017'' or the ''RECLAIM Act of 2017''.

SEC. 2. ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION FOR COAL COUNTRY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 416. ABANDONED MINE LAND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION.

''(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to promote economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed mining communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977.

''(b) IN GENERAL.—From amounts deposited into the fund under section 401(b) before October 1, 2007, and not otherwise appropriated to the extent such funds are available, $200,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 for distribution to States and Indian tribes in accordance with this section for reclamation and restoration projects at sites identified as priorities under section 403(a): *Provided,* That if less than $200,000,000 is available in any fiscal year to the Secretary, such remaining amount shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, and such fiscal year shall end distributions made available under this section.

''(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR PRIORITY SITES.—Funds distributed to a State or Indian tribe under subsection (d) shall be used only for projects classified under the priorities of section 403(a). In addition, if the project is classified under paragraph (3) of such section, the project also must meet the following criteria:

''(1) CONTRIBUTION TO FUTURE ECONOMIC OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The project, upon completion of reclamation, is intended to create favorable conditions for the economic development of the project site or create favorable conditions that promote the general welfare through economic and community development of the area in which the project is conducted.

''(B) DEMONSTRATION OF CONDITIONS.—Such conditions are demonstrated by—

''(i) documentation of the role of the project in such area's economic development strategy or other economic and community development planning process;

''(ii) any other documentation of the planned economic and community use of the project site after the primary reclamation activities are completed, which may include contracts, agreements in principle, or other evidence that, once reclaimed, the site is reasonably anticipated to be used for one or more industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural, or recreational purposes; or

''(iii) any other documentation agreed to by the State or Indian tribe that demonstrates the project will meet the criteria set forth in this subsection.

''(2) LOCATION IN COMMUNITY AFFECTED BY RECENT DECLINE IN MINING.—The project will be conducted in a community—

''(A) that has been adversely affected economically by a recent reduction in coal mining-related activity, as demonstrated by employment data, per capita income, or other indicators of reduced economic activity attributable to such reduction; or

''(B)(i) that has historically relied on coal mining for a substantial portion of its economy; and

''(ii) in which the economic contribution of coal mining has significantly declined.

''(3) STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The project has been the subject of project planning under subsection (g) and has been the focus of collaboration, including partnerships, as appropriate, with interested persons or local organizations.

''(B) PUBLIC NOTICE.—As part of project planning, the public has been notified and has been given an opportunity to comment at a public meeting convened in a community near the proposed site.

''(4) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—The project has been proposed by entities of State, local, county, or tribal governments, or local organizations, and will be approved and executed by State or tribal programs, approved under section 405 or referred to in section 402(g)(8)(B), which may include subcontracting project-related activities, as appropriate.

''(d) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

''(1) UNCERTIFIED STATES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made available in subsection (b), the Secretary shall distribute $195,000,000 annually for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to States and Indian tribes that have a State or tribal program approved under section 405 or are referred to in section 402(g)(8)(B), and have not made a certification under section 411(a) in

which the Secretary has concurred, as follows:

''(i) Four-fifths of such amount shall be distributed based on the proportion of the amount of coal historically produced in each State or from the lands of each Indian tribe concerned before August 3, 1977.

''(ii) One-fifth of such amount shall be distributed based on the proportion of reclamation fees paid during the period of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 for lands in each State or lands of each Indian tribe concerned.

''(B) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.—Funds distributed under this section—

''(i) shall be in addition to, and shall not affect, the amount of funds distributed—

''(I) to States and Indian tribes under section 401(f); and

''(II) to States and Indian tribes that have made a certification under section 411(a) in which the Secretary has concurred, subject to the cap described in section 402(i)(3); and

''(ii) shall not reduce any funds distributed to a State or Indian tribe by reason of the application of section 402(g)(8).

''(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO CERTAIN STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

''(A) ELIGIBILITY.—From the amount made available in subsection (b), the Secretary shall distribute $5,000,000 annually for each of the five fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2017 to States and Indian tribes that have a State program approved under section 405 and have made a certification under section 411(a) in which the Secretary has concurred.

''(B) APPLICATION FOR FUNDS.—Using the process in section 405(f), any State or Indian tribe described in subparagraph (A) may submit a grant application to the Secretary for funds under this paragraph. The Secretary shall review each grant application to confirm that the projects identified in the application for funding are eligible under subsection (c).

''(C) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The amount of funds distributed to each State or Indian tribe under this paragraph shall be determined by the Secretary based on the demonstrated need for the funding to accomplish the purpose of this section.

''(3) REALLOCATION OF UNCOMMITTED FUNDS.—

''(A) COMMITTED DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph the term 'committed'—

''(i) means that funds received by the State or Indian tribe—

''(I) have been exclusively applied to or reserved for a specific project and therefore are not available for any other purpose; or

''(II) have been expended or designated by the State or Indian tribe for the completion of a project;

''(ii) includes use of any amount for project planning under subsection (g); and

''(iii) reflects an acknowledgment by Congress that, based on the documentation required under subsection (c)(2)(B), any unanticipated delays to commit such funds that are outside the control of the State or Indian tribe concerned shall not affect its allocations under this section.

''(B) FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021.—For each of fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the Secretary shall reallocate in accordance with subparagraph (D) any amount available for distribution under this subsection that has not been committed to eligible projects in the preceding 2 fiscal years, among the States and Indian tribes that have committed to eligible projects the full amount of their annual allocation for the preceding fiscal year.

''(C) FISCAL YEAR 2022.—For fiscal year 2022, the Secretary shall reallocate in accordance with subparagraph (D) any amount available for distribution under this subsection that has not been committed to eligible projects or distributed under paragraph (1)(A), among the States and Indian tribes that have committed to eligible projects the full amount of their annual allocation for the preceding fiscal years.

''(D) AMOUNT OF REALLOCATION.—The amount reallocated to each State or Indian tribe under each of subparagraphs (B) and (C) shall be determined by the Secretary to reflect, to the extent practicable—

''(i) the proportion of unreclaimed eligible lands and waters the State or Indian tribe has in the inventory maintained under section 403(c);

''(ii) the average of the proportion of reclamation fees paid for lands in each State or lands of each Indian tribe concerned; and

''(iii) the proportion of coal mining employment loss incurred in the State or on lands of the Indian tribe, respectively, as determined by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, over the 5-year period preceding the fiscal year for which the reallocation is made.

''(e) RESOLUTION OF SECRETARY'S CONCERNS; CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary does not agree with a State or Indian tribe that a proposed project meets the criteria set forth in subsection (c)—

''(1) the Secretary and the State or tribe shall meet and confer for a period of not more than 45 days to resolve the Secretary's concerns, except that such period may be shortened by the Secretary if the Secretary's concerns are resolved;

''(2) during that period, at the State's or Indian tribe's request, the Secretary may consult with any appropriate Federal agency; and

''(3) at the end of that period, if the Secretary's concerns are not resolved the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate an explanation of the concerns and such project proposal shall not be eligible for funds distributed under this section.

''(f) ACID MINE DRAINAGE TREATMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a State or Indian tribe that receives funds under this section may use up to 30 percent of such funds as necessary to supplement the State's or tribe's acid mine drainage abatement and treatment fund established under section 402(g)(6)(A), for future operation and maintenance costs for the treatment of acid mine drainage associated with the individual projects funded under this section. A State or Indian tribe shall specify the total funds allotted for such costs in its application submitted under subsection (d)(2)(B).

''(2) CONDITION.—A State or Indian tribe may use funds under this subsection only if the State or tribe can demonstrate that the annual grant distributed to the State or tribe pursuant to section 401(f), including any interest from the State's or tribe's acid mine drainage abatement and treatment fund that is not used for the operation or maintenance of preexisting acid mine drainage treatment systems, is insufficient to fund the operation and maintenance of any acid mine drainage treatment system associated with an individual project funded under this section.

''(g) PROJECT PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION.—

''(1) STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian tribe may use up to 10 percent of its annual distribution under this section for project planning and the costs of administering this section.

''(B) PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.—Planning under this paragraph may include—

''(i) identifying eligible projects;

''(ii) updating the inventory referred to in section 403(c);

''(iii) developing project designs;

''(iv) collaborating with stakeholders, including public meetings;

''(v) preparing cost estimates; or

''(vi) engaging in other similar activities necessary to facilitate reclamation activities under this section.

''(2) SECRETARY.—The Secretary may expend, from amounts made available to the Secretary under section 402(g)(3)(D), not more than $3,000,000 during the fiscal years for which distributions occur under subsection (b) for staffing and other administrative expenses necessary to carry out this section.

''(h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate at the end of each fiscal year for which such funds are distributed a detailed report—

''(1) on the various projects that have been undertaken with such funds;

''(2) the extent and degree of reclamation using such funds that achieved the priorities described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 403(a);

''(3) the community and economic benefits that are resulting from, or are expected to result from, the use of the funds that achieved the priorities described in paragraph (3) of section 403(a); and

''(4) the reduction since the previous report in the inventory referred to in section 403(c).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title IV the following:

''Sec. 416. Abandoned mine land economic revitalization.''.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 is amended—

(1) in section 401(c) (30 U.S.C. 1231(c)), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (10), by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12), and by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

''(11) to implement section 416; and'';

(2) in section 401(d)(3) (30 U.S.C. 1231(d)(3)), by striking ''subsection (f)'' and inserting ''subsection (f) and section 416(a)'';

(3) in section 402(g) (30 U.S.C. 1232(g))—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''and section 416'' after ''subsection (h)''; and

(B) by adding at the end of paragraph (3) the following:

''(F) For the purpose of section 416(d)(2)(A).''; and

(4) in section 403(c) (30 U.S.C. 1233(c)), by inserting after the second sentence the following: ''As practicable, States and Indian tribes shall offer such amendments based on the use of remote sensing, global positioning systems, and other advanced technologies.''.

SEC. 4. MINIMUM STATE PAYMENTS.

Section 402(g)(8)(A) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(g)(8)) is amended by striking ''$3,000,000'' and inserting ''$5,000,000''.

SEC. 5. GAO STUDY OF USE OF FUNDS.

Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall study and report to the Congress on uses of funds authorized by this Act, including regarding—

(1) the solvency of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund; and

(2) the impact of such use on payments and transfers under the Surface Mining Control

and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201) to—

(A) States for which a certification has been made under section 411 of such Act (30 U.S.C. 1241);

(B) States for which such a certification has not been made; and

(C) transfers to United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefit Fund.

SEC. 6. ABANDONED MINE LAND RECLAMATION AND RESTORATION INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 145 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 14510. Abandoned mine land reclamation and restoration initiative

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Appalachian Regional Commission may provide technical assistance, make grants, enter into contracts, or otherwise provide amounts to individuals or entities in the Appalachian region for projects and activities on lands, or on or in waters, that have been reclaimed or restored with amounts provided under title IV of the Surface Mining Control or Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231 et seq.) or that are eligible for such reclamation or restoration.

''(b) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this section—

''(1) not more than 50 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; and

''(2) notwithstanding paragraph (1)—

''(A) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, not more than 80 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; and

''(B) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk designation is in effect under section 14526, not more than 70 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section.

''(c) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—Subject to subsection (b), a grant provided under this section may be provided from amounts made available to carry out this section in combination with amounts made available—

''(1) under any other Federal program; or

''(2) from any other source.

''(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share under any other Federal program, amounts made available to carry out this section may be used to increase that Federal share, as the Appalachian Regional Commission determines to be appropriate.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 145 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 14509 the following:

''14510. Abandoned mine land reclamation and restoration initiative.''.

SEC. 7. HEADQUARTERS OF APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Delta Regional Commission, the Denali Commission, and the Northern Border Regional Commission are each headquartered in their respective region; and

(2) the headquarters of the Appalachian Regional Commission should be relocated from the District of Columbia to a more affordable location in the Appalachian Region.

(b) LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 14301 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) HEADQUARTERS.—The headquarters of the Commission shall be located in the Appalachian Region.''.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the amendment made by paragraph (1).

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 730. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bipartisan, noncontroversial, technical provision pertaining to two proposed hydroelectric projects at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams in Virginia.

This bill would give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, authority to extend commence-construction deadlines for the 3.7 MW project at Gathright Dam, FERC Project No. 12737, and the 1.8 MW project at Flannagan Dam, FERC Project No. 12740. The timelines for these projects have been set back due to challenges with securing Army Corps permits. FERC does not oppose this legislation, as the requested extensions are still within the overall 10-year window for extension of licensing deadlines. There is no known local opposition.

This provision was passed by the Senate last year as part of the Energy Policy Modernization Act, S. 2012. It was also introduced in the House by Representative MORGAN GRIFFITH and passed the full House separately. I am pleased to reintroduce the bill again today and hope the Energy & Natural Resources Committee and the full Senate will consider it soon.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 731. A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I speak on behalf of myself and Senator HARRIS to reintroduce legislation to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area, California's first National Heritage Area. I am very pleased to work with Senator HARRIS, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, and our colleagues in the State on this much needed legislation. Our legislation will establish a new national heritage area in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to promote environmental stewardship, heritage conservation, and economic development across five delta counties.

The Delta Protection Commission will manage the heritage area in accordance with California law and in partnership with delta communities. The management planning process provided by this legislation will be open to the public and collaborative. Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, private property owners, and all stakeholders will have a voice in the management planning for the heritage area.

The goal is to conserve and protect the delta, its communities, its natural resources, and its rich history.

In short, this legislation does not affect water rights or water contracts, nor does it is impose any additional responsibilities on local governments or private landowners. Instead, this legislation authorizes federal assistance to support local projects as part of an inclusive process required by State law.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the largest estuary in the Western United States and perhaps the most productive and ecologically important watershed in North America. This extensive inland delta is a natural marvel and national treasure that must be protected. The delta offers recreational opportunities enjoyed by millions of Californians and out-of-State visitors alike, who come each year for boating, fishing, hunting, and sightseeing.

The delta provides critical habitat for more than 750 wildlife species, including sandhill cranes and other migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway. It also provides habitat for iconic native fish like the chinook salmon, some as large as 60 pounds, which return each year to travel through the delta to spawn in tributaries upstream.

These same waterways provide freshwater to millions of California households and irrigated farmland south of the delta and elsewhere in the State.

Before being converted for farmland starting in the 19th century, the delta flooded regularly following the springtime snowmelt and once supported the continent's largest Native American communities.

Later, the delta served as the gateway for the California Gold Rush, after which Chinese immigrant workers built hundreds of miles of levees to make the delta's rich peat soils available for farming and to control flooding.

Japanese, Chinese, Italian, German, Portuguese, Dutch, Greek, South Asian, and other immigrants began the area's farming legacy and established proud communities that continue today.

Over the years, the vibrant ''river culture'' endemic to delta communities has attracted the attention of celebrated authors from Mark Twain and Jack London to Joan Didion.

A national heritage area designation would help to preserve this uniquely American story by providing supportive local governments across the delta with a needed management framework, technical assistance, and modest Federal funding.

Today, the delta faces crisis due to proliferate invasive species, urban and agricultural runoff, wastewater overloads, channelization, dredging, formidable water exports, and other stressors.

Many delta islands are now 10 to 20 feet below sea level due to subsidence, and the present levee system is inadequate in providing reliable flood protection for historic communities, agricultural enterprises, and infrastructure. Alarmingly, many existing levees were simply not engineered to withstand earthquakes. Should levees fail,

a rush of saltwater into the interior delta would damage this already fragile ecosystem, disrupt drinking water supplies, flood agricultural land, inundate towns, and damage roads, powerlines, and water infrastructure.

Establishing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area will secure much needed Federal resources for delta communities. Our legislation recognizes the delta as a working landscape central to California life and seeks to further local projects already underway that promote environmental stewardship, heritage conservation, community revitalization, and economic development throughout the delta.

This legislation also seeks to fulfill the broadly supported 2009 California State law that called for a heritage area designation for the delta and the Delta Protection Commission's own feasibility report in 2012.

Our legislation is a small part of the commitment the Federal Government must make to the California delta. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues at every level of government to restore the delta and its native species, upgrade California's water supply, safeguard against flood risk, improve water quality, and preserve delta communities' rich heritage and continued vibrancy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 98—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2017 AS ''NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK''

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 98

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer (such as mesothelioma), asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced the consumption of asbestos in the United States, yet the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas while exposure to asbestos continues, safety and prevention of asbestos exposure has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a ''National Asbestos Awareness Week'' will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2017 as ''National Asbestos Awareness Week'';

(2) urges the Surgeon General of the United States to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 99—RECOGNIZING THE 11 AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF THE 333RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION WHO WERE MASSACRED IN WERETH, BELGIUM, DURING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE IN DECEMBER 1944

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 99

Whereas, in December 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion, an African-American unit of the Army, were operating in support of the 106th Infantry Division when the 106th Infantry Division and the soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion were overrun;

Whereas, months after the Battle of the Bulge, the frozen bodies of 11 soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion were found near the Belgian hamlet of Wereth;

Whereas the bodies of the 11 soldiers were—

(1) identified as James Stewart of West Virginia, Due Turner of Arkansas, Curtis Adams of South Carolina, Mager Bradley of Mississippi, George Davis, Jr. of Alabama, Thomas Forte of Mississippi, Robert Green of Georgia, James Leatherwood of Mississippi, Nathaniel Moss of Texas, George Motten of Texas, and William Pritchett of Alabama;

(2) examined by Army Medical Corps officials; and

(3) found to have been stabbed, shot, and struck by blunt force;

Whereas the massacre of the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion in Wereth remains unknown to the vast majority of the people of the United States;

Whereas, in 2004, a permanent monument in Wereth was dedicated to the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who lost their lives in Wereth during the Battle of the Bulge in the effort to defeat fascism and defend freedom; and

Whereas the 11 patriots have become known as the ''Wereth 11'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, on behalf of the United States, recognizes the dedicated service and ultimate sacrifice of the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were massacred in Wereth, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

SENATE RESOLUTION 100—CONDEMNING ILLEGAL RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE ON THE THREE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 100

Whereas the illegal Russian military occupation of the Crimea region of Ukraine is an affront to international norms, an unprovoked aggression, and a threat to regional stability;

Whereas Russian President Vladimir V. Putin has a history of regional aggression, including the Russian invasion of the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of the Georgia in 2008 and intervention in favor of the breakaway region of Transnistria in Moldova in 1991-1992;

Whereas Article II of the Charter of the United Nations states that ''all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state'';

Whereas, in 1994, the United States, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine signed the Budapest Memorandum, in which all parties pledged to respect and uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in exchange for Ukraine voluntarily giving up the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal, which it inherited following the collapse of the Soviet Union;

Whereas a failure of the United States to uphold the terms of the Budapest Memorandum would have significant consequences for the credibility of United States guarantees related to nuclear nonproliferation and undermine America's commitment to the principle of the inviolability of national borders;

Whereas an association agreement between Ukraine and the European Union was signed in 2014, a move which will strengthen ties with Europe and which President Poroshenko described as Ukraine's ''most important day'' since it secured its independence in 1991;

Whereas, on February 28, 2014, Russian forces in unmarked uniforms occupied strategic civil and military infrastructure in Crimea and provided support to pro-Russian militias and activists as part of a coordinated strategy to seize control of Crimea and create the illusion of an organic, local rebellion against oppressive Ukrainian authorities;

Whereas, on March 18, 2014, following a fraudulent public referendum that was boycotted by most Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians and conducted under the shadow of Russian military forces, President Putin signed a treaty annexing Ukraine's Crimea region, which was immediately met with condemnation by the United States and the international community;

Whereas, on July 17, 2014, Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down near the village of Grabove over rebel-held territory, killing the nearly 300 people onboard, an attack for which the Dutch Safety Board concluded that the Russian-backed separatists were responsible;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine and Russian-backed rebels agreed to a now-failed cease-fire (''Minsk I'') on September 5, 2014, which called for the withdrawal of ''illegal armed groups as well as militants and mercenaries from the territory of Ukraine'';

Whereas a Memorandum was signed by parties to Minsk I on September 19, 2014, outlining their understanding of and obligations to the agreement;

Whereas the fragile cease-fire established by the Minsk I agreement deteriorated following heavy fighting in the Donetsk region, which included operations by Russian-led separatists and regular Russian forces;

Whereas the Minsk II Agreement signed on February 12, 2015, by the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Germany, and France, included the withdrawal of all foreign armed groups, weapons, and mercenaries;

Whereas, on February 25, 2015, General Philip Breedlove, NATO Supreme Allied Commander, said that the state of affairs in Ukraine is ''getting worse every day'' and the Russian Federation has no intention of retreating from Ukraine until its ''objectives are accomplished'';

Whereas Russian-backed separatists continue to shell parts of Ukraine and separatists have executed Ukrainian servicemembers, both in direct violation of the negotiated cease-fire;

Whereas aggression by Russian-led separatist forces in Avdiivka in early February 2017 sparked the worst fighting since 2015 and resulted in significant damage to civilian infrastructure and the displacement of thousands of civilians;

Whereas, despite President Poroshenko's statement that Crimea is still Ukraine, and in the face of Resolution 68/262 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on March 27, 2014, which reiterated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and stated that the referendum held on March 16, 2014, had ''no validity [and] cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol,'' the Government of the Russian Federation continues to refer to Crimea as a ''region of the Russian Federation,'' declaring that ''of course the subject of our region is not up for discussion'';

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 71/205, which condemned the ''abuses, measures and practices of discrimination against the residents of the temporarily occupied Crimea, including Crimean Tatars, as well as Ukrainians and persons belonging to other ethnic and religious groups, by the Russian occupation authorities'';

Whereas, during a hearing held by the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on March 10, 2015, former United States Ambassador to Ukraine John E. Herbst cautioned that President Putin is attempting to ''overturn the post-Cold War order established in Europe and Eurasia'';

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has previously cut off natural gas to Ukraine as a bargaining chip;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has gone to great lengths to hide evidence of its military support, including deploying mobile crematoriums to dispose of the bodies of servicemembers and classifying the deaths of its servicemembers during peacetime a state secret;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation is directly arming, training, supplying, and commanding separatist forces in eastern Ukraine, and Russian military personnel maintain a regular presence inside the territory of Ukraine;

Whereas Russia vetoed United Nations Security Council Resolution 2015/562, which would have established an international tribunal to prosecute those responsible for the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17;

Whereas OSCE vehicles have been attacked in an attempt to intimidate Special Monitoring Mission (SSM) personnel, with the deputy head of mission Alexander Hug noting the attacks seemed to be ''aimed at stopping the OSCE from reporting what is going on [in Donetsk]'';

Whereas Ukraine's National Security Council outlined a new military doctrine in September 2015 that declared Ukraine's intention to achieve the criteria for joining NATO;

Whereas Ukrainian leaders, including President Petro Poroshenko, have stated the Government of Ukraine's desire to pursue closer cooperation with NATO with the goal of potentially joining NATO in the future, with Rada Speaker Andriy Parubiy stating in June 2016 that he is ''convinced that for Ukraine, at the time of Russian aggression, NATO membership is the strategic direction of our development'';

Whereas the United Nations has reported that, since the beginning of the conflict, almost 10,000 people have been killed, including more than 2,000 civilians;

Whereas the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) reports that nearly 600,000 children living in eastern Ukraine have been deeply affected by the conflict and that 1,000,000 children in Ukraine are in ''urgent need'' of humanitarian assistance, and the European Union reports that a total of 3,800,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United Nations Working Group on Mercenaries in March 2016 raised ''deep concern'' about the conflict in Ukraine and called on Ukraine to ''ensure accountability for human rights violations committed by foreign armed actors'';

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reports several instances of pro-unity supporters and Crimean Tatar activists being abducted or ''found dead in circumstances resembling a summary execution'' alleged to be committed by ''the de facto authorities of Crimea, or with their authorization, support or acquiescence'';

Whereas journalists have come under attack or arrest for speaking out against Russian aggression, such as Pavel G. Sheremet, who was killed by a car bomb in July 2016, and Mykola Semena, a reporter for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty arrested in Crimea and currently on trial for writing that Crimea was part of Ukraine;

Whereas NATO pledged, during the July 2016 NATO summit in Warsaw, to provide additional training and technical support to the Ukrainian military and re-endorsed a Comprehensive Assistance Package that will ensure the Government of Ukraine receives further advisory support, enhanced defense capabilities, and military training;

Whereas the United States Government has committed over $600,000,000 in security assistance to Ukraine since 2014;

Whereas Congress has authorized the provision of defensive lethal assistance to Ukraine in the Ukraine Freedom Support Act (Public Law 113–272), the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92), and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328);

Whereas, in 2014, President Barack Obama issued Executive Orders 13660, 13661, 13662, and 13685, which imposed sanctions blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting transactions with respect to the Crimea Region of Ukraine as a result of Russia's illegal annexation and military aggression in Ukraine;

Whereas NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stated on November 21, 2016, that NATO ''will never recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea, and [NATO] continue[s] supporting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine'';

Whereas, on February 3, 2017, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley stated, ''Crimea is a part of Ukraine. Our Crimea-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia returns control over the peninsula to Ukraine.'';

Whereas, on February 16, 2017, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson stated, ''As we search for new common ground we expect Russia to honor its commitment to the Minsk agreements and work to de-escalate violence in Ukraine.'';

Whereas, on March 13, 2017, the European Union extended sanctions against Russian individuals and entities imposed because of the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on February 21, 2017, stated that the United Nations ''remains committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of the conflict in a manner that fully upholds the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of Ukraine'';

Whereas President Putin has made alarming claims about his views on Russian territoriality, stating that Russia's border ''doesn't end anywhere,'' and has since announced that he ''[does not] regret anything'' about annexing Crimea; and

Whereas Ukraine celebrated its 25th year of independence on August 24, 2016: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of the Russian Federation's illegal, unprovoked military occupation of the Crimea region of Ukraine and continued aggression in eastern Ukraine, and reiterates that it is the policy of the United States not to recognize the de jure or de facto sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea or any other seized area in Ukraine, its airspace, or its territorial waters;

(2) supports the vigorous enforcement of sanctions and opposes the lifting of sanctions as long as Russia continues its military aggression in Ukraine in violation of the Minsk II Agreement;

(3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately end its support for the separatists in eastern Ukraine, allow Ukraine to regain control of its internationally recognized borders, and withdraw its military presence in eastern Ukraine, including Crimea;

(4) declares that the United States Government must never recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

(5) urges the President of the United States, in coordination with United States allies, to stand by Ukraine, condemn continued Russian aggression, and use all possible tools to combat Russian belligerence, including increased economic sanctions, defensive

lethal assistance, and democracy and humanitarian assistance, as authorized by the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, and the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act;

(6) urges the President of the United States to continue United States support for the Ukrainian economy and civil society, including continued support by international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund;

(7) condemns efforts by the Government of the Russian Federation to intimidate and coerce nations in Eastern Europe from strengthening their ties with NATO and the European Union;

(8) supports efforts by the United States Government and United States allies to strengthen the energy sector in Ukraine in order to reduce Ukraine's dependence on natural gas imported from the Russian Federation;

(9) acknowledges the Government of Ukraine for its commitment to reform and encourages it to continue implementation of key reforms, including judicial reform, greater parliamentary oversight, further implementation of anti-corruption initiatives, including prosecutions and convictions of major figures involved in corruption schemes, budget and procurement transparency and accountability across government, civilian control of the military, and improved end-use monitoring and sustainment plans for United States security assistance items;

(10) urges the President of the United States not to agree to any final settlement of the conflict in Ukraine without the consent of the Government of Ukraine;

(11) pledges continued support for all democratic allies and partners of the United States facing increased Russian aggression;

(12) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the Budapest Memorandum on security assurances;

(13) reiterates the obligation of all nations under the United Nations Charter to respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other nations;

(14) encourages United States allies in Europe to continue their coordinated efforts to counter Russian aggression in the region, including economic sanctions, increased defense spending, and greater action against Russian disinformation and propaganda in order to make clear that Russian efforts will not go unchecked;

(15) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide greater access to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in order to ensure credible international monitoring of compliance with the Minsk agreement; and

(16) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to engage seriously in dialogue with the Government of Ukraine—in coordination with key international partners—in order to come to an agreement that respects Ukraine's sovereignty, ensures regional stability, and puts both nations on the path towards a permanent ceasefire.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 193. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

SA 194. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 193 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra.

SA 195. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 196. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 195 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL to Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 197. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 198. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 197 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 199. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 200. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 201. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 202. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 203. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 193. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; as follows:

At the end add the following:

''This Treaty shall be effective 1 day after ratification.''

SA 194. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 193 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; as follows:

Strike ''1 day'' and insert ''2 days''.

SA 195. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

''This Treaty shall be effective 3 days after ratification.''

SA 196. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 195 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike ''3 days'' and insert ''4 days''.

SA 197. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

''This resolution shall be effective 5 days after ratification.''

SA 198. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 197 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike ''5'' and insert ''6''.

SA 199. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of Article I of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, add the following: ''The Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro shall not obligate the United States Armed Forces to hostilities in accordance with Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 unless the United States Congress passes a declaration of war pursuant to article I, section 8, clause 11 of the United States Constitution.''.

SA 200. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of Article I of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, add the following: ''The Protocol is dependent on Montenegro meeting its commitment that defense expenditure is two percent of Montenegro's gross domestic product.''.

SA 201. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of Article I of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, add the following: ''The Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro is dependent on each member of NATO and Montenegro meeting its commitment that defense expenditure is two percent of its gross domestic product.''.

SA 202. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of paragraph (1) of section 3, add the following:

(C) The inclusion of Montenegro in NATO will contribute materially to the territorial defense of the United States.

SA 203. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 2, add the following:

(8) FUTURE SENATE CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE NATO EXPANSION.—The Senate declares that any future initiative to expand NATO should be thoroughly debated and considered from inception, with the highest priority given to evaluating the benefits and risks of such an expansion to the security of the American people and the safety of members of the United States Armed Forces.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 27, 2017, at 12 p.m., in SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 25 through 30; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Tony D. Bauernfeind
Brig. Gen. William T. Cooley
Brig. Gen. Stephen L. Davis
Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Doherty
Brig. Gen. James A. Jacobson
Brig. Gen. David A. Krumm
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Kruse
Brig. Gen. Michael A. Minihan
Brig. Gen. Shaun Q. Morris
Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Murphy
Brig. Gen. David S. Nahom
Brig. Gen. Stephen W. Oliver, Jr.
Brig. Gen. John M. Pletcher
Brig. Gen. Scott L. Pleus
Brig. Gen. John T. Rauch, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Brian S. Robinson
Brig. Gen. Ricky N. Rupp
Brig. Gen. Dirk D. Smith
Brig. Gen. Kirk W. Smith
Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets, IV
Brig. Gen. Andrew J. Toth
Brig. Gen. Mark E. Weatherington

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

To be brigadier general

Col. Dagvin R. M. Anderson
Col. Jason R. Armagost
Col. Craig R. Baker
Col. Gentry W. Boswell
Col. Richard H. Boutwell
Col. Ryan L. Britton
Col. Brian R. Bruckbauer
Col. Lance R. Bunch
Col. Todd D. Canterbury
Col. Case A. Cunningham
Col. Evan C. Dertien
Col. Michael L. Downs
Col. Troy E. Dunn
Col. Derek C. France
Col. David M. Gaedecke
Col. Philip A. Garrant
Col. Anthony W. Genatempo
Col. Kristin E. Goodwin
Col. Christopher J. Ireland
Col. David R. Iverson
Col. Joel D. Jackson
Col. Ronald E. Jolly, Sr.
Col. Michael G. Koscheski
Col. David J. Kumashiro
Col. John D. Lamontagne
Col. Leah G. Lauderback
Col. Charles B. McDaniel
Col. John C. Millard
Col. Albert G. Miller
Col. John J. Nichols
Col. Robert G. Novotny
Col. Lansing R. Pilch
Col. Donna D. Shipton
Col. Jeremy T. Sloane
Col. Phillip A. Stewart
Col. David H. Tabor

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Paul A. Ostrowski

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Francisco A. Espaillat

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Jeffrey A. Roach

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106–286, appoints the following Member to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable ANGUS S. KING, JR., of Maine.

PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 30.

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

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 30) providing for the reappointment of Steve Case as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 30) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 30

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Steve Case of Virginia on April 25, 2017, is filled by the reappointment of the incumbent. The reappointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on the later of April 26, 2017, or the date of the enactment of this joint resolution.

PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 35.

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

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 35) providing for the appointment of Michael Govan as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 35) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 35

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson of New York on May 5, 2017, is filled by the appointment of Michael Govan of California. The appointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on May 6, 2017, or the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, whichever occurs later.

PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 36.

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

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 36) providing for the appointment of Roger W. Ferguson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 36) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 36

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Robert P. Kogod of the District of Columbia on May 5, 2017, is filled by the appointment of Roger W. Ferguson of the District of Columbia. The appointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on May 6, 2017, or the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, whichever occurs later.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 1, the Montenegro treaty, postcloture; finally, that all time during leader remarks, morning business, recess, and adjournment of the Senate count postcloture.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. 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 6:24 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WILLIAM FRANCIS HAGERTY IV, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAPAN.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SCOTT GOTTLIEB, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE ROBERT MCKINNON CALIFF.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

ALTHEA COETZEE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE DOUGLAS J. KRAMER.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BRYAN P. FENTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DARRELL K. WILLIAMS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DAVID H. LEWIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KARL O. THOMAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. MATHIAS W. WINTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) STEVEN L. PARODE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN P. POLOWCZYK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JON A. HILL
REAR ADM. (LH) GORDON D. PETERS

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be major

RAYMOND C. JONES III

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

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER E. AUSTIN

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

To be colonel

ROBERT D. HOUGHTELING
GEMINI O. MAJKOWSKI
ROBIN J. MCCREADY
CARL H. SPEARS, JR.

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

To be colonel

LISA ANN BANYASZ
MARYJANE CAHILL
BARBARA J. MARCHIANDO
CONSTANCE S. REVORE
STUART D. RHOADES
JOANNA D. RODRIGUEZ
DAVID S. SANCHEZ
JAMES E. SCHAAF
JULIE L. WIBLE

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

To be colonel

LORI J. BETTERS
KRISTINA D. FORBES
LINDA FLANIGAN LINDBERG
LINDA T. RICHO
LISA S. SHEAR

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

To be colonel

JAMES A. CRIDER

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

To be colonel

JOSE E. BARRERA
VITO JIMMY CARABETTA
LAWSON ASHLEY B. COPLEY
LAURIE C. DAVIGNON
RODNEY A. FRIEND
SAMUEL M. GALVAGNO
AARON BRUCE GREENSPAN
DAVID L. HUANG
JAMES F. HUIET III
KEYAN D. RILEY
SHAWN S. SHRAWNY
HARLAN LUKE SOUTH
ERIC S. STEM
DMITRY TUDER
DAVID H. ZONIES

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

To be colonel

KRISTIN L. ADER
JON PAUL BURGESS

MAREN L. CALVERT
AIMEE M. CANNON
SETH COWELL
RATNA CONTRACTOR GUPTA
PAUL M. HILLMAN
KRISTINE D. KUENZLI
CHRISTINE C. PIPER
MELISSA A. SARAGOSA
TIMOTHY J. TUTTLE
CHRISTOPHER C. VANNATTA

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

To be colonel

GREGG MICHAEL CAGGIANELLI
JOHN M. PAINTER
CHRISTOPHER D. WEBB
WILLIAM SCOTT WIECHER

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

To be colonel

PATRICK W. ALBRECHT
CHRISTOPHER B. ANDERSON
ERIK LAURENTZ AUFDERHEIDE
ATHANASIA G. AUSTIN
KELLY L. BAILEY
FREDERICK EDWARD BERLS, JR.
BRIAN J. BEVERIDGE
BARRY REED BILLMANN
CHRISTOPHER J. BLANCHETTE
AARON R. BLUM
JOHN G. BOJANAC
TODD ALEXANDER BORZYCH
SCOTT E. BRIESE
CASEY J. BURRIL
ADRIAN R. BYERS
AGUSTIN CARRERO
CURT A. CASTILLO
MARSHALL F. CHALVERUS
CHARLES B. CHAPMAN III
SCOTT R. CLARK
CHRISTOPHER D. CODDINGTON
JAMES E. COLLINS II
STEVEN C. COMBS
DAVID R. COOKSEY
BRUCE A. COOLE
CASEY PATRICK COOLEY
TRACY L. COYNE
BARRY H. CRANE
MICHAEL PATRICK CRUFF
DOUGLAS A. DEMATTHEW
JOHN C. DOBBIN
EVE A. DOUGLAS
JAMES S. DOYLE
DAVID K. EDWARDS
PATRICK J. EGAN, JR.
MICHAEL B. ELTZ
MICHAEL RYAN FARMER
JENNIFER A. FITCH
ERIKA A. FOSTER
LOUIS WILFRED FOURNIER, JR.
SURYA J. FRICKEL
LARRY B. GEORGE
RANDAL L. GEORGE
MICHAEL D. GIEDT
MARY KATHRYN HADDAD
JOSEPH MATTHEW HAGANS
NEIL MATTHEW HEDE
JAMES NORRIS HENDRICKSON
MARC E. HENRI
ROBERT D. HERSLOW
PAUL J. HESS III
ROSADEL D. HOFFMAN
DEBORAH A. HOLINGER
BETH K. HORINE
KELLY ELIZABETH HOSEY
EDWARD T. HUNN
ROBERT E. JACKSON, JR.
ALARIC J. JORGENSEN
DAVID F. KATTLER
SHARIFUL M. KHAN
SHARON K. E. KIBILOSKI
ALEXIS KIMBER
JASON W. KING
KURT ALAN KOCHENDARFER
KEVIN M. KOENIG
MATTHEW A. KOZMA
BARRY J. LAWLOR
CHRISTOPHER T. LAY
DAVID J. LEHRMAN
CHRISTOPHER L. MANNING
JASON S. MARTIN
BRIAN A. MAY
HEATHER M. MCCUE
BRIAN J. MCCULLAGH
NICK R. MCKENZIE
JACOB C. MCMANUS
PAXTON S. MELLINGER
MICHAEL C. MENTAVLOS
SHIRLEY A. MERCIER
JAMES C. MILLER
JAMIE SUE MILLSAPS
KELLI A. MOLTER
WILLIAM C. MONAHAN, JR.
DANIEL D. MOORE
MICHAEL WILLIAM MORRISETT
JENNIFER S. MORRISON
LARA B. MORRISON
HOANG T. NGUYEN
KIMBERLY L. NOBLE
KIMBERLY L. NORMAN
JOHN C. ODUM
ROBERT N. OSBORN
JENNIFER L. PAGE
MICHELLE L. PATTERSON
LILLIAN R. PRINCE
DANIEL E. REECE
TIMOTHY C. REYNOLDS
RANDALL L. ROBERTS
LARA P. ROWLANDS
LESLEY GREGG RUSSELL
MARK A. SARAGOSA
ERIC A. SEIBOLD
EPHOD SHANG
NORMAN B. SHAW, JR.
AMANDA M. SHEETS
JOHN THOMAS SILANCE II
JENA L. SILVA
ADAM P. SIVULKA
KRISTINE B. SMITH
RAYMOND ARCHER SMITH
CRISTINA M. SOARES
JONATHAN M. SONGER
MICHAEL A. SOVITSKY
JULIE ANNE SPEARS
MARK W. STAFFORD
JAIME LEANNE STIELER
KEITH D. SUDDER
DAVID D. SUNDLOV
KEVIN K. SUTTERFIELD
GAVIN D. TADE
STEPHEN NILES TAYLOR
TERRY L. THIEM
DON L. THIGPEN II
JANETTE L. THODE
TODD L. TOBERGTE
ERIC W. VONTROTHA
TIMOTHY D. VOSS
THOMAS S. WALTER
ELIZABETH T. WARD
PHILIP O. WARLICK II
PETER M. WEILBACH
REBECCA LYNN WELCH
STACY A. WHARTON
KEITH ELLIOTT WHITEHOUSE
NATHAN D. YATES
STEPHEN S. YOON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

STEPHEN N. LUKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

TYLER J. BANACHOWSKI
PHILLIP C. BARRAS
JASMINE L. BEAUCHAMP
DAVID C. BROCKBANK
HEATHER MARIE BROOKS
KIMBERLY L. BURFORD
JEFFRY A. BURKE
COURTNEY J. BURRILL
MICHAEL A. CALDWELL
STEPHEN M. CEOLLA
DANIEL B. DAHL
TROY M. DECKER
ANDREW W. ELLIS
FRANK J. EMMERT
PATRICK B. GALLOWAY
PATRICK M. GAUS
JOSEPH L. GEDGE
MEGAN JENIFER GRAFF
JAMES A. GRIFFITH
KURTIS G. HAMMACK
GREGORY M. HAMMOND
TYLER K. HAWKINS
JEFFREY D. HEYSE, JR.
ROBERT L. HILTON
BLAKE L. HOEDEBECKE
RICHARD A. HUTCHISON
GEORGE D. HWANG
JOSEPH E. JOHNSON
MELISSA A. KOSSBIEL
NATHAN T. LARSON
KAITLIN E. LEE
PAUL T. LEE
GREYSON A. LEFTWICH
CHRISTOPHER C. LOFTIN
MICHAEL J. LUECK
BRITTANY A. MALOVER
CURT G. MARTIN
JEREMY I. MATIS
NATHANIEL S. MINTER
PHUONG M. NGUYEN
MELISSA ANN PARRA
CORY S. PETERSON
MATTHEW POPP
BRADLY K. RUSSELL
JENNY P. STEVENS
KIMBERLY N. TONG
ROSE H. TRAN
EDWARD J. TUCHOLSKI
ANDREW D. VERRETT
JILL C. WATSON
ERIC J. WESTERGARD
BRENT L. WOODMANSEE
PHILIP M. WORTHINGTON
THOMAS L. WRIGHT
MARITA N. ZGURI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JONI A. ABBOTT
DAVID A. ALT
HANS J. AMEN
JAMIE A. AMINSHARIFI
NICOLAS C. APPLETON
ALEXANDER C. AUSTIN
YOLANDA A. BACKUS
AARON J. BALLANTYNE
SARAH M. BALLOGA
AUGEN BATOU
ALEXANDER F. BEDARD
PETER BELL
JOSHUA R. BERG
DANIELLE K. BERSABE
RICHARD D. BETZOLD
JENNIFER E. BEVERAGE
JONATHAN S. BINGHAM
DLISA A. BITTERLY
CATHERINE J. BLASSER
CATHY DAY BOGGS
JEREMY T. BOLIN
LAUREN M. BOSSHARDT
ADAM L. BOURGON
MICHAEL J. BRAZEAU
MATTHEW C. BROWN
MICHELLE F. BUEHNER
TIFFANY R. BURCA
RILEY J. BURKE
LESLIE R. CADET
DANIELLE A. CADLE
ROBERT W. CALHOUN
ROSS M. CANUP
STEPHANIE J. CARROLL
NICHOLAS B. CATTANEO
MARK A. CHENEY
KEELY M. CHEVALLIER
DOUG S. CHO
JESSICA S. COLANESE
STEVEN J. COLONNA
JOHN C. COPELAND
CALLIE MARIE COX BAUER
JOSHUA N. CRAGUN
ANDERS J. DAVIDSON
KARLA T. DAVILA
AMANDA L. DEANS
SEAN M. DEBUYSERE
JAMES P. DEERING III
EMILY H. A. DENNEY
AMANDA L. DERWAE
KELLY JEAN DEWEY
TROY R. DILLON
EDGAR J. DOLLAR
JOSHUA W. DONART
FORTUNE J. EGBULEFU
SHANE T. ELLIS
ISAAC M. ENGHOLM
REBECCA L. ENGLEBRETSON
ELISHA N. FARNWORTH
ANDREW J. FISHER
EVAN I. FISHER
DANIEL T. FLOOD
STEVEN R. FRANCIS
BRANDI N. FREELON
GEORGE H. FULGHUM
JESSICA RENEE GAMBOA
DAVID S. GARCIA
NICHOLAS J. GARCIA
JONATHAN T. GASTON
CHRISTOPHER L. GAUNDER
DENNIS J. GEROLD
CATHARINE L. GIANI
MARY LIBERTY M. GIBBS
JESSE K. GIFFHORN
JOHN F. GILLIS
WILLIAM G. GONCHAROW
IAN P. GOODMAN
CASSIDY J. GRAHAM
CHRISTINA D. GREEN
JULIE ANN GRIFFITH
LEE R. HAFEN
JEFFREY R. HALL
TRENTON J. HANSEN
BRIAN C. HANSHAW
KALLYN D. HARENCAK
MATTHEW K. HAWKS
ALISON M. HELFRICH
TASHA S. HELLU
DANIELLE M. HERDER
JOEL E. HERNESS
STEPHEN D. HIOE
REMEALLE A. HOW
BENJAMIN HUANG
BRIAN N. HUGHES
PAMELA R. HUGHES
BETH H. JOHNSON
AARON A. JOHNSTON
BRITTANY DUNN JORDAN
ANDREA LYNN KAELIN
DREW S. KAFER
KENTON E. KAGY
QUINTON J. KEIGLEY
ALEXANDER R. KHERADI
NATHAN M. KINDER
WILLIAM N. KING
WILSON G. KNIGHT II
CRYSTAL V. KONDOWE
MATTHEW T. KOROSCIL
MARIA I. KRAVCHENKO
KYLE D. KUTSCHE
LASHELL KAY LABOUNTY
JOSEPH A. LAROUCHE
DANIEL R. LAVIN
KATRINA M. LAWRENCE WOLFF
JOHN W. LAX
THANH THAO T. LE

JENNIFER I. LEGGOE
ANTHON J. LEMON
BRITTANY L. LENZ
CRYSTAL R. LENZ
BRANDON S. LERNER
STEVEN D. LEWIS
LUKE LI
VICTOR D. LOHLA, JR.
NICHOLAS I. LONGSTREET
JOHN A. LOSURDO
MAI N. LUU
THUZAR W. LWIN
LISA M. MANNINA
STEPHANIE L. MATHRE
SHANNON L. MCCARTHY
MEGAN B. MCDONALD
MEGAN S. MCGEARY
DONALD C. MCMILLAN
BRIAN F. MCQUILLAN
MATTHEW L. MCROBERTS
LYNETTE M. MENDOZA
KIRK A. MIDDLETON
JAMES D. MIKOLAJCZAK
BRITTANY M. MILLARD HASTING
ALISA A. MILLER
CHARLES K. MILLER
MANISHA K. MILLS
MARCIA E. MIRANDA
JENNIFER L. MITCHELL
DAVID J. MORROW
LINDSAY M. MORROW
SARA M. D. MOSCOW
VIVINA A. NAPIER
PRIYA I. NATH
SEAN T. NELSON
KHANG T. NGUYEN
SUMMER H. NGUYEN
FREDERICK W. NIELSON
GREGORY K. NISHIMURA
JAIME R. OBSZANSKI
KIRK N. ODONNELL
JOSEPHINE K. OLSEN
JOHN J. OLSHEFSKI
GLEN I. OLSON
DAVID R. OTTEN
SAMUEL C. OWEN
CANDACE ROSE V. PACE
GARRETT L. PARKER
MICHAEL R. PARKS
SHANE B. PATTERSON
JOHN DAMON PAVLUS
KATHERINE M. PEARSON
JAMES G. PENNINGTON
CHRISTINE J. PERSINGER
TIMOTHY E. PETERSON
JESSICA L. PILKINGTON
BENJAMIN F. PLUCKNETTE
MILT G. POLL
LAUREN CHRISTINE POWELL
KENNETH H. POWER
JAISAL K. PRAGANI
JOSHUA L. PRINGLE
MATTHEW A. PUDERBAUGH
JEREMY S. RAAB
MATTHEW F. RAINES
ERIK J. RASMUSSEN
BETSY L. REESE
STEPHANIE W. REISER
NATHANIEL J. RENES
ALEKSANDER S. ROBLES
LORENA B. RODRIGUEZ NORTH
CHRISTOPHER J. RODRIGUEZ
JOSHUA R. ROE
PAOLA ANDREA ROSA
JENNIFER E. SALGUERO
CZARINA E. SANCHEZ
REBECCA S. SCHAPIRA
RICARDO A. SEQUEIRA
ANDREW G. SHAHAN
KATHERINE E. SHEDLOCK
JOSHUA L. SHIELDS
DAVID T. SHOOK
MICHAEL SIBEL
ANTHONY P. SIDARI
LAURA THERESE SIDARI
WENDY D. SINGLETON
KRISTEN L. SLAPPEY
MICHAEL T. SMOLKA
MEREDITH E. SOMMERVILLE
TIMOTHY E. SOMMERVILLE
BRANDON C. SPECHT
TRISTAN M. SPIERLING
CHARLIE N. SRIVILASA
SUZANNE N. STAMMLER
CHRISTOPHER J. STEEL
SARAH N. STEELE
JOSHUA C. STEPHENS
THERESA I. STOCKINGER
BRIDGET R. STRALKA
JONATHAN S. STRALKA
MAMIE C. STULL
DUSTY L. SWENDSON
NICOLE E. TAFURI
MEGHAN K. TAPE
DAVID M. TAYLOR
MEGHAN K. TAYLOR
TREVOR A. THOMPSON
RYAN J. THORDAL
CATHERINE M. TOLVO
PANSY UBEROI
WILLIAM E. VALENCIA
AMANDA M. VICKERS
LUZDIVINA A. VINE
JOHN T. R. VOGEL
ELISICIA L. VOLTZ
CHRISTOPHER J. WALKER
KATHRYN I. WARD
WHITTNEY A. WARREN
MICHAEL A. WEISBRUCH
SAMUEL L. WEISS
KASEY C. WELCH
ANDY R. WELSTEAD
ROBERT L. WETZLER
JENNIFER L. WHITMORE
MONICA JILL WILKINS
ERIN LOGGINS WINKLER
TIFFANY C. WINSTON
JAMES WIRTHLIN
DANIELLE C. YUEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

MICHAEL J. ALFARO
MERRILL L. ALLEY
SHELRETHIA BATTLE SIATITA
AMY ANN CAMPBELL
WONIL W. CHONG
BRIAN M. CLEMENT
BRANDON J. CUMMINS
MICHAEL G. DIFELICE
JUSTIN L. DRAB
ROBERT E. FULLER
BENJAMIN G. HUGHES
EMILY TATE IBARRA
CLAY J. JENSEN, JR.
DANA A. JENSEN
PAUL H. KIM
KIBROM T. MEHARI
AUDRA D. MYERS
TENESHIA S. NELSON HODGES
CHRISTOPHER S. NUTTALL
ZACHARY E. PERRY
JAMES J. RENDA
DAVID F. SERVELLO
RIAN W. SUIHKONEN
TAD C. THOLSTROM
TIBEBU M. TSEGGA
MEGHAN J. VANDERHEIDEN
JOSHUA A. VESS
JAMES A. WEALLEANS
BRYAN M. WILSON
SARA M. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JESSICA L. ABBOTT
KARLA E. ADAMS
THOMAS A. ADAMS
SHELLEY L. ALDRICH
DAVID M. ARNER
ERIN S. BARTH
MARC N. BOGGY
CHARLES W. BORDERS III
ADAM W. BOSTICK
ROBERT O. BRADY
JASON A. BROCKER
LAUREN A. BUCK
ERIN C. BURRIS
JENNIFER G. CHANG
JOSEPH G. COLES
NOEL R. COLLS
DANIEL B. COX
DUSTIN A. CREECH
EMILY M. CULLINEY
GEOFFREY P. DOUGLAS
JOSHUA L. DURHAM
RYAN E. EARNEST
MARY F. FINN
RYAN P. FINNAN
JONATHAN A. FORBES
ROBERT A. FREEMAN
SHANNON GAFFNEY
BRIAN J. GAVITT
RYAN C. GOUGH
DAVID B. GRAHAM
LAYNE B. GREEN
SCOTT A. HABER
STEFAN C. HAMELIN
JOSHUA A. HAMILTON
DANIEL R. HATCHER
SALLY R. HAYES
ERICA M. HILL
JOSEPH K. HOBBS
VALERIE C. HOSTETLER
MATTHEW G. HOYT
JOANNA M. JACKSON
FORREST C. JELLISON
JEREMY A. JENSEN
RONALD L. JONES
JON J. JUHASZ
BELINDA LEE KELLY
ZACKARY J. KENT
HYAEHWAN KIM
RICHARD C. KIPP
JOSEPH M. KUEBKER
WINTON P. D. LASLIE
ARTHUR N. LAWRANCE
AARON D. LEWIS
JOHN LICHTENBERGER III
CHRISTOPHER J. LINDSHIELD
GIOVANNI E. LORENZ
JESSICA A. LOTRIDGE
MATTHEW C. MAI
LOU ROSE M. MALAMUG
TOKUNBO J. MATTHEWS
ANDREW K. MATTHIES
CARRIE L. MCBEECOOKE
EDWARD T. MCCANN
SEAN C. MCCARTHY
SCOTT B. MCCUSKER
ROBERT J. MCGILL
MATTHEW J. MCHALE
LUKE R. MICHELS
BETHANY M. MIKLES
JOHN EMMET MILES
MARIBEL MORGAN
BENJAMIN D. MORROW
DAVID A. MOSTELLER
KHAYANGA S. NAMASAKA
JAVED M. NASIR
AUSTIN T. NELSON
BRIAN E. NEUBAUER
MARCUS C. NEUFFER
TRAVIS R. NEWBERRY
CLIFTON M. NOWELL
MANUEL A. NUNEZ
MICHAEL S. OERTLY
DAVID J. OETTEL
JON R. OLSON
GEOFFREY J. ORAVEC
ELDON G. PALMER
JEREMY D. PARKER
AASTA R. PEDERSEN
SCOTT B. PHILLIPS
BRIAN J. PICKARD
MONICA LYNN PIERCE WYSONG
KEVIN P. PIERONI
LUKE H. PORSI
JOSEPH W. PUGH
MICHAEL L. RAWLINS
DAVID S. ROBINSON
ANDREW J. ROHRER
JAIME ROJAS
DAVID M. ROSE
ELIZABETH G. SARNOSKI
BRETT E. SCHNEIDER
LATRISE P. SEARSON NORRIS
CHRISTOPHER O. SEGURA
MUHAMMAD A. SHEIKH
STACY KING SLAT
DEREK M. SORENSEN
JON E. STANDLEY
IAN J. STEWART
NATHAN S. SUMNER
JONATHAN A. SUNKIN
RYAN W. SWOPE
COLE R. TAYLOR
CHUONG N. THAI
MICHAEL C. TOMPKINS
CHARLA C. TULLY
STEPHEN E. VARGA
CHRISTINE D. VO
CHRISTOPHER N. VOJTA
LESLIE R. VOJTA
ADAM R. WALKER
LELAND H. WEBB
RAMOTHEA L. WEBSTER
ERIN M. WEEDEN
JASON M. WEST
SUSAN L. WHITEWAY
MATTHEW T. WILDE
MICAH D. WILL
GREGORY J. WILLIAMS
HEATH D. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

COREY R. ANDERSON
RICHARD A. BUCK
JOHN C. DAVIS
JOE W. HOWARD
DAVID E. KLINGMAN
JERRY L. LEONARD
BRIAN G. MIN
INAAM A. A. PEDALINO
BRIAN W. PENTON
ANTHONY PRESICCI
TERESA E. REEVES
SONG B. RHIM
ANDREW J. STOY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

EDWARD R. ANDERSON III
PETER I. ANDERSON
CLAY M. BALDWIN
JOSEPH R. BEARD IV
PATRICK S. BRANNAN
LISA D. BROSTROM
JOHN S. BRUUN
GEORGE J. BUSE
SCOT E. CAMPBELL
WILLIAM H. CANN
JENNIFER C. CHOW
RAYMOND J. CLYDESDALE
ALLISON A. COGAR
CHRISTOPHER A. COOP
DAVID M. CRAWFORD
ERIC P. CRITCHLEY
GLENN MICHAEL DONNELLY
YASHIKA T. DOOLEY
JOHN R. DORSCH
JOSEPH J. DUBOSE
ROBERT L. ELLER
ROBERT L. ELWOOD
BRIAN M. FAUX
JOHN F. FREILER
VERONICA M. GONZALEZ
NIRAJ GOVIL

DANIEL D. GRUBER
DERRICK A. HAMAOKA
DAVID A. HARDY
CINDY LOU HARRIS GRAESSLE
JOHN M. HATFIELD
COLLEEN M. KERSGARD
DANIEL L. LAMAR
KERRY P. LATHAM
DOUGLAS A. LEACH
ALARIC C. LEBARON
FORREST D. LITTLEBIRD
MONICA M. LOVASZ
GREGORY J. MALONE
JON KYLE MARTI
DEREK A. MATHIS
COLLEEN M. MCBRATNEY
JASON L. MUSSER
CHRISTOPHER J. NAGY
SEAN P. OBRIEN
WILLIAM T. OBRIEN, SR.
MARIBEL B. ORANTE MANGILOG
VICTOR L. ORTIZ ORTIZ
AMY L. PARKER
ROBERT SARLAY, JR.
ERICH W. SCHROEDER
RICHARD J. SERKOWSKI
CECILIA SESSIONS CARPENTER
LUCAS M. SHELDON
WILLIAM K. SKINNER
MARK A. SLABAUGH
SHAYNE C. STOKES
BRYAN J. UNSELL
CHRISTOPHER S. WALKER
ERIK K. WEITZEL
PATRICK F. WHITNEY
ROBERT B. WOOLLEY
RAMON YAMBO ARIAS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

SCOTT C. APLING

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

PATRICIA L. GEORGE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

SUSAN M. MCGARVEY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ADAM J. POINTS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

LARRY G. WORKMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ROBERT J. DUNLAP

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

WAYNE O. DEHANEY

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

JOHNATHAN T. PARCHEM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JACOB P. ABSALON
MATTHEW ACOSTA
RYAN P. ADAMS
ANTHONY A. AKRAMI
JOHN L. ALBERT
FELIPE ALBINO
JASON D. ALBRECHT
CYLE E. ALDEN
ANDRESS F. ALEGRE
BRIAN E. ALEXANDER
JOSEPH M. ALEXANDER
TREVOR D. ALEXANDER
CHAZ E. ALLEN
JOSHUA D. ALLEN
GUY L. ALLSUP
CHRISTINE M. ANDERSEN
KEVIN T. ANDERSEN
THOMAS D. ANDERSEN
CAMERON C. ANDERSON
TOBIAS J. APPS
TIMOTHY E. ARAS
PETER L. ARENDT
ALEX B. ARMSTRONG
DANIEL J. ARNOLD
TIMOTHY A. ASHCRAFT
MATTHEW W. ASMUS, JR.
STEPHEN A. AUSTRIA
ORI I. AVILA
DIANA J. AXAYMAC
CAREY E. BABER
SHAUN M. BAILEY
COLIN P. BAIR
CHRISTOPHER A. BAKER
SCOTT A. BAKER
CHRISTOPHER A. BARNETT
DEREK D. BARRICK
ALLEN J. BARRON
ANDREW M. BARTLETT
NICHOLAS J. BARWIKOWSKI
JONATHAN J. BATT
RYAN A. BAUM
JOSEPH M. BAUMANN
DOUGLAS D. BAZIL
CHRISTOPHER M. BEACH
GARY A. BEAUMONT, JR.
LISA M. BECKER
CHRISTOPHER R. BECKWITH
CHRISTOPHER M. BEHM
DEREK T. BEHNEY
JOSHUA R. BELL
JENNIFER M. BELLAMY
JORDAN M. BELLAMY
CURT J. BELOHLAVEK
ROBERT L. BENDER
KELSEY J. BENO
WILLIAM T. BERRY
PETER V. BIER
WALTER J. BINER
BRIAN A. BISHOP
GREGORY T. BLACK
BRYAN J. BLACKBURN
JAMES H. BLACKBURN
CHRISTOPHER D. BLANC
JEREMY J. BLASCAK
AARON W. BOHANNAN
MATTHEW T. BOISE
KEVIN W. BOLDT
JASON A. BOLSINGER
ADAM P. BOLTON
PAUL A. BORGMEYER
JOHN M. BORLAND
JAMESON O. BOSCOW
MATTHEW C. BOUDRO
GRANT J. BOULEY
TONY D. BOWERS
MARK S. BOYCHAK
NICHOLAS A. BOYLE
CHRISTOPHER B. BRADLEY
ROBERT A. BRANCIERI, JR.
CHRISTOPHER M. BRANDT
JOSEPH P. BRESNAHAN
VIRGINIA R. BRICKNER
BENJAMIN R. BRINGHURST
GARY L. BROOKS
JOHN P. BROST
DEREK P. BROWN
KYLE T. BROWN
PAUL D. BROWNHILL
NICHOLAS B. BROWNING
TIMOTHY E. BRUCE
INGRID F. BRUNING
SPENSER H. BRUNING
ANDREW V. BRYANT
DEXTER G. BUCHANAN
BRIAN R. BUCHHOLZ
THOMAS T. BULLER
CALEB J. BURGESS
DANIEL H. BURGESS
MATTHEW W. BURGOON
CHARLES J. BURKARDT
GLENN W. BURKEY
VINCENT F. BURLAZZI
KYLE V. BURNS
MARCELLE R. BURRONI
JASON M. BURTON
ELLISEUS J. BUSUEGO
DAVID L. BUTLER
CONRAD R. CABLAY
CHRISTOPHER R. CAIL
ANDREW C. CAIRNS
JEREMY E. CALDWELL
SEAN J. CALLEJASPRINGER
LINDA F. CANDELARIO
NATHANIEL T. CARTER
SAM H. CASELLA
JEFFERY B. CASHON
GEORGE L. CASS
JAMES A. CERRONE
KEVIN R. CHAMBERLAIN
ANDREW J. CHAMPION
KENNETH T. CHAPLIN
DANIEL K. CHAVES
RICHARD S. CHERSICLA
ERIKA L. CHEW
JASON C. CHIMCHIRIAN
THOMAS M. CHORMAN
JOSHUA T. CHRISTIAN
DAVID R. CHRISTMAS
BRYAN A. CIABOTTE
DUANE W. CLARK
MATTHEW K. CLARK
BRIAN N. CLASON
MATTHEW R. CLAWSON
DAVID L. CLAYTON
PAUL M. CLEARY
MATTHEW G. CLINE
JONATHAN R. COCHRAN
LOGAN M. COLE
ANDREW M. COLEMAN
JASON R. COLLIER
NICOLE M. COLLINS
CHRISTOPHER J. COLYER
SHAWN M. COOK
DAVID C. COOPER
PHILIP H. COOPER
SEAN M. CORBETT
BRANDON R. CORBIN
RUBEN L. COSTA
PETER J. COURNIA
JEFFREY P. COX
TIMOTHY D. COX
CAMERON S. CRAIG
NICHOLAS L. CRAIG
MICHAEL H. CRAIN
WOODROW F. CROSBY III
ANDREW B. CROWELL
MICHAEL A. CRYER
ADAM J. CUCCHIARA
COURTENAY W. CULLEN
NICHOLAS G. CULLURA
JUSTIN L. CUNNINGHAM
SEAN M. CURNOW
MATTHEW M. DAIGLE
ROSS E. DALY
NICHOLAS J. DANNA
MICHAEL P. DAVES
DAVID L. DAVIDSON
SCOTT P. DAVIS
SCOTT T. DAWE
DAVID K. DAWES
JOSHUA J. DAWSON
EDWIN B. DECKER
PETER J. DEJONG
DAVID A. DELCUADROZIMMERMAN
JONATHAN A. DESOUZA
STEPHEN L. DETERDING
ROBERT D. DETIENNE
TIMOTHY A. DEVINE
NICHOLAS A. DEWEY
ANDREW E. DIETZ
JAMES D. DILLON
MATTHEW M. DOBYNS
DEREK O. DOE
MAURICE P. DOMINGUEZ
MICHAEL D. DOMOVICH
ERIC S. DONAHUE
JOHN J. DONOVAN
BRADFORD S. DOOLEY
KENNETH R. DOUGHER
ANTHONY J. DOUGLASS
STEPHEN N. DOYLE
WILLIAM J. DOYLE
NICHOLAS W. DRAKE
SHERI M. DRAKE
WILLIAM S. DRINKWATER
SHAWN L. DRIVER
PATRICK J. DUBOIS
JOSHUA J. DURHAM
SCOTT M. DYE
MICHAEL B. DYER
DODGER C. EATON
DUSTIN L. EGGLESTON
AARON S. EIDE
JOHN M. EISENLOHR
DAVID ELMO II
JOHN T. ENDERLE
ROBERT J. ETHERIDGE
MICHAEL J. EVANS
RICHARD C. EVANS III
JONATHAN M. FAIRBROTHER
CORY D. FAISON
HOWARD E. FALLS
KEVIN E. FARESE
ANTHONY S. FATULA
RYAN P. FEENEY
MAGDA D. FELIZ
JOSHUA W. FENDER
STEPHEN J. FENNESSY
COMADOR M. FERGUSON III
TIMOTHY S. FERGUSON
LAUREN G. N. FERNANDO
JOHN T. FERRELL
AARON C. FEUDO
STEPHEN L. FICCHI
DAVID L. FIFE
JOSHUA M. FINK
MATTHEW S. FINNIE
NICOLAS J. FIORE
JED A. FISHER
CARY J. FITZPATRICK
SCOTT W. FIXMER
BENJAMIN J. FIZZELL
DAVID M. FLAHERTY
JOHN S. FLANAGAN III
ERIC G. FLOOD
ABRAM FLORES
BENJAMIN R. FLORES
JOHN C. FLOYD
JARED T. FLURRY
DANIEL J. FLYNN
NIKOLAS M. FOLGERT
COLIN J. FOOTE
SETH R. FORT
CARL M. FORTE
CHRISTOPHER S. FRADIN
NICKLAUS C. FRANCK
NICHOLAS R. FRAZIER
WILLIAM T. FREAKLEY
DANIEL D. FRECHETTE

RODNEY C. FREEMAN
KYLE J. FRIESEN
PETER J. FRISCHHOLZ
MARIA A. FRISHMAN
JEFFERY M. FRITZ
PETER T. FRITZ
JOSEPH D. FRITZE
BRETT D. FULLER
JOHN M. FURR
MELISSA FUSCO
MICHAEL J. GAIN
DANIEL F. GALGANO
CHRISTINE D. GANT
ELLIOTT J. GARRETT
SAMUEL J. GARRISON
RICHARD C. GASPERINI
CHRISTOPHER M. GEORGE
HEATHER GEORGE
BRYAN D. GERHART
LINDSEY J. GERHEIM
EDWARD J. GIBBONS
JACOB B. GIBBS
CHRISTOPHER P. GILBERT
TIDE D. GILE
BRADLEY D. GILL
BRANDON B. GILLES
JOHN M. GILLETTE
ANDREW D. GILLSON
PETER B. GILROY
ROBIN J. GLEBES
JORDAN T. GLOVER
CALEB J. GOBLE
MICHAEL M. GOGLIA
TORSTEN GOJOWSKY
RYAN R. GOLTZ
AGUSTIN M. GONZALEZ
BRADLEY J. GOODYEAR
GEORGE T. GORDON, JR.
MATTHEW R. GORDON
MARVIN GORGAS
JOHN F. GOULD
RYAN E. GOULET
SEAN R. GRADY
JOHN M. GRANT
ALEXANDER T. GRAY
JASON C. GREEN
KYLE T. GREENE
CHRISTIAN D. GREENLEAF
DANIEL A. GREGORIO
ISAAC J. GREGORY
SAMUEL D. GREULICH
SEAN A. GREVIOUS
WAYNE E. GRIFFIN
IAN S. F. GRIFFITH
NICOLE M. GRIFFITH
ZACHARY E. GRIFFITHS
SCOTT M. GRIMSEY
NICHOLAS W. GRODEVANT
DONOVAN D. GROH
SEAN R. GRUBOFSKI
GUILLERMO J. GUANDIQUE
EDWARD A. GUELFI
CORY M. GUENTHER
THOMAS J. GUGLIELMI
MATTHEW P. GUIDONE
HEATHER M. GUIDRY
BRIAN T. GULLEY
DONALD S. HACKETT
CHRISTOPHER L. HADLEY
WILLIAM R. HALE II
JOSEPH D. HALL
MICHAEL L. HAMILTON, JR.
BRYAN S. HAMMOND
DANIEL L. HAN
SCOTT M. HARAN
LOUIS B. HARRINGTON
PETER S. HARRINGTON
THOMAS L. HARRIS
DANIEL T. HARRISON
DAMON D. HART
RYAN M. HARTH
STEPHANIE A. HARTLEY
JAMES S. HARVIE
ALAN P. HASTINGS
JAMES P. HAYES
JOSHUA M. HAYNES
JOHN J. HEALY
MICHAEL D. HEBERT
TANNER S. HELMERS
JAYSON W. HENSLEY
BRIAN E. HERNANDEZ
JEREMY L. HERRON
JOSHUA M. HERZOG
CHRISTOPHER J. HESS
JONATHAN E. HICKS
JOEL R. HILBORN
MATTHEW A. HILL
WILLIAM M. HILL
ROBERT J. HOCKMAN
LUCAS J. HOFFMANN
CHARLES E. HOKE
STEVE R. HOLDEN
CHRISTOPHER L. HOLLINGSWORTH
GREGORY C. HOLOWNIA
EDWARD S. HOOGLAND
WILLIAM T. HORAN
JARRELL O. HORSLEY
RYAN S. HORTON
JAMES R. HOSKINS
MARIE J. HOUGH
ANDREW S. HOWELL
BIMI B. HOXHA
AARON R. HRABOVSKY
MICHAEL K. HUBER
JOSIAH R. HUGGINS
JASON E. HUML
TIMOTHY J. HUMPHRIES
JUSTIN T. HUNTER
NICHOLAS G. HUSINKO
DONALD E. HUSKEY
JOHN B. HUSSAIN
WILLIAM R. HUTAFF IV
BRADLEY D. HUTCHISON
BRANTON J. IRBY
KARMALITA L. IRLMEIER
CHRISTOPHER A. ISAACS
TREVOR S. JACKSON
ANDREW H. JAMES
MARC A. JANVIER
ADAM T. JARMUSZ
LANDEL T. JENKINS
NATHAN E. JENNINGS
MICHAEL A. JENSEN
PRISCILLA L. JEWELL
MOISES JIMENEZ
DEVONNE R. JOHNSON
ISAAC D. JOHNSON
JASON D. JOHNSON
JESSICA N. JOHNSON
TAYLOR C. JOHNSON
CURTIS R. JONES
KEVIN M. JONES
TARIK T. JONES
DAVID W. JUDSON
MATTHEW R. JUNG
MATTHEW K. R. KABAT
JESSE N. KADEL
NICHOLAS E. KALITKA
NICHOLAS J. KANE
JONATHAN S. KEEN
DANIEL W. KELLER
JAMES B. KELLY
JOSHUA T. KELLY
JOSEPH S. KENDALL
ROBERT S. KENNEDY
IAN P. KENT
PATRICK M. KERINS
ADAM S. KESSLER
TIMOTHY M. KIBBE
JEFFREY A. KILLIAN
ZACHARY C. KIMBLE
JIMMIE F. KING
SCOTT E. KING
BRIDGET M. KINGSLEY
RACHEL E. KINNAS
MICHAEL C. KISER
ANTHONY J. KIVLEHAN
LISA M. KLEKOWSKI
JOHN J. KLINE
CURTIS T. KNIE
BRANDON A. KNOX
JUSTIN J. KOENIG
LOUIS A. KOHL
TATE W. KOMMER
GREGORY J. KOZLOWSKI
FRANK J. KRAUT
STEVEN W. KRIPPEL
PHILIP R. KROLL
WILLIAM T. L. KUEBLER
KARL M. KUECHENMEISTER
STEVEN R. KUHL
RAMAN KUMAR
CLINT L. KUPARI
CRAIG A. KUPHALL
MAURISAH K. KUSHMA
STEPHEN H. KWAK
WESTLY T. LAFITTE
WESLEY R. LAFOLLETTE
WARREN R. LALLY
CLEMENT LAM
DAVID W. LAMBERT
ALAN W. LANCASTER
TORREY M. LANGDON
ABBY E. LANNI
JARED C. LARPENTEUR
WILLIAM W. LASSITER IV
NORREAL P. LEE
PATRICK J. LEEN
MICHAEL L. LEIJA
JOHN C. LEISENBERG
MATTHEW J. LENSING
JASON R. LEUNGVANHASSEL
NATHAN D. LEVY
RICHARD G. LEWIS
WILLIAM J. LEWIS
JONATHAN D. LEWMAN
TIMOTHY B. LIGHT
CULLEN M. LIND
PATRICK A. LINFORD
CALEB M. LING
ANDREW M. LITTEL
PAUL R. LLOVIO
ERIC T. LO
JONATHAN F. LOGAN
NATHAN C. LOKKER
BRADFORD H. LONG
CHRISTOPHER J. LORETE
NICHOLAS J. LORUSSO
MICHAEL G. LOWEFARMER
LARIE L. LUNCEFORD, JR.
EDWIN G. LYMAN
SAMUEL S. LYON
WILLIAM A. MACKENZIE
JOHN S. MADDOX
ERIC G. MAGNUSON
JUSTIN M. MAGULA
TODD A. MAINWARING
ANTHONY E. MAJOR
ERICK T. MALASKE
GILBERTO L. MALAVE
DANIEL J. MALIK
MARIO J. MALPICA
MUHAMMED S. MANSARAY
SEAN C. MAPLES
BERLINE MARCELIN
GAVIN J. Y. MARCHANT
JAMES P. MARIONE
JOSE A. MARQUEZ
DEAN G. MARSHALL
MEGAN L. MARSHBURN
JOSHUA S. MARTIN
JORDAN D. MARTINELLI
ANDREW D. MARUCCI
JAMES H. MASON
ROBERT A. MASZAROSE
JOSHUA C. MATTHEWS
MATTHEW G. MATTINGLY
JARED R. MAXWELL
JOHN M. MAYER
WILLIAM C. MAYVILLE
KEVIN R. MCCABE
CHRISTOPHER M. MCCANN
DANIEL E. MCCAREY
WILLIAM D. MCCARY
JOSHUA S. MCCASKILL
CHASE P. MCCOY
MICHAEL P. MCDONALD
SAMUEL L. MCELROY
CHRISTOPHER A. MCFARLAND
RYAN T. MCHUGH
SARAH E. MCKAY
IAN J. MCKENZIE
WILLIAM B. MCMURREY
ROBERT C. MCPEAK
JOHN M. MCQUILLIAMS
DANIEL P. MEDFORD
MATTHEW J. MELLINGER
STEPHANIE E. MELTON
ELMER MENDOZA
CLAYTON C. MERKLEY
TAYLOR S. MERRITT
KIMBERLY I. METCALF
JOSEPH S. MICHAEL
HALEY B. MIDDLEBROOK
CHRISTOPHER J. MIHAL
CHRISTOPHER P. MIKULA
CHRISTINE A. MILLER
MARK E. MILLER
MATTHEW L. MILLER
ZACHARY P. MILLER
CHI MIN
JACOB A. MIRALDI
EUGENE G. MIRANDA
JUSTIN A. MISHLER
ANDREW C. MITCHELL
MICHAEL H. MOBBS
REGINALD MOISE
ANDREW J. MONCRIEF
JACK D. MOONEY
DANIEL L. MOORE
JUSTIN M. MOORE
STEVEN K. MORELLI
DANIEL O. MORENO
ANDREW R. MORGAN
WILLIAM J. MORGAN
ROBERT W. MORRIS
ZACHARY L. MORRIS
AVERY L. MORTIMER
AARON S. MOSIER
KEVIN W. MOTT
MICHAEL A. MUELLER
PETER C. MUELLER
JOHN T. MULLANY
ALEXANDER G. MULLIN
DREW M. MUMFORD
ERIK L. MUNN
ROBERT C. MUNROE
JONATHAN V. MUNSON
JEFF W. MUNSTER
BRANDT A. MURPHY
KYLE R. MURRAY
MICHAEL L. MUSKUS
JACK C. MYERS
MICHAEL D. MYERS
GARETT H. NAKAZONO
JONPAUL S. NAVARRO
SEAN M. NAVIN
BENJAMIN B. NEELEY
DANIEL R. NEFF
CURTIS B. NELSON
DAVID J. NELSON
JACINTA NELSON
MATTHEW D. NELSON
PHILIP B. NERI
JOSHUA O. NEWBROUGH
MICHAEL T. NICHOLSON
SAMUEL L. NICKLES
KRISTINA A. NIEMEYER
MATTHEW J. NILLES
ANTONIO L. NIXON
ADAM G. NORDIN
JASON S. NORRIS
DAVID C. NORWOOD
JASON R. NORWOOD
MUNIR NOUREDDINE
SCOTT A. NUSOM
JEFFERY R. OCONNER
MICHAEL K. OH
KEVIN E. OHARA
MICHAEL D. OLIVEIRA
CHELSEY M. ONAN
WILLIAM B. ONEAL
SEAN P. ONEIL
CHRISTOPHER R. ORLANDO
MANUEL A. OROZCO
ANDREW P. OSBORN
COLIN B. OTOOLE
VIREAK C. OUCH
GEORGE D. OUELLETTE
JEFFREY S. OWEN
DANIEL P. PALMER

EVAN B. PALMER
CLIFTON R. PALMORE
ANDREW M. PANNOZZODARONCO
EDWARD Y. PARK
EUGENE Y. PARK
CHRISTOPHER J. PARKER
JOHN A. PARKS
JACOB E. PARRISH
EDWARD J. PARRY
ANTHONY N. PARSAI
JAY D. PARSONS
BRANDON E. PASKO
JONATHAN C. D. PATTEN
JEFFREY A. PAUL
JASON M. PAVLIK
AARON B. PAYNE
JOSHUA E. PAYNE
JAMES M. PECK
CHARLES R. PEGRAM
DOUGLAS B. PELLETIER
MATTHEW W. PEREZ
WILLIAM R. PEREZ
SCOTT R. PERKINS
KERNEY M. S. PERLIK
SAMUEL C. PERLIK
GREGORY P. PERRAULT
JONATHAN V. PETERSON
CHRISTOPHER V. PETRANCOSTA
THO P. PHAM
JON K. PHILLIPS
KYLE D. PICKETT
FOREST J. PIERCE
DOMINIC M. PILERI
JACK C. PINNEY
CHASE A. PITTMAN
JOSEPH D. PITTS
JACK R. PLATE
NATHAN K. PLAYER
MICHAEL S. POLING
ERIC J. POPE
KENNETH R. POSPISIL
ROBERT A. POUGH
JESSE W. POWELL
STEVE E. POWELL
KEVIN M. POWER
SETH T. POWER
MICHAEL R. PRATHER
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TRAVIS E. PRIDE
MICHAEL D. PRITCHARD
DAVID E. QUANTOCK
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STACY A. RADER
CHRISTOPHER J. RAISL
JAMES E. RAJCHEL
MARK D. RALSTON
EDER C. RAMIREZ
JUAN E. REBOLLEDO
ARIES B. REBUGIO
RILEY J. REDUS
JEFFREY W. REESE
RONALD R. RENEAU, JR.
RAYMUNDO RESENDEZ
BRIAN H. REYNOLDS
WILLIAM R. REYNOLDS
RITCHIE L. RHODES, JR.
GEORGE H. RHYNEDANCE
JAMES P. RICHARDS
CLAYTON P. RICHARDSON
LAWRENCE J. RICHARDSON
JEFFREY R. RICKARD
JEFFREY M. RIGNEY
NICHOLAS A. RINALDI
NORAIDA RIOS
JUAN F. RIVERA
JAMES R. ROBINSON
PRESTON G. ROBINSON
RYAN D. ROCKWELL
RYAN E. RODRIGUEZ
IVAN RODRIGUEZHUERTAS
JONATHAN D. ROLAND
MATTHEW A. ROREBECK
STEVEN C. ROSE
JAY S. ROSEN
JORDAN O. RUBIN
HECTOR RUEDA
ANDRE D. RUFF
STEPHEN S. RUFF
JUSTIN A. RUHOLL
ANGEL L. RUIZ
MANUEL L. RUIZ
KIMBERLY L. RULLI
CHRISTOPHER L. RUSSELL
JAYSEN J. RYBERG
JACOB T. RYKKEN
GREGORY A. SABLAN
ANDREW A. SADOUN
BLAKE T. SAFKO
PHILIP P. SAKALA
ABRAHAM J. SALDANA
NICHOLAS A. SALIMBENE
GABRIEL M. SAMUDIO
CONNOR R. SANDERS
JOSEPH D. SANDERS
JOSE R. SANTIAGO
JARED A. SARGENT
STEVEN J. SAXION
JOSIAH D. SCHLESSMAN
DONALD A. SCHMIDT
DAVID N. SCHNAAK
TYLER S. SCHOELLHORN
JAMES R. SCHUBERT
MICHAEL J. SCHULMAN
STEPHEN F. SCHUYLER
GEORGE R. SCHWARTZ
ANDREW W. SCHWILK
CHRISTOPHER J. SCOTT
AARON E. SCULLY
GREGORY R. SELPH
PETER J. SEMANOFF
BRANDON A. SHAH
HARVEY J. SHAW II
MICHAEL J. SHAY
TIMOTHY W. SHEBESTA
JESSE J. SHEEHAN
KEVIN M. SHOUSE
JOSHUA M. SIDER
NIKOLAUS C. SIFERS
HERIBERTO A. SILVA
MICHAEL L. SIM
ANTHONY D. SIMMONS
MATTHEW L. SIMON
MATTHEW R. SIMPSON
THOMAS C. SIMPSON
MICHAEL C. SIMS
TAMMY L. SLOULIN
ANDREW L. SMITH
BENJAMIN J. SMITH
BRIAN J. SMITH
DAVID C. SMITH
JORDAN H. SMITH
KEVIN R. SMITH
RYAN C. SMITH
JONATHAN W. SMITHSON
CHRISTIAN M. SNYDER
ERIC B. SNYDER
ASHLEY N. SOGGE
JEFFREY M. SOLTZ
RYAN C. SOMMER
ANTONIO G. SOMOZAOQUENDO
PHILIP SONG
STEVEN R. SPALDING
MARK S. SPIERING
DOUGLAS W. STANSBURY
AARON W. STARK
MEGHAN E. STARR
BRANDON F. STAUB
EDWARD G. STEBBINS
ARNOLD J. STEINLAGE
THEODORE J. STELIGA
ANDREW J. STEVENS
BRANDON D. STEVENSON
THOMAS W. STEVENSON
JUSTIN M. STEWART
WESLEY C. STEWART
MATTHEW R. STOCKTON
SARAH C. STOCKTON
CHRIS F. STOINOFF
DANIEL R. STRATHMAN
JEREMY T. STRAUGHTER
RUSSELL M. STREIF
SEAN E. STROH
JUSTIN R. STUART
GREG A. SUGUITAN
JOEL M. SULLIVAN
RYAN D. SWISHER
DANIEL J. TABACCHI
SEAN T. TAGUBA
JOSEPH R. TAGUE
STEPHEN R. TANGEN
MICHAEL C. TAYLOR
CHRISTOPHER J. TELLEY
ANGELA Y. TEMPLETON
JUSTIN S. THOMAS
WALTER D. THOMAS
KYLE A. THOMASON
BRANDON M. THOMPSON
KYLE J. THOMPSON
ROBERT B. THOMPSON
JUSTIN P. THORKILDSEN
MILLER A. TISSON
JOHN W. TOLIVER
ADRIAN P. TOMLINSON
JEB K. TOWNSEND
THANG Q. TRAN
CARLOS E. TRISTAN
JOSHUA M. TRULOCK
AARON J. TUCKER
PHILIP L. TURNER
WILLIAM J. TURNER
ROBERT W. TUTTLE
HOOSER P. F. VAN
JOSHUA A. VANEPPS
SETH T. VARAYON
MICHAEL C. VEGLUCCI
PERCY A. VELA
ELIZABETH S. VERARDO
STEPHEN R. VINSKI
ANDREW J. VOGEL
KYLE B. VONDERHEIDE
ANDREW M. WADE
JAMES P. WADE
DANIEL J. WAGNER
EDDIE D. WALKER, JR.
ALEXANDER WALKERRODRIGUEZ
MICHAEL P. WALLACE
CHRISTOPHER J. WALLGREN
GLENN R. WALTON
STEPHEN D. WARDE
JACOB W. WATSON
TAYLOR S. WATSON
BENNIE D. WEAVER
KEITH T. WEAVER III
JEREMIAH J. WEBB
JAMES C. WEBSTER
MICKALA S. WELSCH
BRANDON M. WESS
ADAM D. WESTBROOK
SCOTT W. WESTCOTT
KYLE D. WHIPPLE
RYAN G. WHIPPLE
JEREMY S. WHITE
MONTAE L. WHITE
DAVID M. WILLIAMS
TREVOR E. WILLIAMS
DEREK R. WILSON
MICHAEL S. WILSON
ROBERT H. WILSON
MICHAEL J. WINCHESTER
GORDON D. WINSLOW
JEFFREY W. WISMANN
JOSHUA J. WITHINGTON
JOHN F. WLASNIEWSKI
BRET P. WOELLNER
DANIEL C. WOLGEMUTH
MICHAEL P. WOLK
JEFFERY A. WOLLENMAN
JONATHON M. WOLOSHUK
ANDREW L. WONG
FOREST P. WOODBURY
ALEX J. WRAY
MATTHEW A. WRIGHT
GRANT T. WYFFELS
GREGORY X. WYNN
WILLIAM M. YANG
RYAN M. YAUN
NICHOLAS R. YETMAN
DANIEL M. YORK
MICHAEL A. YORK
JACOB H. YOUMANS
JOHN L. YOUNG
JOSEPH H. YURISICH
DERRICK J. ZANTT
JOSEPH C. ZDANIEWICZ
AARON V. ZIKE
D012697
D012989
D013031
D013093
D013105
D013156
D013217
D013239
D013244
D013261
D013290
D013483
D013492
D013540
D013574
D013617
G010436
G010445

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MARK P. ADAMS
EMMANUEL T. ADENIRAN
JOSEPH M. AGIUS
JOSE J. AGOSTOGONZALEZ
ALDO S. AGUIRRE
PAUL M. AITCHISON
ALAYHAM M. ALAWAJ
ADAM R. ALEXANDER
ERIC L. ALLEN
JACQUELINE M. ALLEN
THOMAS A. ALLEN
MARC J. ALLERDT
ROBERT F. ALSFELDER
NICOLE L. AMSTUTZ
ERIK S. ANDERSON
ERIN L. ANDERSON
MARK T. ANDERSON
THOMAS J. ARMSTRONG
WILLIAM A. ATWELL
SAMANTHA AUSTIN
WILLIAM R. AVERA
AUGUSTE S. BADIEL
DAVID I. BAEZ
CHRISTOPHER J. BAHR
ELEANOR C. BALDENWECK
REYNALDO E. BALDOZA
ANTHONY R. BAMBA
RICHARD T. BARKER
ROBERT E. BARNETT
MICHAEL P. BARR, JR.
KYLE D. BARRETT
MARKININA C. BASKIN
TIMOTHY R. BAULER
JOHN A. C. BAYSE
RANDY J. BECK
MATTHEW J. BEIGH
HEATHER H. BENJAMIN
MARJANA E. BIDWELL
ANTHONY R. BLACKBURN
JOSEPH M. BLEWETT
MATTHEW S. BLUMBERG
STEPHANIE N. BOATMAN
SIMONE T. BOEHMER
ANDREW L. BOND
KYLE D. BORNE
JEREMY P. BOVAN
JACOB A. BOWEN
JAMARCO L. BOWEN
JAMES C. BOWEN
BRIAN D. BOYLES
TYLER J. BRADLEY
GRANT S. BRAMLETT
GARREN M. BREMER
JUSTIN T. BRISTOW
JAMES C. BROOKOVER
MARCUS S. T. BROOKS
MATTHEW W. BROOKS
CHRISTINA J. BROWN
TANYIA N. BRYANT
JOSE R. BURGOS
MATTHEW C. BUSH
LARON C. BYBEE

JESSICA C. CADDELL
JASON E. CADY
STEPHEN D. CADY
STEPHEN H. CALDWELL
JOHN A. CAMERON
JOSHUA A. CAMPBELL
WILLIAM B. CAMPBELL
WILLIAM C. CAMPBELL
DAVID P. CANADAY
ANTHONY J. CANNAMELA
CHRISTOPHER J. CAPASSO
VANNESA CARDENAS
RANDALL T. CARROLL
JARED A. CARTER
JOSEPH M. CASEY
GABRIEL CEBAN
RANDALL CEDILLOS
JASON M. CHAMBERS
MICHAEL R. CHANDLER
BRIAN D. CHAVIS
NATHANIEL P. CHITTENDEN
SEAN S. CHO
YOUNG CHOI
DAVID M. CLARKE
MORTON R. A. CLARKE
SIMON H. CLAYCOMB
JOHN K. CLEMENS
TRAVIS R. CLONCH
ADAM L. CLONINGER
AUGUSTON B. COBBA
JARED B. COHEN
LONNIE M. COLBERT
JOHN M. COLE
JACQUE R. COLLINS
NGOZI E. COLLINS
MARYORIE E. COLON
MONIKA COMEAUX
DAVID L. COOK
JOHN S. COOK
MATTHEW L. CORBETT
PAUL G. CORBITT, SR.
NOLAN R. CORK
CHRISTINA L. CORNELIUS
JASON A. COUTURE
ERIN N. COX
TRAVIS L. COX
TOBY CRANDALL
COREY E. CROSSER
DIANA CRUZ
JOHN D. CUMBIE
JASON D. CUMIFORD
JOSEPH T. CURNOW
BRENDAN M. CURRAN
JOHN K. DALESSIO
JORGE C. DAMIANI
AARON C. DARENSBURG
RICHARD F. DAUGHTRY III
NATHAN A. DAVIES
JOHN R. DAVIS
JESSICA I. DAWSON
CARLOS A. DECASTROPRETELT
DAVID S. DELAFUENTE
RYAN R. DEMARCO
KENNETH W. DEMARS
BRANDON R. DEMERSKELLER
NORMA P. DEVIESE
JOSHUA D. DIAL
CHARLIE V. DIETZ
JOSEPH C. DIFRANCESCO
NICHOLAS M. DLAROTTA
RANDOLPH E. DONATHAN
JARED S. DOUCET
STEVEN W. DOWDY
JOSEPH W. DOWNS
ERIK D. DUBOIS
JEREMY C. DUNCAN
REGINA L. DUNLAP
KEVIN D. DWYER
JENNIFER E. DYRCZ
SHERWOOD A. EARLE III
JESSICA A. EDMONDS
DENNIS J. EDWARDS
BRANDON S. ELIASON
PAUL C. ELLIOTT
JESSE R. ELLIS
RICHARD W. ELLSWORTH
SEBASTIAN R. ENGELS
DOUGLAS J. ENSMINGER
JOSEPH J. ESQUIVEL
ERIK FAGERGREN
DAVID M. FAHS
JUAN P. FELICIANO
CHRISTOPHER B. FISHER
SCOTT W. FITZGERALD
ELMER FLORES
TRAVIS J. FONDRK
RICHARD W. FOOTE
JEFFREY L. FORRY, JR.
KYLE N. FRAZER
COLBY Q. FREY
STACEY F. FREY
DONALD J. FRISCO
SEAN M. FUTCH
JEFFREY S. GAGLIANO
CHRISTIAN A. GARNER
SHANDA M. GARTH
GARRETT T. GATZEMEYER
DENNIS M. GENEST
SARAH M. GERSTEIN
ANDREW P. GILLICK
SHEMEIA T. GILMORE
KELLY A. GIRAUD
STEPHANIE M. GOGGANS
AMANDA M. GOLDMAN
KEVIN A. GOULDING
DANIEL L. GRAVES
JAMES A. GREEN
KEITH G. GREER
GARRICK I. GUICO
JUAN C. GUTIERREZGONZALES
LAWRENCE C. HAGGERTY
KENNETH W. HAHN
JEREMY D. HAINES
KATHERINE R. HAIRSTON
JOHN G. HALBERT
JOHN R. P. HALL
DENNIS M. HALLERAN
THOMAS M. HALVERSON
BRIAN G. HARDIN
STEPHEN N. HARDWICK
DREW P. HARGRAVES
STEPHEN M. HARMON
MARK D. HARRIS
SCOTT B. HARRIS
LOLA M. HARTSHORN
CHASE A. HASBROUCK
NICOLE L. HASH
JEFFREY C. HATHAWAY
JUSTIN J. HAWKER
JUSTIN T. HEDDLESON
MICHAEL R. HENRIQUES
SHAWN D. HERRMANN
MICHAEL J. HILL
CHARLES W. HINES
KATRINA A. HIPPLEHEUSER
JERRY L. HOLDAWAY
JOHN L. HOLLAND
BRYCE A. HOLLWEG
CYNTHIA R. HOLUTA
MICHAEL J. HOOPER
DANIEL L. HOPKINS
PAUL D. HOUK
MICHAEL D. HRUSKA
STEPHEN M. HUDAK
STEPHANIE E. HUEBNER
WILLIAM J. HUERTH
JOSEPH L. HUITT
DARIN K. HUNTER
PEYTON C. HURLEY
GRADY H. HUTCHINS
MATTHEW R. HUTCHISON
RYAN W. HUTSON
JEFFREY A. HYSLOP
DAVID A. IRVINE
JAMES H. ISAKSON
ELIZABETH S. JACKSON
CARSON J. JACOBS
WINSTON O. JAMES
JEFFREY T. JAO
JOHN B. JARNAGIN
JOSHUA L. JEFFRESS
JESSAMYN R. JEMPSON
SANJAY JHA
JOSHUA M. JOHNSON
MICHAEL R. JOHNSON
ERNEST B. JONES
MICHAEL E. JONES
CHAZ R. JORDAN
IRA M. JORDAN
HEATHER C. KAISER
CHIDIEBERE U. KAMALU
NATHANIEL M. KAMINSKI
OMAR V. KASHMIRI
JACOB D. KEATING
THANE A. KELLER
RUTH KELLY
LEIGH C. KENNEDY
RYAN E. KERTIS
JEFFREY M. KIM
JOHN K. KIM
JOHN S. KIM
DEZI J. KING
JOHN F. KING
KEVIN M. KING
JAMES P. KIRBY
CHRISTINA J. KNIGHT
BRYAN M. KOLANO
JASON P. KOONTZ
KOSTYANTYN KOTOV
KEITH A. KOZAL
JOSHUA J. KRAUSE
ROBERT J. KROLESKI
RAYMOND A. KUDERKA
TIMOTHY KUPPLER
JEFFREY B. KUSYJ
JAMES S. KWOUN
RYAN T. LACEY
AMEAA A. LAGO
JASON P. LAM
SHAWNTE N. LAMPKIN
BEAUX B. LANE
HAROLD M. LARSEN
RYAN T. LEACH
ANDREW J. LECHANSKI
ALEXANDER J. LEDOUX
JULIE A. LEGGETT
BRIAN J. LENZMEIER
DAVID R. LETTRICH
ALAN G. LEUTELE
DOMINICK L. LEVAN
SERGEY V. LEVOCHKIN
SAMUEL W. LILLARD
JOHN L. LIMAURO
ADRIAN L. LIPTROT II
CHARLES A. LITZ
JENNA L. LOCK
KALMAN S. LONAI
RYAN M. LOVINER
ASH T. LUBECKE
CHANCE A. LUNDY
RYAN M. LYNCH
RYAN L. MABRY
WAYNE O. MACKEY
DAVID J. MADDAFORD
CHRISTOPHER R. MADYDA
JOSHUA A. MAGNUSSON
CANDRA K. MAITA
ALEX D. MANIER
SHAUN T. MANLEY
ELIZABETH M. MARCUCCI
RICHARD E. MARD IV
STEVEN A. MARES
CHARLES L. MARSHALL
BENJAMIN L. MARTIN
JAMES R. MARTIN
JOEL A. MARTINEZ
MICHAEL H. MATHES
PETER R. MATONIS
JOSHUA A. MAYER
LUKE G. MAZGAJ
JOSEPH W. MCCARTHY
ANGELA S. MCCOWN
KYLE D. MCELVEEN
REBECCA L. MCGILLEY
RODERICK R. MCGRAW
JOSEPH L. MCKINNEY
SEAN F. MCKNIGHT
IAN C. MCLEOD
MATTHEW E. MCMILLAN
DANIEL M. MCNAMARA
ORLANDO M. MEDINA
KEITH A. MERILLAT
MATTHEW J. MERRILL
ALEXANDER J. MEYER
JERRY A. MICKA
MICHAEL W. MILLER
DAVID MOLINANUNEZ
ERICK A. MONTALLA
IFECHIDE MONYEI
JOHN J. MOORE
TRAUN C. MOORE
MATTHEW F. MORGAN
JOSHUA F. MORRIS
KEVIN L. MORRIS
MARK J. MORRISON
ROBERT J. MORSE
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ROBERT T. MOUNTAIN
THOR A. MUNOZ
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SHELDON R. NASH
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KIMBERLY A. NEMIER
RICHARD N. NICHOLS
JOSHUA C. NOBLE
SCOTT M. NOLAND
MATTHEW W. NORRIS
DAVID A. NORTON
LAUREN R. NOWAK
TONY S. NUBER
DERRICK L. NUMBERS
DANIEL J. OCONNOR
ERIC J. OCONNOR
OLA I. OGUNLOLA
AARON W. OLIVER
RYAN N. OLIVER
NICHOLAS P. OLSON
ZACHARY R. OLSON
SERENITY R. OMALLEY
ETHAN M. ORWIN
TRAVIS K. OSCARSON
RUSSELL R. OSTERFELD
NICHOLAS T. PANTIN
MICHAEL J. PARISO
AMANDA L. PARKER
JULIAN L. PARSONS
TYLER S. PASCHAL
MICHAEL D. PATRICK
MATTHEW R. PATRONIK
JASON E. PATTERSON
JOSEPH C. PAULEY
AARON M. PETERS
LARRY B. PHELPS, JR.
KELLY M. PICKETT
NOLAN W. PIERCE
JEAN R. PIERRE
VERNON PITTMAN
JAMES D. PLEUSS
LARESHIA D. POE
AARON J. POLL
CRAIG M. PORTE
JEFFREY S. PORTER
MATTHEW P. POTTS
JAMES C. POWERS
MATTHEW E. POWERS
DANIEL J. PREISTER
DONALD G. PRILL
ANDREW R. PRUNTY
JENNIFER L. PURSER
RYAN M. PUTNAM
MICHAEL D. QUIGG II
MARK S. QUINT
GARY W. RAINER
JOEL M. RAINEY
JOHN M. RAJCH
MICAH A. RAY
DARNELL F. REED
DAVID D. REUTER
WILLIAM B. RHOADES
DANIEL S. RICHARD
ROBERT D. RICKETTS
KEYA M. RIGGINS
JOSHUA RIVERA
JAMES L. ROBERTS
RENE RODRIGUEZ
CESAR H. ROJAS III
KENDRA R. ROMAIN
RALPH B. ROSEBOROUGH
DANIEL D. ROTHENBERGER

NICHOLAS A. ROTHWELL
SEAN C. RUDDY
LINDSEY D. RYAN
JOSEPH L. SAGISI
ANTONIO M. SALINAS
DANIEL J. SAMOTIS
ELIZABETH A. SANCHEZ
GONZALO SANTIAGO
ALAN J. SCHACHTNER
ALEXANDER M. SCHADE
CORY R. SCHARBO
PATRICIA T. SCHMALTZ
BRYAN J. SCHMIDT
BRADLEY R. SCHMITT
PRESTON M. SCHOENLY
CARL A. SCHROEDER
SARAH B. SCHROEDER
OLIVER J. SCHUSTER
CARL E. SCHWEDE
JOHN P. SCIMONE
DANIEL R. SEIBEL
CHARLES M. SEITZ
ADAM G. SEYBERT
SCOTT M. SHAFFER
JACOB E. SHAHA
JASON T. SHARRITT
AARON J. SHATTUCK
JONATHAN E. SHAW
RICHARD E. SHAWGER
GRAHAM P. SHELLY
DREW D. SHEPLER
MATTHEW G. SHERBURNE
OLUBUSOLA A. SHOKUNBI
GEOFFREY L. SHRAGA
SIRENA L. SIAS
TIMOTHY F. SIMMONS
DEREK D. SMITH
DEXTER L. SMITH
KYLE L. SMITH
JOHANNA M. SMOKE
GRACE SODERBERG
JOHNNY W. SOKOLOSKY
MATTHEW W. SONGY
RANDY B. SOTO
TIMOTHY P. SOUZA
CHARLES M. SPEARS
JEFFERY L. SPENCER
MEGAN M. SPIELES
ANDREW C. SPIESS
NATHAN R. SPREITLER
JOEL W. SPRINGSTEAD
DANIEL J. STACK
DAVID B. STAMPS
SARAH A. STARR
KRISTIN A. STELZER
MALLORY L. STEPHENSON
RYAN T. STEPHENSON
ERIN A. STEVENS
OLELATH K. STEVENS
JOHN R. STMARIE
JASON E. STUCK
ERIC M. STURZINGER
KANIA M. SUKARDI
TAMMI L. SUMMERS
WILLIAM G. SWAFFORD
WINFIELD P. SWANTON
BENJAMIN E. SWEENEY
ABIGAIL L. TASSA
GEOFFREY M. TERMAN
JOHN A. TERMINATO
TYLER O. TERRILL
DEVON O. THOMAS
CHARLES J. THOMSON
WILLIAM F. THORNE
FOSTER S. THORPE
SAMUEL S. TIMMONS
ALBERT J. TIMMRECK
JAMES J. TORRENCE
NATHANIEL TUCKER, JR.
KEVIN W. TURNBLOM
TRAVIS L. TYLER
CHARLES A. UPSHAW
BRIAN H. VAENI
PABLO A. VALERIN
ROBERT V. VANDENBERG
CHRISTOPHER C. VANDERBURG
BRETT S. VANFOSSON
ORLANDO VARELA
STEPHEN C. VONJETT
ALISON S. WALLACE
CHRISTOPHER A. WEBB
MATTHEW R. WEBB
JAKE R. WEBER
JEFFREY D. WEGMEYER
BENJAMIN R. WENDLAND
SCOTT A. WIDENER
NATHAN A. WIKE
RYAN D. WILLIAMS
MICHAEL D. WILLIS
MALCOLM J. WILSON III
STEFAN K. WILSON
CLINTON W. WINLAND
MATTHEW A. WRIGHT
SERGIO C. WYLLIE
KELSEY T. YOHO
JIHOON YOO
STRATIE L. YOUNG
JINSUK YUM
TOR M. ZALESKI
JERRY W. ZEVECKE
DANNY Z. ZHU
SHANNON P. ZORN
D004513
D011884
D012282
D012581
D012736
D012744
D012834
D012940
D013008
D013099
D013214
D013219
D013238
D013240
G010267
G010332
G010336
G010352
G010382
G010388

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

AMIR A. ABUAKEEL
ALEXANDER ACHEAMPONG
JACLYN A. ADAMS
SHAWN A. ADKINS
JOHN D. AITKEN
ROBERT L. ALI
ALAN J. ALVIS
PAUL D. AMIS
BRIAN E. ANDERSON
DOWAYNE L. ANDERSON
JERRY O. ANDES
JOHNJAMES K. ARTECHE
HANNAH AUER
JACOB Z. BAKER
CRAIG M. BANNER
JAMES L. BARLOWE
NATHAN A. BARR
ESTELA M. BARRIOS
HOWARD J. BARROW III
YANIA BATES
CURTIS E. BAXTER
NATHANIEL S. BECKETT
ANTHONY BELLOFIGUEROA
BRADLEY R. BENJAMIN
KARL E. BENNETT, JR.
MICHAEL D. BENNETT
HUNTER J. BERG
CHRISTOPHER D. BIEBER
NICHOLAS B. BINGHAM
TIMOTHY L. BIRD
BENJAMIN E. BIRTLES
IAN W. BLACK
TODD A. BLACK
RANDALL W. BLAKESLEE
MARCUS A. BLUNT
RICHARD E. BOBO
DREE V. BOGGS
CESAR BONILLA
CHRISTIAN J. BONNO
RHONDA M. BOOTH
RICHARD G. BOYES
DAWN M. BRAUGHTON
NICHOLE L. BRAXTON
BRIAN BRENNAN
ROBERT M. BRICKLEY
ERIKA A. BROUSSARD
JASON A. BROWN
MATTHEW L. BROWN
WILLIAM J. BUCHLEITNER IV
ANGELA M. BULANDA
BERNARDJAMES B. BUNAL
WILLIAM D. BURCH
PHILLIP E. BURRIS
BRENDEN B. BURSON
DANIEL A. BUSTAMANTE
DARIEN L. BUTLER
JOHNATHAN L. BUTLER
MBUKOYO O. BUTLER
SAMUEL G. BUTLER
MEGAN C. CAIN
PATRICIA J. CAMERON
COREY D. CAMPBELL
ELIZABETH F. CANTRELL
MATTHEW M. CAPPS
NICHOLAS J. CARELAS
ANTHONY W. CARLSON
JOHN M. CARRIA
MICHAEL J. CARROLL
CORY R. CARTER
FRANK CASTRO
THOMAS W. CAYIA
VERONICA CELIZ
DANIEL W. CHANDLER
DANNY C. CHARLES
LAWERENCE E. CHARLES
RORI J. CHRISCOJANKER
WHITNEY L. CISSELL
KRISTINA N. CLARK
CHRISTOPHER J. CLONES
JEREMY G. COATES
JOSHUA G. COBB
SHERON L. COLLINS
CALEB S. CONANT
SARAH D. CORDOVA
DANIELLE K. CORK
RAVEN A. CORNELIUS
RYAN C. CORNELLDECHERT
DEWEY A. COURTNEY
CHRISTOPHER L. CRAGER
ANDREW J. CROWE
MICHELLE L. CROWE
FORREST E. CURETON
BENJAMIN P. DALTON
THOMAS M. DANNENBERG
JOHN R. DART
TAMARA A. DASILVA
JESSICA D. DAVILA
ANGELA L. DAVIS
CHARLES N. DAVIS, JR.
JEFFREY W. DAVIS II
MICHELLE L. DAVIS
KEVIN A. DEAN
BRIAN D. DEERIN
MARK P. DEGEN
STEVE L. DELEON
TIMOTHY P. DEMERATH
LEKISA M. DEMPSEY
CHRISTOPHER R. DEVENPORT
ADAM F. DIGIOVANNI
RYAN T. DITTMER
NGOCUYEN T. DO
CAMDEN P. DONNELLY
LINDSAY A. DUDLEY
YOON G. DUNHAM
DANIEL P. DUPLESSIS
TANNER J. DURHAM
ELIZABETH A. DZWONCZYK
JASON H. EATON
KIMARD D. EGLETON
KINARD R. EGLETON
BRIAN D. EHRENHEIM
MELISSA J. ELLEDGE
KIMBERLY L. ELLENBURG
ERIC J. ERICKSON
RICHARD M. EZELL
MICHAEL C. FAGER
CASSONDRA N. FAIR
SPENCER K. FARMER
STEPHEN J. FEEHAN
AMANDA L. FEINDT
KARENGAIL N. FERNANDO
ROBERT A. FERTIG
KEITH A. FETTER
LACARLA M. FETZER
NATHAN R. FIELD
GREKII Y. FIELDER
KURT L. FINDLAY
WESLEY E. FINK
AARON C. FOIST
ELVIN J. FORTUNA
THERESA F. FOUDA
MICHAEL A. FRAZIER
JONATHAN W. FREDERICKS
BRANDON B. FRIDIA
ROBERT B. FROBERG
TIFFANEY R. FRYSON
LEAH M. GANONI
ANTONIO C. GARCIA
DAVID C. GARCIA
MARCOS R. GARCIA
BRYANT J. GARNER
TERENCE D. GASPICH
THEODORE U. GEBHARDTSBAUER
JOHN A. GERMANCERI
JUSTIN L. GERRON
NATHAN J. GILDEN
ROGER L. GINDLESPERGER, JR.
RUSSELL W. GLASS
NATHANIEL L. GLENN, JR.
SEAN T. GODFREY
MICHAEL J. C. GOMEZ
KAI A. GONSALVES
NATHAN E. GONTARZ
THOMAS R. GORMAN
RICKY A. GRANT
CARO V. GRAY
CHRISTOPHER H. GRAY
JENNIFER O. GUERRA
JANMICHAEL T. GUILLERMO
SHANA L. GURLEY
MICAH J. HALL
MARK R. HAMILTON
BENNETTA L. HAMM
LOUIS C. HARE
TERRY HARGRAVES
CHRISTOPHER J. HARMON
PAULA J. HARRELL
ANTONIA D. HARRIS
MILES T. HAURITZ
JEFFREY J. HAYS
BRADLEY J. HEINLEY
PHILLIP D. HETTEBERG
CHRISTOPHER H. HEUGHAN
ROBERT B. HEYWOOD
KEVIN A. HICKS
ANDREW J. HIGGINS
LUKE P. HIGH
EDWIN A. HOCKER
PHILLIP M. HOFFMAN
JOHN N. HOLCOMB
JOSEPH H. HOLLISTER
KEVIN D. HOLLOWAY
NATHANIEL W. HOLMAN
HAL W. HOOGSTRA
JOSHUA P. HOOPER
MATTHEW S. HOPCHAK
DERREK T. HOPPER
JASON L. HORTON
KENNETH T. HORTON
KHANDOKER M. HOSSAIN
BALLAH HOWARD
MICHAEL J. HUDDLESTON
WALTER G. HUEWITT, JR.
CHAD R. HUGGINS
JEREMIAH M. HUNT
JOHN A. HURD
MICHELLE L. HUTCHINSON
JESSICA M. HUTH
DONG Y. HYUN
JOSEPH A. IANNITTI
CRAIG M. IWEN
FRANKIE J. JACKSON
GREGORY S. JACKSON

XAVIER M. JACKSON
JAMES G. JACOBS
CHRISTINA H. JAMES
DEZERIE N. JEMMOTT
LAWRENCE V. JENKINS III
MICHAEL R. JOHNSON
KRISTEN D. JONES
TESSA A. JONES
VERONICA D. JORDAN
SCOTT C. KAMP
BRYAN V. KELSO
JULIE M. KENDRICK
JOHNATHAN S. KENNEDY
ERIK T. KIFUNE
DAE Y. KIM
AARON D. KINDER
CURTIS N. KINZEY
THOMAS C. KIRKPATRICK
MICAH J. KLEIN
MICHAEL W. KLEMMER
YURIY KNYSHEV
JEFFREY W. KOCIAN
MATTHEW S. KOTOWSKI
MICHAEL A. KRIVENSKY
WALTER E. KRUSE
SHIVNESH S. KUMAR
JACOB C. KUNZLER
JASON R. LANGER
TARA M. LARSEN
JOSHUA M. LAWRENCE
STEPHEN C. LAWSON
ALBERT D. LECOUNTE
JONATHAN D. LEGGETT
JULIA C. LENSING
TANYA M. LEONARD
JORDAN A. LESTER
SCOTT A. LITTLE
TEREZ M. LITTLE
ALLISON L. LOMBARDO
CHARLES H. LOVERUDE
FAITH F. LOZANO
RICHARD A. LOZANO
DAVID A. LUKEFAHR
DARRELL L. LYLES
JENNIFER E. LYONS
JUSTIN D. MACHT
MICHAEL M. MADISON
MIRANDA Y. MAGEEREESE
AARON S. MANN
ROVI M. MARTIN
JOSEFINA M. MARTINEZ
JUAN G. MARTINEZ
ORLANDO J. MARTINEZKIANEZ
MICHAEL S. MAULDIN
MARYKATHRYN M. MAXHEIMER
MARK R. MAY
JOSHUA L. MCCASLIN
AUBREY D. MCCAULEY
MICHELLELYNN F. MCDEVITT
CURTIS M. MCDONALD
TIMOTHY MCGEE
JAMAIL R. MCGLONE
MICHAEL J. MCGOWAN
TODD D. MCMILLAN
BRYANT L. MCMILLIAN
THELMA L. MCQUARLEY
JOSHUA S. MEADOR
ERICK M. MENDOZA
NATALIE L. MENG
KRYSTAL A. MERCHAN
JAMIE D. MICHEL
KEVIN J. MICHEL
CHRISTOPHER L. MILES
BENJAMIN D. MILLER
CAYATRA C. MILLER
BURTON H. MILNOR, JR.
ROBERT W. MITCHELL II
PAUL L. MOELLER, JR.
CRYSTAL D. MOORE
ARIANNA D. MORELL
ZACKARY H. MOSS
NAKESHA L. MOULTRIE
KATE C. MURRAY
LESIA M. MURRAY
JACQUELINE H. MURRAYBONNO
JEFFREY G. NEAL
ROY J. NEIL, JR.
STEPHEN M. NEPPL
JOSHUA J. NEWBY
KEVIN R. NICHOLAS
MICHAEL J. NICHOLLS
CHRISTY L. NICHOLS
KRISTOPHER D. NICHOLS
JOHN P. NIKIFORAKIS
BRIAN T. NOBLE
CHRISTOPHER J. NOLL
DANIEL V. NOSSE
ZACHARY A. NOVITSKE
KATHY L. NOWAK
AMANDA K. OBLEY
FRED W. ODUKA
MICHAEL O. OKEOWO
HENRY OKOROAFOR
BENJAMIN J. OLSEN
JOSEPH R. OLSON
SEAN P. OMALLEY
TAMARA J. ONEAL
KIMBERLY M. ORDONEZ
BRIAN J. ORLINO
WILLIAM A. ORTEGAGUERRERO
PEDRO PACHECO
CLINT C. PAJELA
ZACHARY D. PALKO
APRIL D. PALOMAR
KYE E. PANNELL
VICTORIA L. PARRISH
KENNETH S. PATTERSON
THOMAS L. PATTERSON
TANYA V. PAYNE
CHIQUITIA S. PEARSON
DANIEL L. PECHACEK
JOSHUA L. PEEPLES
ANDREW E. PEKAREK
HAROLD PEREAJIMENEZ
ARMANDO PEREZ
LINA V. PEREZ
MICHAEL G. PESANO
LOREN N. PETERSEN
CHERQURIA L. PETERSON
MATTHEW T. PETERSON
SHERMAN PINCKNEY
JEREMY R. PINSON
TYNIKA E. N. PINTER
JOSEPH W. PITTARD
RYAN M. PLEMMONS
DAVID A. POE
MATTHEW K. PORTER
JUAN C. PRATTS
MONIQUE M. PULLIN
PATRICIA A. PUTNAM
BRANDON A. PYE
KHADINE R. QUASHIE
JEROMY C. RAATZ
CRAIG M. RAINES
JAMES RAINEY III
SEAN C. RALEIGH
JOHN P. RAWLINSON
ANGELA M. REABOLD
JOHN P. READ
SHERILYN F. REED
AARON S. REEDY
WILLIAM J. REINSTATLER
NATHANIEL A. RICE
WAYNE D. RICHEY, JR.
RICHARD J. RICKETTS IV
MARIA E. RINALDI
FREDDY RIOS
VERNELL L. RIXNER
BRIDGET D. ROBSHAW
KERMAN A. RODRIGUEZ
DANIEL J. ROMERO
JOSE C. ROMERO
CRYSTAL A. ROREBECK
CHASITY L. ROSS
CHRISTOPHER C. ROYAL
GARRETT D. RUUD
JOHNNY SAHAGUN
CLEFF M. SALADINO
JUAN C. SALAS
DION R. SAMUEL
MATHEW J. SCALISE
CHRISTOPHER N. SCHKERKE
WILLIAM R. SCHMIDT
MATTHEW R. SCHNELLER
BENJAMIN J. SCHUPPEL
JOHN F. SCHUSTER II
MELISSA S. SCHWARZ
ANDREW J. SEE
JEFFREY R. SEITZ
CHRISTINA C. SHELTON
ADAM T. SHEVOCK
NIYA SHIPP
ERIC W. SHUMPERT
NEAL J. SIVULA
MERCEDES B. SKIDMORE
JESSICA F. SMITH
LEHMAN F. SMITH III
MUSHAWN D. SMITH
ANTHONY M. SOIKA
CHARLES T. SOLAITA
JEFFREY T. SOWECKE
STEVEN M. SPIKER
JAMES P. STAGGS
LLOYD J. STERLING III
LEWIS N. STEVENSON
MICHAEL D. STEWART
KRISTIE M. STUCKENSCHNEIDER
KEITH D. STUTTS
ALICE SYLVESTER
SHAWN S. TAJALLE
DEAN W. TALLANT
RYAN W. TALLANT
ERICK B. TAYLOR
MICHAEL W. TAYLOR
LACHINA T. TAYLORTROTMAN
DARREN K. TEMPLETON
ERIC J. TERRELL
JARED D. THARP
RONALD N. THENN
ANDREW T. THOMAS
MICHAEL B. THOMAS
PETRA L. THOMAS
GABRIELA S. THOMPSON
ERIC T. THORNBURG
MAGALY R. THURMAN
ANGEL L. TOMKO
JUSTIN D. TONELLI
MICHELLE E. TROESCH
KONSTANTINOS N. TSILIANOS
JASON B. TURNER
JOHN M. TURNER
MATTHEW R. UPRIGHT
NATALIE S. UPWARD
PEDRO VALDES
KURTIS P. VANALLEN
JAMIE D. VESTAL
RYAN E. VIDAURRI
OMAR VILLAFANE
ADAM C. VOGEL
PENNY M. VOLINO
JOHNATHAN M. WAGNER
DARRYL A. WALKER
MICAH A. WALKER
TYESHA N. WALKER
DAVID A. WALLACE
STEVEN J. WALLACE
RYAN A. WARNHOFF
KORNELIYA S. WATERS
MICHAEL J. WATKINS
DARLENE L. WEAVER
VERNON E. WEBB
DAVID A. WEINREICH
BRANDON M. WEISS
MELONIE A. WEST
MILENA I. WILLIAMS
ROBBIE F. WILSON
RYAN C. WILSON
LASHONDA W. WISE
MELANIE M. WOLFE
JACOB A. WOOD
LATORAY A. WOOD
SAMMY R. WOODBURN
JOSHUA D. WOODRUFF
KEVIN J. WRIGHT
YAW D. YAKUBU
JEREMY L. YAMA
EUNSEOK YOO
MARK A. YORE
CHARLES C. YORK III
SHERITA L. YOUNG
DREW ZABRISKIE
D011714
D012452
D012474
D012799
D012999
D013032
D013195
D013242
D013352

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

VANESSA R. ASMUS
GARTH T. BEAVON
PAULA J. BECKER
BRYANT A. BOOHAR
WAYNE T. BRANOM III
KYLE V. BURGAMY
VICTORIA L. CAMIRE
JOSHUA M. CARTER
DAVID M. CLASSEN
CHRISTOPHER CLAUSEN
COURTNEY M. COHEN
JESSICA B. COLSIA
ANDREW J. CORIMSKI
BRETT A. CRAMER
KATE V. DAFOE
TIMOTHY A. DAVIS
KATHERINE L. DEPAUL
BRYN P. DETTMER
CHRISTOPHER D. DONLIN
COLLIN P. EVANS
EDWARD S. FAIELLO III
BLAKE A. FELDMAN
JAMES M. FLANAGAN
MATTHEW A. FREEMAN
TODD C. GATELY
CHRISTOPHER D. GOREN
THOMAS P. GOWER
SAMUEL W. GRABILL
WILLIAM M. GRADY
GAVIN G. GRIMM
JODIE L. GRIMM
JAMIE L. GURTOV
MATTHEW W. HAYNES
MITCHELL D. HERNIAK
STEVEN C. HIGGINS
PATRICK A. HOLLY
HSIENJAN HUANG
JOHN F. HUMMEL
SIMONE L. JACK
MATTHEW M. JONES
IAN T. KLINKHAMER
CHRISTOPHER J. KOSCHNITZKY
TIMOTHY J. KOTSIS
JEFFREY D. KYLE
ERIK D. LAPIN
DANIEL A. LARSON
VIVIAN M. LEAVENS
BLAKE A. MARTIN
FELIX S. MASON
TIMOTHY J. MATHEWS
TIMOTHY J. MINTER
MATT D. MONTAZZOLI
JESSICA J. MORALES
DANIEL M. MOW
MICHAEL E. MURRAY
JOSEPH G. NOSSE
JUSTIN L. NOTTINGHAM
ANTONIO J. PATACA
JAMES L. PAUL
JOHN P. POLICASTRO
CHRISTOPHER B. RICH
JAMES P. ROBINSON
CORY T. SCARPELLA
JOSHUA P. SCHEEL
KALIN P. SCHLUETER
PATRICK J. SCUDIERI
JACLYN E. SHEA
DANA M. SHERMAN
JOHN E. SHUTT
JONATHAN C. SIEGLER
PAUL W. SILVER
MATTHEW A. SINOR
CURTIS C. SMITH
KATHERINE M. SPANNAGEL

NEIL C. STAUFFER
KEITH A. STEWART
STEVEN P. SZYMANSKI
DAVID R. TALBOTT
MATTHEW J. TEXTOR
GREGORY A. VETERE
AMANDA L. WALBURN
KRISTOPHER J. WHITTENBERGER
JAMES A. WOODRUFF
RYAN T. YODER
D013007

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

MICHAEL C. FLYNN

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

STEVE L. MARTINELLI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

JENNIFER M. BAGER
DAVID A. BAKER
JEREMY T. BEAUCHAMP
SHERYL A. BEDNO
JASON D. BOTHWELL
LYNDEN P. BOWDEN
DUSTIN L. BOYER
KARL W. BREWER
MILLARD D. BROWN III
JAY R. BUCCI
JESSICA L. BUNIN
CHRISTIAN L. CARLSON
DANIEL W. CARLSON
WESLEY A. CLARKSON
CHRISTOPHER J. COLOMBO
JONATHAN M. DAVISON
LAURA DAWSON
MARK E. DEMICHIEI
MICHAEL S. DEMPSEY
KIMBERLY M. DEVORE
NICOLE R. DOBSON
SEAN N. DOOLEY
MATTHEW N. FANDRE
MELISSA A. FOROUHAR
SEAN J. FORTSON
TRAVIS C. FRAZIER
RANDALL FREEMAN
CASEY J. GEANEY
BRANDON J. GOFF
WILLIAM J. GRIEF
MATTHEW E. GRIFFITH
ELIZABETH A. GROSSART
MICHAEL T. HAMILTON
BRIAN A. HEMANN
JAMES R. HEMPEL
KIMBERLY W. HICKEY
KEVIN A. HORDE
MATTHEW T. HUEMAN
MARC A. HULTQUIST
DEREK F. IPSEN
CHRISTOPHER G. IVANY
LINDA G. JACKSON
JEREMY D. JOHNSON
ADAM B. KANIS
JASON D. KENDELHARDT
KENNETH D. KUHN
PAUL O. KWON
CRAIG S. LABUDA
WALTER S. LEITCH
GEORGE T. LEONARD
STEPHANIE L. LEONG
THOMAS R. LOVAS
JASON D. MARQUART
ERICK MARTELL
SCOTT F. MCCLELLAN
MARSHALL C. MENDENHALL
CHRISTOPHER D. MEYERING
MARK W. MEYERMANN
JAMES E. MOON
ANDREW R. MORGAN
PHILIP S. MULLENIX
KEVIN M. NAKAMURA
KENNETH J. NELSON
KARIN L. NICHOLSON
THOMAS E. NOVAK
SCOTT C. ORR
WILLIAM D. PORTER
DAVID L. SAUNDERS
BRADFORD J. SCANLAN
SEAN T. SMITH
JONATHAN R. STABILE
COURTNEY T. TRIPP
EDUARDO M. VIDAL
JACK R. WALTER
PAIGE E. WATERMAN
RONALD S. WELLS
THOMAS M. WERTIN
BRADFORD P. WHITCOMB
PAUL W. WHITE
EUGENE W. WILSON
RAMEY L. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

ALFRED C. ANDERSON
ELLIOTT BERMUDEZCOLON
SO B. CHOI
TYRUS N. HATCHER
JON D. LIBBESMEIER
KENDALL R. MOWER
JAY R. OWENS III
SCOTT RANKIN
JENNIFER V. SABOL
ROBERT J. SELDERS, JR.
GARY STONE
KELLEY TOMSETT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

KENNETH AHORRIO
RAINA D. ALEJOS
HEATHER R. ALSUPMORTON
BENJAMIN P. ALTHUISIUS
PATRICIA L. ALVAREZ
MONINA C. ANCHETA
DON C. ANDREWS
JAMES A. ARD
GLENTON I. ATWELL
MARY M. AYRES
JOANNA A. BAILEY
TRACEY T. BALDAUF
HEATHER R. BARTON
LEE D. BENDICKSON
DAVID M. BLANK
SUSAN J. BROWN
TANISHA L. BRUNS
JASON T. BRZUCHALSKI
DANIELLE L. BUCHS
LAURA L. CACKLEY
LATONIA F. CASON
RICHARD T. CETKOWSKI
STACY A. CLEMENTS
KAREN E. COLON
KATHERINE L. CONVERSE
MAURICIA J. DAILEY
ANDREW R. DAVIS
JOBY L. DENNY
TROY D. DILMAR
DEIDRA R. S. DODD
MATTHEW P. DOELLMAN
KIM S. DORTELUS
SHARON D. DOUGLAS
DAPHNE A. ELLIS
ROBERT A. FABICH, JR.
LESLIE K. FARRIOR
SHINITA L. B. FAVORS
AMANDA R. FERGUSON
ALLISON L. FERRO
GAYLE E. FISHER
YOSEF FUFA
CHRISTYN A. GAA
JOSHUA D. GADD
JORDAN P. GAMMONS
KEITHBARRY L. GARCIA
JESSE M. GOSSETT
LISABETH P. GROVE
AMY M. HAMMOCK
RENEE T. HART
STEPHANIE S. HAYES
ACIE M. HAYRY
SARAH E. HENSLEY
JONATHAN W. HODGES
LAMARR K. HOWELL
AMY L. JACOBS
CASSANDRA P. JAMES–IVERY
MELISSA M. KALIS
JOSEPH E. KELLOGG
JULES Q. KENNEDY
JI Y. KIM
WILHELM A. KOGLER
WENDY M. KRULL
ZACHARY J. KUFAHL
BRITTANY H. KULL
RHONDA K. LEARY
CYNTHIA B. LEE
LINDSAY J. LESKANICH
MEGAN E. LORENZ
BRIAN M. LOWERY
MICHAEL S. MACEACHERN
LAURA C. MARTIN
JEANETTE E. MARTINEZ
KATE M. MCCLOUD
TAYLOR K. MCMURDO
JIMMEDDA L. MILLS
BETTY L. MOORE
BEVERLY D. MOORE
GARY J. MOORE
LAUREN N. NASH
JEFFRY T. NEGARD
TRACY L. OUTLAW
CRAIG L. PAINE
ANDREA M. PAPA
ELIZABETH A. POINDEXTER
RONALDO D. PRUDENTE
TREVOR J. READ
EURANA A. RODRIGUEZ
ROBINSON RODRIGUEZ
TARA J. ROMAN
MARISOL ROSA
ELIZABETH RUIZ
JULIA T. RYAN
MARIAM K. SABAS
PETER A. SHELLABARGER
KARLENE P. SIERRA
NEIDRA D. SIMMONS
PAMELA J. SIMONDS
MARILYN SOTO
JUSTIN J. SPEARS
RYAN L. STANFIELD
AMY S. STAUB
INDIA R. STOVER
ANGELA L. STRAKER
EARL M. STUTZMAN
THERESA M. SUGGS
DOUGLAS A. TAYLOR
MARTINA O. TAYLORCAMPBELL
LATONIA R. THOMPSON
ASHLEY D. TORRENCE
DANIEL J. TUNISON
AMY M. UPDIKE
ELIZABETH A. URBANSKI
CHARLES D. WALKER
ROGER WEBB
LAKESHA L. WILLIAMS
PATRICIA L. WILLIAMSON
BETHANY R. WITTNAM
MARC R. WONG
MATTHEW M. WYNNE
LATHASHA L. WYTCHBURGESS
YEO C. YOON
FRANCES R. YOUNG
JACQULINE T. YOUNG
KARA J. YOUNG
LUZ E. ZAMBRANO
JUDIZA L. ZELAYA
PAUL W. ZIEGLER III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

TOLULOPE O. ADEYEMI
BOMA O. AFIESIMAMA
AMY A. ALHEIM
AMANDA L. ALLEN
PAMELA R. ASKEW
DEREK J. AUBEL
CHRISTOPHER BAGLIVO
MICHAEL A. BAKER
ARMAND L. BALBONI
SETH D. BALDWIN
MELISSA F. BALTAZAR
PAUL V. BANKSTON
MANUELA A. G. BAULDRY
CAMILLE I. BETITO
SHUBHRA BHATTACHARYAJONES
JEFFREY D. BIDDULPH
REBECCA A. C. BLOOD
GREGORY P. BODENSTEINER
STEVEN G. BREWER
JOHN R. BROUSSARD
STERLING O. BROWN
SUMMER M. BROWNELLIS
JARED H. BRYNILDSEN
TREVOR R. BUCKLEY
LUIS G. CALLECARDENAS
ROMMEL B. CAMANGEG
BERNARDO C. CARBO
JAMES C. CAREY
JOSEPHINE CARPANZANO
KATHERINE A. CARR
VALERIE L. CARSON
EILEEN C. CASSIDY
JOSHUA T. CAUSEY
WILLIAM C. CAVE
CHRISTOPHER S. CHAMLEE
ADAM E. CHARLES
MEGAN M. CHAVEZ
CHARLES H. CHOI
ROBERT E. CHU
NICOLE M. CINTRON
HERBERT W. CLAYBURN
JORDAN M. COBURN
KELLEY C. COLLINS
LOIS A. COLWELL
DANA M. COOK
THOMAS J. COSTEIRA
CHARLES S. COX, JR.
STEPHEN L. CRIMMINS
ADAM B. DAVIES
FREDRICK D. DAVIS
SUEHAYDEE DECHAUNY
ROBERT B. DIXON
CHRISTOPHER W. DRAKE
MONTY B. EDWARDS
BRADLEY S. ELLIS
JOSE H. ESPINOZA
SHAWN A. FITZGERALD
GREGORY J. FREDERICKS
GARY FREEMAN, JR.
LANCE R. FREEMAN
GABRIEL O. GANDIA, JR.
WILLIAM E. GARRISON
TRAVIS R. GILCHRIEST
BEVERLEY S. GOFFINET
LETICIA GONZALEZ
JASON W. GREEN
JAMES J. GREENE, JR.
AARON S. GRIFFIN
JONATHAN P. HAINES
GLENDA HANNASOANES
RAYMOND W. HANSON
SCOTT M. HAROLD
SIGRID L. HARRISON
KEVIN L. HAYES
KRISTA M. HERNANDEZ
CATHERINE J. HERRERA
ERICK M. HEYGOOD
MARIE A. HOFFMAN
EMILY B. HOLCOMB

MARY K. HOURIHAN
JAMES H. HSIAU
VIOLET L. HURD
JENNIFER B. HUSBANDS
DONALD D. INGRIM
JENNIFER J. JACKIW
GARRION L. JACKSON
GARRETT E. JOHN
JAREE L. JOHNSON
VICTOR M. JOHNSON
DANIEL T. JONES
PAMELA D. JORDAN
WALTER N. KAER IV
CHRISTOPHER W. KAHN
BAISHALI KANJILAL
WILLIAM J. KELLER
MONIQUE C. KENNERLY
CLARENCE L. KETTERER
SEAN M. KILEY
APRIL M. KIMBLE
DAVID A. KINGERY
KERRI D. KLINGSEIS
LYNDSAY A. KNOBLOCKFAST
BRIAN D. KNOTT
NICKALOUS A. KORBUT
JEFFREY R. KUGELMAN
ERIKA L. LANDERS
RYAN R. LARSON
CHEWANDA E. LATHAN
ESMERALDA L. LINAN
RYAN J. LINDELL
KATHERINE E. LITTLE
TODD E. MANDLEY
KENNETH R. MARTENS
BRYANT O. MASSENBURG
JESSICA L. MAXIM
SARAH J. MCCREIGHT
STEVEN E. MCDANIEL
BARBARA L. MCGILL
LEE P. MCPHATTER
JOANNE A. MEDINA
WILLIAM J. MENNIS
WILLIAM R. MESSICK
LEAH H. MISIALEK
JOSEPH C. MOEN
SAMIRAH A. MOHAMMED
MATTHEW S. MOORE
STEFANIE K. MOORE
CHRISTOPHER E. MORGAN
JACOB B. MORTON
ROBIN A. MULLINS
DANIELLE D. MURRAY
OTTO R. NADAL
ROBERT J. NADEAU
FE M. NALL
JEFFREY C. NASON
KYLE R. NEBELSICK
KEN NGUYEN
TRIET M. NGUYEN
ERIC V. NI
GODFREY K. NKWANTABISA
SHANNON D. NORDEN
JASON P. NORLIEN
JOHN A. OKOLO
MYONG H. PAK
THOMAS J. PATTERSON
JOSEPH A. PEABODY
JOSHUA A. PERRY
SHEA E. PHILLIPS
EDWIN A. PIERCE
EMANUEL PIERRE
JENNIFER R. POWERS
STEVEN L. QUINN
TOBIN A. RADER
JAMEL M. REESE
JOSEPH M. REMESZGUERRETTE
EDWARD R. ROACH
TOYA ROBINSON
JOSE H. RODRIGUEZ
JASON A. ROGERS
INO M. RUIZ
ELIZABETH A. SALL
LATISHA J. SCOTT
RUSSELL E. SCOTT
ELIZABETH A. SEBERO
SEUNG P. SEO
SCOTT E. SERONELLO
SEAN C. SHEPPARD
BONNIE L. SHORT
DENA G. SHORT
JON R. SHORT
TRAVIS C. SIMMONS
SEAN L. SPENCER
JONATHAN M. SPIKES
BOWMAN J. SPILLANE
SCOTT E. STANLEY
LEAH M. STEDER
BRYAN H. STEWART
JENNIFER L. STIDLEY
WESLEY N. STOKES
STEPHANIE M. STRESSMAN
EBONY M. STUBBS
BRENDA S. SUMNER
JOANN A. TAALIB
JAMES A. TAYLOR, JR.
MATTHEW D. TAYLOR
BENJAMIN G. TESFAYE
ROBERT C. THORNTON
ANDREY V. TSEPELEV
THOMAS A. TUCKER II
DAVID W. TYSON
ALEJANDRO J. VALENZUELA
KYLE P. VANDINGSTEE
DAVID S. VISE
KELLY J. WALKER
TED P. WALKER
WALTER A. WALSH, JR.
TIMOTHY W. WARNER
TERICKA L. WASHINGTON
KELSHA D. WEAVER
AMANDA R. WEBB
STEVEN R. WENTZ
ANNIE D. WHEELER
JOHN D. WILLIAMS
ALVIN C. WILLIAMSON
BETINA M. WILLIE
AUSTIN M. WILLIS
WILLIAM J. WILSON
MICHAEL T. YATES
ELLIE J. YOUNG
D013595

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

PAUL J. E. AUCHINCLOSS
JAMIE D. BELL
VANESSA E. BONNER
JULIE A. BOWMAN
NICOLE H. BROWN
PHILIP CASTANEDA
GARY W. CLARKSON
KEITH M. COLLINSWORTH
COLT CRUTCHFIELD
ZACH A. DELABASTIDE
MICHAEL J. DELAVEGA
JASON M. DILLASHAW
ZAKIYA B. A. DIXON
THOMAS J. DRUMMOND
JOHN A. DUNNING
KENT E. ELLSWORTH
GARTH B. EVERS
ELRICO B. FERNANDEZ
ANDREW J. GALDI
DONNA P. GOODSON
TREVOR A. D. GORMAN
LATASHA D. GRAY
TODD J. HEER
MATTHEW S. HELTON
CHRISTIN L. JESSEN
LISA M. JIN
MEGHAN E. JOYCE
CYRUS H. KARDOUNI
JOSEPH P. KENNIFF II
ROBERT M. KISTNER
BRIAN R. KREISEL
KIRSTEN E. KROLL
JULIE A. KUJAWA
MICHAEL S. LADUKE
BRYAN C. LEE
RICHARD LEVADA
ROBERT M. LEVESQUE
JAY M. LLOYD
LAKESHIA T. LOGAN
JAMES F. LOPATA
ADHANA J. MCCARTHY
ANDREW MCPHIE
ABRAHAM MEDINA, JR.
STEFFEN G. MEILER
RODNEY MENEZES
JASON R. MITCHLER
PAUL E. MOCHMER
THOMAS P. MOLTON II
KATRINA S. MONTI
JEAN P. MONTREUIL
JOHN E. MORRISON
JENNIFER F. MULLINS
DALE A. NELSON
MICHAEL W. NOYES
LANCE R. OLDORF
BRIDGET A. OWENS
JEFFREY C. PASCHALL
CHRISTOPHER A. PETERSON
MICHAEL W. PRIEBE
VANESSA J. RAMIREZ
JEFFREY M. SCHMIDT
BRIAN C. SMEDICK
JOSEPH L. STEELE
ROBERT F. STOKES
TRINITY S. STOREY
PAUL D. STROHL
ELIOT J. THOMASMA
JON A. UMLAUF
ZEBULON L. WILKIN
ROBIN L. WILSON
AMANDA L. WOLFE
ANDREA S. WOLFE
YAOYAO ZHU
JUSTIN ZIMMERMAN
BARUCH ZOBRIST
D011608
D012628

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

RACHEL A. ACCIACCA
BRIAN S. ADAMS
MICHAEL A. BENCIVENGA
EMILY R. BINGHAM
RICHARD T. BROOKSBY
JULIE P. BROWN
DANIEL W. CHRISTENSEN
ANDREW J. CICCOLINI
JONATHAN M. COFFMAN
TRICIA F. CULBERTSON
MARILYNN J. CULBRETH
JESSICA E. DOWLING
JOANNA E. FISHBACK
AMANDA M. HAUCK
KATHY K. S. LEBERT
CRYSTAL LINDABERRYGONZALEZ
MEGHAN E. LOUIS
MORGAN A. MANDER
ANNA M. MANDRA
MONICA L. MARTIN
SABRINA N. MCGRAW
EMILY K. PURSWELL
SEAN R. STOCKWELL
DANIELLE R. TULLOSS
JEFFREY J. ULLMER
LAUREN E. WHITE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHRISTOPHER J. BROWN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. , SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

DANIEL B. KING
TODD E. WAINMAN

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

AARON B. MAYER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

SHEILA I. ALMENDRAS–FLAHERTY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JOHN J. KITT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

ADRIAN D. RAGLAND

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U. S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MARK S. JIMISON
GARRETT E. MEANS
ERIC K. TERASHIMA
MARK A. THIEME
SHAWN P. WONDERLICH

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 27, 2017:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TONY D. BAUERNFEIND
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM T. COOLEY
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN L. DAVIS
BRIG. GEN. PATRICK J. DOHERTY
BRIG. GEN. JAMES A. JACOBSON
BRIG. GEN. DAVID A. KRUMM
BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY A. KRUSE
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL A. MINIHAN
BRIG. GEN. SHAUN Q. MORRIS
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS E MURPHY
BRIG. GEN. DAVID S. NAHOM
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN W. OLIVER, JR.
BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. PLETCHER
BRIG. GEN. SCOTT L. PLEUS
BRIG. GEN. JOHN T. RAUCH, JR.
BRIG. GEN. BRIAN S. ROBINSON
BRIG. GEN. RICKY N. RUPP
BRIG. GEN. DIRK D. SMITH
BRIG. GEN. KIRK W. SMITH
BRIG. GEN. PAUL W. TIBBETS IV
BRIG. GEN. ANDREW J. TOTH
BRIG. GEN. MARK E. WEATHERINGTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAGVIN R. M. ANDERSON
COL. JASON R. ARMAGOST

COL. CRAIG R. BAKER
COL. GENTRY W. BOSWELL
COL. RICHARD H. BOUTWELL
COL. RYAN L. BRITTON
COL. BRIAN R. BRUCKBAUER
COL. LANCE R. BUNCH
COL. TODD D. CANTERBURY
COL. CASE A. CUNNINGHAM
COL. EVAN C. DERTIEN
COL. MICHAEL L. DOWNS
COL. TROY E. DUNN
COL. DEREK C. FRANCE
COL. DAVID M. GAEDECKE
COL. PHILIP A. GARRANT
COL. ANTHONY W. GENATEMPO
COL. KRISTIN E. GOODWIN
COL. CHRISTOPHER J. IRELAND
COL. DAVID R. IVERSON
COL. JOEL D. JACKSON
COL. RONALD E. JOLLY, SR.
COL. MICHAEL G. KOSCHESKI
COL. DAVID J. KUMASHIRO
COL. JOHN D. LAMONTAGNE
COL. LEAH G. LAUDERBACK
COL. CHARLES B. MCDANIEL
COL. JOHN C. MILLARD
COL. ALBERT G. MILLER
COL. JOHN J. NICHOLS
COL. ROBERT G. NOVOTNY
COL. LANSING R. PILCH
COL. DONNA D. SHIPTON
COL. JEREMY T. SLOANE
COL. PHILLIP A. STEWART
COL. DAVID H. TABOR

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL A. OSTROWSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. SEAN B. MACFARLAND

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. FRANCISCO A. ESPAILLAT

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. JEFFREY A. ROACH

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on March 24, 2017, I was not present for the recorded vote on roll call no. 191. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on the motion to order the previous question providing for consideration of H.R. 1628, the American Health Care Act of 2017.

CONGRESSIONAL TEACHERS AWARD

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of outstanding public school teachers in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

I was once told that children are 25 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future.

And it's true. The education of a child is an investment, not only in that student, but in the future of our country.

Therefore, I established the Congressional Teacher Awards to honor educators for their ability to teach and inspire students.

An independent panel has chosen the following teachers from Manatee, Sarasota, and Hillsborough Counties to receive Florida's 16th District 2015 Congressional Teacher Award for their accomplishments as educators:

Danielle Murphy for her accomplishments as a teacher at Boyette Springs Elementary in Riverview

Carol Pelletier for her accomplishments as a teacher at Sarasota Military Academy Prep in Sarasota

Emilee Vermilion for her accomplishments as a teacher at Southeast High School in Bradenton

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District I congratulate each of these outstanding teachers and offer my sincere appreciation for their service and dedication.

HONORING CAPTAIN HUMBERT ROQUE ''ROCKY'' VERSACE ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of National Medal of Honor Day to recognize the heroism ''above and beyond the call of duty'' of Captain Humbert Roque ''Rocky'' Versace, USMA Class of 1959. Captain Versace, who was captured by the Viet Cong with two other U.S. soldiers on 29 October 1963, endured nearly 23 months of inhuman treatment at the hands of his communist captors. That included denial of medical treatment (for the 3 bullet wounds he sustained during his capture), insufficient daily food ration, indoctrination attempts, beatings and confinement to a cramped bamboo cage.

Portions of his Medal of Honor citation read: ''[H]e demonstrated exceptional leadership and resolute adherence to the tenants of the Code of Conduct from the time he entered into a prisoner of war status . . . he attempted the first of four escape attempts by dragging himself on his hands and knees out of the camp through dense swamp and forbidding vegetation to freedom . . . Captain Versace scorned the enemy's exhaustive interrogation and indoctrination efforts, and inspired his fellow prisoners to resist to the best of their ability. When he used his Vietnamese language skills to protest improper treatment of the American prisoners by the guards, he was put into leg irons and gagged to keep his protestations out of earshot of the other American prisoners in the camp . . .''

The Viet Cong murdered Captain Versace on 26 September 1965. After more than 51 years, Captain Versace is the only U.S. Soldier who received the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War to remain Missing in Action.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF BOB EPLING

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative ROS-LEHTINEN and Representative CURBELO rise to commemorate the retirement of Mr. Bob Epling.

Bob began his career as an assistant bank examiner with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Washington, D.C. From there, he moved to South Florida, where he would spend most of the next fifty years. Bob worked for several banks in South Florida, and has served as the President and CEO of Homestead/Community Bank of Florida for the last forty years. Through his work at the bank, he has consistently proven himself to be an honorable, ethical man.

Bob has also been an active member of the South Florida community. He has served as the Chairman of the International Hurricane Center for the past twenty years, serves on the executive board of the South Florida Council of Boy Scouts of America, and is a member of the Military Affairs Committee of the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce, among many other activities.

Bob is also a Senior Advisor to the Orange Bowl Committee, after serving as its President in 1993. In his work with the Orange Bowl Committee, he was able to break ground on a renovation of the football stadium and field at Harris Field Park in Homestead. This project is just one example of Bob's continuing commitment to making life better for his neighbors in South Florida.

We have known Bob for several decades, and have been consistently impressed with the breadth of his involvement with the community. He has been a loyal friend, and is an honest voice who can speak to the positive qualities of his community as well as the challenges it faces. We congratulate Bob on a remarkable career and a lasting impact made.

Mr. Speaker, we are honored to pay tribute to Mr. Bob Epling for his tremendous service to the South Florida community, and we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing this remarkable individual.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, in Indiana, we keep life simple. We love God, country, family, and basketball. And, this time of year, during March Madness, not necessarily in that order. Certain principles are sacred, like you do what you said you were going to do. Some want to make today's debate complicated, but the truth is it's pretty simple. For seven years we've told the American people we would repeal Obamacare. Today we have an opportunity to do that. It's not a perfect bill—no bill is. But President Trump has said this is our best and only chance to get this done.

There is some strong policy in this bill. It cuts taxes by hundreds of billions of dollars and government by hundreds of billions. It keeps pre-existing condition prohibitions and lets 26-year-olds stay on their parents' health plans. Most importantly, however, it unshackles American families from a government forced mandate costing them thousands of dollars each year. This bill represents an enormous change away from an era of taxes, mandates, penalties, and government bureaucrats defining what health insurance plan you are allowed to purchase, and into an era where the patient, the consumer, is back in charge.

Despite today's rhetoric, the choice is clear: you can vote to keep Obamacare or vote to end it. It's really that simple. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, keep your promise, and do what you said you would do.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FOR MITIGATED PROPERTIES ACT OF 2017

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to introduce the Community Empowerment for Mitigated Properties Act of 2017.

When the Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA) buys up repeatedly flooded—and uninsurable—residential lots, the houses are demolished and these properties become permanently barred from development. The properties become open lots and give flood waters a place to be absorbed, but the strict requirements and regulations on development of the land can leave a patchwork of empty spaces and an uncertain future about their upkeep and maintenance.

This legislation would ensure that FEMA provide notice to municipal land maintenance authorities that a flood mitigation purchase has been made inside their jurisdiction, and how disagreements between local government's competing land maintenance standards can be mediated. Enactment of this legislation would help communities in my district and around the country to better deal with these situations, and I look forward to advancing it through the Transportation and Infrastructure committee and this House.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge a former member of my staff, Daniel Amico, for his hard work on this legislation. Daniel has moved on to pursue a new opportunity, but I wish him well and thank him for his efforts on my behalf preparing this bill.

THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues several articles that I have written over the years regarding the Middle East. As a Member of the Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs, these pieces serve to outline and inform discussions that our Committee will cover in the 115th Congress.

ISIS, ISLAMIC EXTREMISM, AND THE LONG WAR

Regardless of various opinions about the United States' military engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, I would argue that President Bush's words to a joint session of Congress on 20 September of that year ring just as true and valuable now: ''We are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom'' against an onslaught by terrorists practicing ''a fringe form of Islamic extremism''.

Recent unconscionable acts of violence by Islamic militants, including beheadings and burnings alive not heard of for hundreds of years, demand broad and possibly unique means of response and concerted action by the modem world. Certainly the ''overseas contingency operation'' with which the Obama Administration replaced the ''Global War on Terror'' in May 2009 has failed to accomplish the task. Now ISIS leaders openly threaten to ''conquer your Rome, break your crosses and enslave your women.''

Not since the Communist state of Stalin, or perhaps the Third Reich, have we faced such a potential, or at least self-proclaimed, existential threat to the modem world. It required a half century of containment to mutate the former and a brutal world war to eradicate the latter.

The religious inspiration behind ISIS, Taliban, Al-Qaeda, and affiliated groups add a different face to the movements which call for responses broader than purely military activity. Recalling President Truman's unsuccessful effort to draw the world's religions into the fight against communism, we need to draw religious leaders from all traditions—especially the vast majority of Muslims who do not align themselves with the medieval barbarism of the terrorists—into open and concerted action in opposition to the threat posed here.

In the early 1950s, Truman found only one group, the Catholic Church, willing to broadly and openly attack communism. In 2006, it was Pope Benedict XVI who spoke out more clearly and aggressively against the evil of using religion to inspire hatred and violence—and of the fundamental incompatibility of the Prophet's command to ''spread the word by the sword'' with the way of life in the modem 21st century. He urged the Islamic world to reconcile the Koran with modernity, to bring reason to its interpretations just as the Enlightenment did for theocratic monarchies in the 18th century. He made it clear that moderate Muslims must take responsibility for their own religion.

And while there have been some encouraging comments, inter-religious dialogues, and op-eds to this effect, we are still in the early stages of a protracted struggle for the minds of heretofore not radicalized muslims. The ''soft power'' of religious opinion makers is an important factor. In fact, some have argued as Ambassador Charles Freeman (USFS, Ret.) has that ''only a coalition with a strong Muslim identity can hope to contain'' the terrorists. He argues that the doctrines of ISIS cannot be successfully refuted by non-Muslims because the U.S. ''lacks the religious credentials to refute'' Islamic terrorist groups as ''a moral perversion of Islam.''

The lack of cultural integration in different nations' societies also presents a major challenge. Whether it is European ''multiculturalism,'' or an affirmative prejudice, the lack of alignment of many Muslim groups with the national identities and cultures of their countries has created a breeding ground for radicalization. Here is where our unique American ''exceptionalism'' can show the light. Our ''melting pot'' tradition of assimilation of diverse peoples has created—despite some bumps in the road—a uniquely broad and culturally tolerant society. And the related concept of citizenship based on residence and personal actions rather than blood and lineage can serve as a powerful model.

As the world gropes for solutions, it has become clear that concerted action by the modem world, akin to the Allied Powers' collaborative actions to confront the Axis, is absolutely necessary. Spain and France recently passed bi-partisan laws granting expansive powers to the authorities to monitor and interdict internet connectivity with radical Islamic sites, to isolate and track down ''lone wolf'' terrorists, and to restrict and contain travel to and from places of known terrorist activities. Modifying the Schengen visa program and putting in place tightened border security are issues to consider as means of improving tracking of known terrorist suspects.

Lastly, we should consider a ''containment'' and isolation program to ring fence the terrorist geographies, turn them onto themselves and limit their capacity to export murder beyond their borders. In so doing, perhaps we can help assure that their neighbors who are our allies in all this (especially Jordan) are reinforced and protected. Turkey has a powerful role to play both because of their long land border with Syria and Iraq, and due to the complexities presented by the PKK in Turkey and the evolution of Kurdistan and its Peshmerga, which are capable fighters and allies of the West. Only a comprehensive strategy can turn the tide and lead us to ultimate victory in the Long War.

IS THIS WAR YET?

Contrary to the constrained and parsed language that the Obama administration uses to describe the terror radiating from the Middle East, we are at war. The terror attacks in France only underscore this reality. This is a struggle for the values and freedoms the Western world holds dear. The modern secular state where all religious faiths are respected, and the rights of all men and women are to be protected, is under siege. These attacks are neither sporadic ''episodes,'' nor are they merely criminal. We confront a locally and regionally organized movement with a unifying ideology and global ambitions.

While the Islamic State, Al-Qaeda and their ilk are in some ways more complicated than traditional nation states, the underlying ideology has echoes of mid–20th Century fascism. There is tyranny in the beating heart of both movements.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton correctly noted that the enemy are ''jihadists,'' but shied away from conceding that it is unmistakably and by its own description Islamic. You can argue whether the wave of terror that began with the Iranian Revolution and reached new heights with the Islamic State attacks on France is truly inspired by a perverted interpretation of Islam, or rather the cynical and calculated manipulation of religion for the purpose of hegemonic conquest. Either way, the result is largely the same. The Islamic State, Al-Qaeda and the constellation of Islamic extremist groups that orbit around them have spread fear across the world. They have imposed a significant ''security tax'' on free societies. And they have seized significant territory across North Africa and the Middle East.

The question confronting all free societies targeted by these extremists is whether to declare war against those who are waging war against us. If so, what is the best means to mount the kind of wartime response traditionally associated with nation state conflicts?

One possible measure would be an embargo that cuts off extremist held territory in Iraq and Syria from the rest of the world: No cross border movement, no flights in and out, no connection with the global commons. This would essentially treat extremist held territory as a belligerent nation, and it might well entail recognizing the already de facto partition of Iraq and Syria into their Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish regions. Islamic State leaders believe they occupy a Caliphate, so why should they avoid measures that traditionally constrain aggressor nations?

More punishing measures could also target any governments or non-governmental organizations that nurture or support the terrorists, including the governments of many of our Sunni allies in the Middle East. Even indirect or private support for a radical movement that has declared war on the civilized world should carry a heavy cost, one that creates an incentive for these nations to become part of the solution to a problem that

is in many respects of their own making. In short, cut off the money, dry up support, and starve the extremist movement.

The plight of innocent people in areas occupied or contested by these extremists is a humanitarian tragedy on an almost incomprehensible scale. While all innocent people driven from their homes or persecuted by these extremists deserve our help and support, the plight of Christians in this regard is unconscionable. The world needs to help all of the displaced persons created from this conflict, but the ultimate answer to their suffering is to stop the wanton violence and destruction so that they can return home.

A good place to start is the ''No Fly Zone'' and safe corridor in Syria which Governor Jeb Bush and others have endorsed. Such a safe haven could offer a means to bring humanitarian aid to the displaced, stem the current refugee tide, and serve as a base of operations for more moderate forces opposed to the extremists.

This sad chapter in human affairs will pass, but decisions and actions are urgently needed to hasten the day when the Islamic State and its fellow travelers take their rightful place on the ash heap of history, alongside other extremist movements like fascism, imperialism, and communism. As in past wars, free peoples will ultimately prevail so long as free nations stand united against tyranny, recognizing it under whatever black flag it travels. Appeasement and parsed language, such as we have repeatedly seen from the Obama administration, will not deter hardened jihadists.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUPONT, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Borough of Dupont, Pennsylvania, which will celebrate its Centennial on March 28, 2017. When Judge Garman signed a decree on March 28, 1917 to officially incorporate the Borough of Dupont, he could not have imagined the robust, close-knit, and thriving community that Dupont is today.

The citizens of Dupont have always shown resilience and determination. In 1896, when the residents of the Dupont section of Pittston Township were unhappy with their living conditions and the allocation of their tax dollars, they banded together to present a petition for incorporation to Luzerne County. When their petition was denied, the citizens of Dupont did not back down or give up. They spend the next 21 years revising and submitting new petitions until their ultimate success in 1917.

In 1917, Dupont was home to 27 saloons, 6 butcher shops, a watch maker, 5 candy stores, and 3 pool rooms, among other fine establishments. Today, Dupont is home to many area favorites, including the Dupont Polish Club and VFW Post 4909, as well as a number of successful businesses and restaurants. These small businesses and gathering spaces truly reflect the community-minded and entrepreneurial spirit of Dupont.

Communities like Dupont are what make Northeastern Pennsylvania a unique and vibrant place to live and work. Over the past one hundred years, the Borough has demonstrated a commitment to fellowship and progress, a trend which will no doubt continue and contribute to the prosperity of this treasured community.

LIMITING INHUMANE FEDERAL TRAPPING (LIFT) ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing the Limiting Inhumane Federal Trapping (LIFT) Act, which would severely restrict the use of inhumane body-gripping traps on public lands and by public officials. Every year, countless dogs, cats, and wild animals are injured and killed in body-gripping traps such as leg and foothold, Conibear, and snare traps. The animals caught in these traps are subject to intense pain that can last for hours, or even days. If they don't die immediately from the injuries, animals can suffer from dehydration, predation, or when a trapper eventually finds them. Furthermore, pets and other companion animals can be the victims of these traps. Body-gripping traps are non-selective in their victims, and can be particularly dangerous if set in popular areas. There are many effective non-lethal methods that can be deployed in place of these cruel traps.

Despite these serious risks, body-gripping traps are used by federal agencies, local governments, private entities, and individual trappers to catch creatures for their fur, keep animals away from livestock and crops, and even for recreational purposes. Wildlife Services, a federal agency notorious for its secrecy and use of inhumane animal management techniques, often uses body-gripping traps as a first resort. This results in the death or capture of thousands of animals per year in these cruel body-gripping traps. Federal agencies too often avoid more humane, effective, and non-lethal control options to control animal species. The LIFT Act would ensure that federal agencies, including Wildlife Services, do a better job of regulating trapping by non-federal entities on public lands, thereby limiting cruelty and protecting public safety.

Inhumane trapping is a problem in Oregon and across the country. There have been too many unfortunate examples of wild animals and pets falling victim to these traps. This bill complements efforts by other colleagues in the House and Senate to crack down on the use of body-gripping traps in light of the growing public acknowledgement that we cannot and should not continue to endorse the widespread use of these inhumane devices.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, never before, in more than two centuries of American history, has Congress taken back benefits and replaced them with a package that, in turn, reduces benefits in use by the American people. The effect on the District of Columbia would be particularly disappointing because the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has brought the city to virtual universal coverage (only 3.4 percent not covered). Moreover, most Americans, including D.C. residents, get their coverage through their employers. The untold story about Trumpcare is its effect not only on the ACA, but the harmful effects it could have on the one-sixth of the U.S. economy that is accounted for by healthcare costs.

The reason Americans oppose Trumpcare is its take-backs: 24 million people would lose coverage; premiums and deductibles would increase; essential coverage for maternity care, prescription drugs, and emergency room visits would end; healthy pre-Medicare elderly would be charged five times what others pay; and instead of lengthening the Medicare Trust Fund, Trumpcare would shorten it by three years. The most devastating effect of repeal would be felt by the lowest-income Americans who benefit from the Medicaid expansion in the ACA with the end of the Medicaid expansion in 2020. Seventy-four percent of Americans, including 54 percent of Republicans, oppose cutting Medicaid funding.

I urge my colleagues to join the American people in voting no: recent polls show only 17 percent of the American people support the Republican Trumpcare bill.

HONORING DR. ELLEN N. JUNN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Dr. Ellen N. Junn, who will be officially inaugurated as the 11th President of California State University, Stanislaus, on March 30, 2017.

President Junn has demonstrated a dedication to excellence in the pursuit of knowledge with a career spanning more than 30 years in teaching and leadership positions at five different California State University campuses.

In addition to her years of service, President Junn has an extensive catalogue of published work with a focus on supporting the success of underserved students, the significance of university-community engagement, and strategies for supporting non-tenure track faculty, especially women and minorities.

President Junn has helped countless students attain baccalaureate and graduate degrees through a core commitment to forging and advocating pathways for the underserved. She has been recognized as an exemplary leader and fierce promoter for the California State University's diverse community of students, faculty, and staff. She has also advocated for an engaged and high-impact undergraduate experience, led by a team of dedicated teachers.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and congratulating Dr. Ellen Junn on becoming the next President of California State University, Stanislaus, as we look forward to a long and productive partnership benefitting the citizens of our collective region.

CELEBRATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARAB PEACE INITIATIVE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution Celebrating the Importance of the 15th Anniversary of the Arab Peace Initiative as a Meaningful Effort by Arab Countries to the Commitment of Peace in the Middle East.

I recently travelled to Israel for the 18th time as a Member of Congress. While in Israel and Jordan, I attended a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings focused on security and the outlook for the region in the coming year. I always welcome these opportunities to meet with senior leaders on such a wide range of issues, and our conversations touched on political developments, regional security in the Middle East, the peace process, and strengthening the bilateral relationships between the United States and these nations.

Although the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to be a major challenge, I believe we must stay actively involved in peace negotiations. I am happy to say that recently, Israel and some Muslim-majority Arab nations in the Middle East have made progress in regional cooperation. I believe that, using the Arab Peace Initiative as a baseline, these recent developments present a renewed opportunity for progress—one that we cannot afford to miss.

Mr. Speaker, my resolution highlights the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative and urges the nations to continue the hard work of fostering stronger relationship. Under the right circumstances, the Arab Peace Initiative allows for gradual progress towards the normalization of bilateral relations between Israel and its neighbors. We all know that the relationship between America and Israel is paramount, and I have faith that, in time, the relationships between Israel and other nations will also strengthen. I commend the regional countries that have taken steps to facilitate the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, while simultaneously strengthening regional security through discussions with the State of Israel. I urge all parties to continue these important dialogues.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ascension to the Presidency of the Arab League. The United States established relations with Jordan in 1949 and our countries have a long history of cooperation. Jordan has taken on an important role in pursuing progress for the region. I congratulate my friend King Abdullah II and wish Jordan the very best as it assumes this new leadership role for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution today, and recommend its expeditious consideration and passage.

CELEBRATING JUANITA SEARFOSS ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juanita Searfoss, a great Hoosier who is celebrating her 90th birthday today.

Juanita M. Searfoss was born on March 27, 1927, in South Bend, Indiana, to Dorotha M. and Herschel A. Sharp, who were loving Christian parents. She also had three brothers, David C. Sharp (deceased), Jerry D. Sharp of Bonita Springs, Florida, and Ronald (Mary) Sharp of South Bend.

On October 7, 1950, she married Clifford L. Searfoss. They were married for 55 years until his death in 2005. Their loving marriage produced six children, 16 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Juanita graduated from Central High School in South Bend and Indiana University in Bloomington with a degree in medical technology. She worked for the South Bend Medical Foundation, retiring after 21 years of service.

Juanita has always been active in her church—she has been a member of the Sonlight Fellowship Wesleyan Church since the age of ten—and various volunteer and service organizations. For many years she has planned and made a meal every two months for Hope Ministries. She was a member of Faith in Action, did respite care for several families, and helped support several missionaries, as well as the Northern Indiana Food Bank and Chiara House. She is a member of the St. Joseph County Home Extension Normain club, a Bible study group, Gleaners, a Red Hat Society group, and a hospice organization, just to name a few. In 2008 she was awarded the Golden Hoosier Award for her volunteer work. She still loves to read, travel, play the piano, crochet, and spend time with her family and friends.

Many have benefitted from her strong faith, her kind and caring nature, her quiet wisdom, and her unconditional love.

Happy 90th Birthday, Juanita.

IN HONOR OF DONNETTA WALSER

HON. SUZAN K. DelBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Donnetta Walser.

Donnetta spent her life dedicated to improving her local community. Her 28 years as an educator, including many in the Monroe School District, is a testament to her steadfast commitment to her students.

After her career in public education, Donnetta spent 32 years in public service, serving on the Monroe City Council, Monroe Civil Service Commission, U.S. 2 Safety Coalition, Snohomish County Senior Services Board of Directors, Snohomish County League of Women Voters, and two terms as the Mayor of Monroe.

Donnetta had such a positive impact on so many people throughout our community. Her kind and compassionate spirit and willingness to take on tough tasks will surely be missed. Although she has passed on, her memory and impact will continue to live on.

My heart goes out to her husband: Fred; her sons and daughters-in-law: Scott and Stacey and Matt and Kimberly; her grandchildren; and all of her family and friends.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEENS HELPING KIDS

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Teens Helping Kids as they celebrate their 10th year of service.

Located in the South Texas city of Brownsville, Teens Helping Kids was founded in 2008 by five high school juniors. Since its formation, the club has raised and donated funds to organizations that provide services to children, and its teen members have volunteered time and energy to helping those who need it most.

Each year, Teens Helping Kids partners with Cameron County Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc. to host the Annual Sports Celebrity Dinner, which has raised more than $800,000 since its inception. This year, its members plan to meet their $1,000,000 goal. The success of this event will be felt regionwide as Teens Helping Kids will be donating proceeds to local children's nonprofits such as Ozanam Center, Tip of Texas Family Outreach, Monica's House, and Maggie's House.

Teens Helping Kids has made a lasting, positive impact in our community, and they will continue to play a role in the improvement of South Texas. I rise today to congratulate them for their decade of success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT GEORGE EVANS, JR.

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a decent and generous American, Mr. Robert George Evans, Jr., who passed away on March 16, 2017 surrounded by his loving family.

Robbie was a lifelong New Orleanian. He graduated from Archbishop Shaw High School and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management from the University of New Orleans. After college he rose to the position of Vice President for the family steel drum business, Evans Cooperage. He later founded Con-Tech International which began selling industrial steel drum parts and related items. Under his leadership, the company has grown into an international corporation supplying steel and hundreds of custom manufactured parts to various industries across the globe.

I met Robbie through a mutual friend, Jerry Bonnet. It was a few years after Hurricane Katrina and I was still Indiana Secretary of State. My office had ''adopted'' an inner city school in Indianapolis, and I heard that Robbie and New Orleans were doing some amazing

work with parental choice in schools in the Hurricane's aftermath that basically destroyed a lot of public school infrastructure. We had been personal friends ever since that first meeting.

Robbie helped lead a ''Phoenix from the ashes'' movement in the New Orleans schools. The success was due to the need to throw away the old bureaucracy, rules, and the attitude that the schools existed for the adults in them rather than for the kids. Robbie helped turn that all-around, attracting national attention for the model. He devoted hundreds of hours annually to improving New Orleans public schools and the lives of the students attending them. He was an unapologetic advocate for inner-city students attending Lafayette Academy and Esperanza Charter School. He served as a board member for the Choice Foundation where he was both the Vice Chairman and Executive Committee member. Robbie served on many other boards and committees, each with a goal to improve and enhance the economic environment or educational opportunity of his community.

Robbie was a man of high character and integrity. He had a servant's heart for his community and those who live in it. His love for New Orleans and its culture was evident in his words and actions. Robbie was an art, architecture, and history enthusiast. He loved to travel the country and world meeting new people and experiencing different cultures. He was a friend to many people and an advocate for more. His obituary was correct in all respects, including that he indeed was a terrible driver.

Robbie leaves Barbara, his beloved wife of 34 years, his daughter and son, and many other family and friends to carry on his legacy of service to their communities. Anyone who knew him well knows what a great loss his passing is for New Orleans and our nation. Rest in peace Robbie, you will not be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE ANTHONY BEILENSON

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of the Honorable Anthony C. Beilenson—father, husband, grandfather, California legislator, and United States Congressman—who passed away on March 5, 2017.

Tony Beilenson grew up in New Rochelle, New York. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1957, he moved to Los Angeles to practice law in the film industry. Always striving to give back to the world and do as much good as possible, Tony decided to forgo his legal practice to serve the public and he was elected to the California State Assembly in 1962. In 1966, he continued his service to the people of California and was elected to the State Senate.

During his tenure in the California State Legislature, Tony worked hard to protect the environment and reproductive rights, and was respected by his colleagues regardless of party for his unparalleled collegiality and civility when working to address the most challenging issues of his time. He was widely known for voting and acting according to his thoughtful and well-informed conscience, which inspired his colleagues to eschew partisanship and elevate constructive discourse.

Tony continued his legacy of effective and impactful lawmaking when he was elected in 1976 to serve in Congress, representing parts of the San Fernando Valley, Thousand Oaks and Agoura Hills. He will forever be remembered for his landmark 1978 legislation that established the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, protecting part of Southern California's most treasured natural landscape for future generations to explore and enjoy.

As a Member of Congress, Tony fought hard to support environmental initiatives such as the Clean Air Act and securing funding for the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Refuge and Lake Balboa Park, which was renamed the Anthony C. Beilenson Park in 1998. He was a powerful advocate for reducing government waste and promoting efficiency. Tony's former colleagues share a deep respect for the integrity, class, and sensibility that he championed throughout his tenure in office.

Tony is survived by his wife, Dolores; his sons, Adam and Peter; his daughter Dayna; and nine grandchildren. I hope that his family will take comfort in the remarkable legacy that he established at every turn of his life as an accomplished public servant. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

HONORING MR. BRENDEN SHIPLEY WITH THE 2017 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 27, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor Mr. Brenden Shipley of West Palm Beach with the Congressional Award of Bronze and Silver Medals. Since 1979, the Congressional Award has inspired our nation's youth to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character and foster community service. Recipients are committed to bettering themselves and to giving back to the communities in which they reside. It is the fulfilling of that commitment, which makes these young people so extraordinary.

Mr. Shipley took on the challenge of earning two medals: Bronze and Silver. Earning these awards requires a minimum of 400 hours of community service. He served his community by volunteering at the Kids Cancer Foundation, tutoring kids in math, cleaning the football field at school, and helping one of his friends move into his new home. In addition, he learned how to build a house and commercial buildings, and improved his physical fitness for his senior year football season by weightlifting and boxing. Furthermore, Mr. Shipley planned a seventeen day trip to France, England, Ireland, and Wales to immerse himself in an unfamiliar culture and to develop a spirit of adventure.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that: ''The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.'' I believe that Mr. Brenden Shipley is a remarkable young man who exemplifies that true character. I am honored to present him with the 2017 Congressional Award for Bronze and Silver Medals, and to recognize him for all of his hard work in the West Palm Beach community. I wish him much success in all of his future endeavors.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 2017

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on March 25, 1966—51 years ago, this past Saturday—Dr. King spoke these words: ''Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman because it often results in physical death.''

We came to this floor to fight TrumpCare last week with the moral force of Dr. Martin Luther King's words in our heart. Affordable health care is a civil right; a fundamental right for every American. As we remember Dr. King's wisdom, as we debated this bill: we did so in tribute to our colleague BOBBY RUSH's late wife, Carolyn Rush. Carolyn was active in the civil rights movement, and she was a champion for Americans' health care. Her funeral was Saturday, the 51st anniversary of Dr. King's words. We were proud to honor Carolyn Rush's memory by saving the Affordable Care Act from repeal and protecting the health of the American people.

Speaker RYAN called this bill an ''act of mercy.'' There is no mercy here. Indeed, inequality and inhumanity is exactly what TrumpCare has in store for the American people.

Sister Simone Campbell said: ''This is not the faithful way forward and must be rejected.'' The Catholic Health Association wrote: ''We strongly encourage the full House to reject this 'replacement' bill.'' As the United Methodist Church said, opposing TrumpCare: ''People will die because of efforts like this to roll back health care.'' Lutheran Services in America said TrumpCare ''will jeopardize the health care and long term services and supports of millions of Americans.'' The Episcopal Church says TrumpCare ''falls woefully short of our spiritual calling to care for the 'least of these,' as well as the noble values upon which our great nation was founded.''

Rather than an act of mercy, TrumpCare is a moral monstrosity that will devastate seniors, children and hard-working Americans. I grant our Republican friends their position. I respect them and their constituents who sent them here. But I do not accept the wrong priorities in TrumpCare—tax cuts for the rich at the expense of tens of millions of working families across America.

TrumpCare spotlights the difference in the priorities of the Democrats and Republicans in Congress—whether we in Congress believe in a public role in meeting the needs of the American people. It is about governance itself. Trumpcare is consistent with the Ryan budget that destroys the Medicare guarantee. It is a step forward in the long-standing Republican belief that Medicare should ''wither on the

vine;'' that Medicaid should be shrunken; that Social Security should be privatized.

If you believe we have a role and a responsibility to protect the health and wellbeing of the American people, you must reject the bill before us now. Here's how TrumpCare hurts the American people:

1. Higher Costs—TrumpCare forces families to pay higher premiums and deductibles, increasing out-of-pocket costs.

2. Less Coverage—TrumpCare will take away health care from 24 million hard-working Americans.

3. Key Protections Gutted—TrumpCare eradicates Essential Health Benefits, such as maternity, prescription drug and emergency coverage—functionally destroying protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions.

4. A Crushing Age Tax—TrumpCare forces Americans aged 50–64 to pay premiums five times higher than what others pay for health coverage, no matter how healthy they are.

5. Steals from Medicare—TrumpCare shortens the life of the Medicare Trust Fund and ransacks funds that seniors depend on to get the long-term care they need.

Republicans' bill would increase costs and cut coverage for millions of Americans, while leaving coverage for Members of Congress untouched. And as bad as TrumpCare was already, in the middle of the night Republicans made it even worse.

TrumpCare would make being a woman a pre-existing condition again. Stripping guaranteed maternity care is a pregnancy tax, pure and simple. Under Trumpcare, Americans will be forced to pay extra for hospital coverage; prescription drug coverage; rehab, pregnancy, maternity, newborn and pediatric care. When Republicans eradicate essential health benefits, they are destroying the protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions—no matter if they are covered through the marketplace or their employer.

If Republicans have their way, families, seniors, vulnerable children, Americans with disabilities, people struggling to overcome addiction and the sick will lose their health care. Rural hospitals will be closed and nearly 2 million jobs will be destroyed across America. Millions of veterans will lose access to tax credits for health care. All of this to give another massive tax for the richest in America.

TrumpCare is a billionaire's tax cut disguised as a health care bill. It is Robin Hood in reverse—one of the largest transfers of wealth from working families to the rich in our history. We honor the vision of our founders, who risked everything to advance the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; a healthier life, and the liberty to pursue your happiness.

Today, as we fight to preserve affordable health care as the right of every American, not a privilege for the few, we fight for children like Zoe Madison Lihn. Zoe was born with a congenital heart defect in May 2010. She faced her first—of three heart surgeries—at 15 hours old. By six months old, Zoe was halfway to the lifetime limit her insurer placed on her care. She faced a grim future; not only using up her lifetime limit by pre-school, but carrying a pre-existing condition that will require attention and care for the rest of her life. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, Zoe is protected. But TrumpCare puts her future in danger—higher costs, less care.

I began with Dr. Martin Luther King, and I will end with Pope Francis, who spoke of Dr. King in his speech to Congress. As Pope Francis said: ''Health is not a consumer good but a universal right, so access to health services cannot be a privilege.'' Our responsibility to the sick and the hurt is biblical. It is fundamental to who we are. Today, let us declare once again that affordable health care must be the right of every American—not the privilege of the few. For the sake of our values, to honor our responsibilities, to protect the health of the American people, I urged my colleagues to vote no on this moral monstrosity—the TrumpCare bill.

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, March 28, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 29

10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine Russian influence and unconventional warfare operations in the ''Grey Zone'', focusing on lessons from Ukraine.
SR–222
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine closing the skills gap and boosting United States competitiveness.
SD–G50
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine cleaning up our nation's Cold War legacy sites.
SD–406

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues
To hold hearings to examine United States-Mexico relationship, focusing on advancing security and prosperity on both sides of the border.
SD–419

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine a review of the defense health program and military medicine funding.
SD–192

12 noon
Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine on the health of the Department of Defense industrial base, and its role in providing readiness to the warfighter.
SR–232A
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
To hold hearings to examine American leadership in the Asia-Pacific, focusing on security issues.
SD–419

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
To hold hearings to examine civil society perspectives on Russia.
SD–192
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.
SD–G50
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management
To hold hearings to examine the effect of borrowing on Federal spending.
SD–342
Committee on Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 304, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow the Indian Health Service to cover the cost of a copayment of an Indian or Alaska Native veteran receiving medical care or services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 343, to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians, S. 381, to repeal the Act entitled ''An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation'', S. 607, to establish a business incubators program within the Department of the Interior to promote economic development in Indian reservation communities, and S. 669, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine native youth, focusing on promoting diabetes prevention through healthy living.
SD–628
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the arc of Alzheimer's, focusing on preventing

cognitive decline in Americans to assuring quality care for those living with the disease.

SD–106

3 p.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine how small businesses confront and shape regulations.

SR–428A

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
To hold hearings to examine Air Force modernization.

SR–222

MARCH 30

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider the nomination of R. Alexander Acosta, of Florida, to be Secretary of Labor.

SD–430

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Heather Wilson, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense.

SD–G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business and subcommittee assignments.

SD–366

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine United States interests, values, and the American people.

SD–419

Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine disinformation, focusing on a primer in Russian active measures and influence campaigns.

SD–106

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the potential for infrastructure improvements to create jobs and reduce the cost of living through all-of-the-above energy and mineral production in Alaska.

SD–366

APRIL 3

10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Neil M. Gorsuch, of Colorado, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Rod J. Rosenstein, of Maryland, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, to be Associate Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice.

SH–216

APRIL 4

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine fencing along the southwest border.

SD–342

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine efforts to protect U.S. energy delivery systems from cybersecurity threats.

SD–366

APRIL 5

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine improving border security and public safety.

SD–342

2 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy
To hold hearings to examine a progress report on conflict minerals.

SD–419

APRIL 6

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Southern Command and United States Northern Command.

SD–G50

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1981–S2015

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 723–738, and S. Res. 98–100. **Pages S1995–96**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled ''History, Jurisdiction, and a Summary of Activities of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources During the 114th Congress''. (S. Rept. No. 115–10)

S. 269, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska. (S. Rept. No. 115–11) **Page S1995**

Measures Passed:

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 30, providing for the reappointment of Steve Case as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and the resolution was then passed. **Page S2003**

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 35, providing for the appointment of Michael Govan as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and the resolution was then passed. **Pages S2003–04**

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 36, providing for the appointment of Roger W. Ferguson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and the resolution was then passed. **Page S2004**

Appointments:

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106–286, appointed the following Member to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Senator King. **Page S2003**

Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of T.D. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1981, S1982–93**

Pending:

McConnell Amendment No. 193, to change the enactment date. **Page S1982**

McConnell Amendment No. 194 (to Amendment No. 193), of a perfecting nature. **Page S1982**

During consideration of this treaty today, Senate also took the following action:

By 97 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 97), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the treaty. **Page S1992**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the treaty at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, March 28, 2017; and that all time during Leader remarks, morning business, recess, and adjournment of the Senate count post-cloture. **Pages S1992–93**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

58 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

4 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Pages S2003, S2014–15

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

William Francis Hagerty IV, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to Japan.

Scott Gottlieb, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

Althea Coetzee, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

2 Army nominations in the rank of general.

7 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S2004–14**

Messages from the House: Page S1994
Measures Referred: Page S1994
Executive Communications: Pages S1994–95
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S1996–97
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S1997–S2000
Additional Statements:
Amendments Submitted: Pages S2002–03
Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S2003

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—97) Page S1992

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:24 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2004.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 20 public bills, H.R. 1726–1745; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 231–232 were introduced. Pages H2463–64

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H2464–65

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 229, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1430) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible (H. Rept. 115–60);

H. Res. 230, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 34) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services" (H. Rept. 115–61);

H.R. 1387, to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–62); and

H.R. 1431, to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–63). Pages H2462–63

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Denham to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H2447

Recess: The House recessed at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Page H2447

Recess: The House recessed at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 5:01 p.m. Page H2448

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Requiring the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report regarding certain plans regarding assistance to applicants and grantees during the response to an emergency or disaster: H.R. 1117, amended, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report regarding certain plans regarding assistance to applicants and grantees during the response to an emergency or disaster, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 408 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 195; Pages H2448–50, H2452–53

Disaster Simplified Assistance Value Enhancement Act: H.R. 1214, amended, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a program to use simplified procedures to issue public assistance for certain projects under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and Pages H2449–50

Pacific Northwest Earthquake Preparedness Act of 2017: H.R. 654, amended, to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a plan for the purchase and installation of an earthquake early warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 395 yeas to 11 nays, Roll No. 196. Pages H2454–55

Recess: The House recessed at 5:24 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Page H2452

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Lofgren announced her intent to offer a privileged resolution. **Pages H2453–54**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H2452.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2452–53 and H2454–55. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Committee Meetings

HONEST ACT; SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION RELATING TO "PROTECTING THE PRIVACY OF CUSTOMERS OF BROADBAND AND OTHER TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES"

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1430, the "HONEST Act"; and S.J. Res. 34, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services". The committee granted, by record vote of 9–3, a closed rule for S.J. Res 34. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one motion to commit. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–3, a closed rule for H.R. 1430. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Smith of Texas, and Representatives Blackburn, Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, and Beyer.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense worldwide policy and strategy and the Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Supplemental Budget Request, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine fostering economic growth, focusing on the role of financial companies, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the United States' increasing dependence on foreign sources of minerals and opportunities to rebuild and improve the supply chain in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Subcommittee on Energy, to hold hearings to examine the cybersecurity threats to the United States electric grid and technology advancements to minimize such threats, including S. 79, to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to identify security vulnerabilities of certain entities in the energy sector, 2:15 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife, to hold hearings to examine S. 518, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for technical assistance for small treatment works, S. 692, to provide for integrated plan permits, to establish an Office of the Municipal Ombudsman, to promote green infrastructure, and to require the revision of financial capability guidance, and S. 675, to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship, 2:15 p.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the view from Congress, focusing on United States policy on Iran, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine protecting young athletes from sexual abuse, 10 a.m., SD–226.

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

Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed business meeting to consider the Biennial Report, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing entitled "The Next Farm Bill: Commodity Policy Part I", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Nutrition, hearing entitled ''The Next Farm Bill: The Future of SNAP'', 2 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on U.S. Central Command, 10:45 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This hearing will be closed.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on Corporation for Public Broadcasting, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Military Assessment of Russian Activities and Security Challenges in Europe'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled ''Naval Strike Fighters-Issues and Concerns'', 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled ''Examining the Corporation for National and Community Service and Its Failed Oversight of Taxpayer Dollars'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled ''Self-Driving Cars: Levels of Automation'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Examining FDA's Medical Device User Fee Program'', 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''The Arbitrary and Inconsistent Non-Bank SIFI Designation Process'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''The State of Bank Lending in America'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Budget, Diplomacy, and Development'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled ''Venezuela's Tragic Meltdown'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''East Africa's Quiet Famine'', 2:30 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled ''The Current State of DHS' Efforts to Secure Federal Networks'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on House Administration, Full committee, markup on a committee resolution regarding franked mail; hearing entitled ''The Smithsonian Institution's Priorities'', 11:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, hearing entitled ''Restoring Enforcement of our Nation's Immigration Laws'', 10:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, hearing to examine the state of forensic science in the United States, 3 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''ESA Consultation Impediments to Economic and Infrastructure Development'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 24, the ''Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2017''; H.R. 1552, the ''Fair and Open Competition Act''; H.R. 1242, the ''400 Years of African-American History Commission Act''; and H.R. 1694, the ''Fannie and Freddie Open Records Act of 2017'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Information Technology; and Subcommittee on Government Operations, joint hearing entitled ''Reviewing Challenges in Federal IT Acquisition'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Revitalizing American Communities through the Brownfields Program'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1431, the ''EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2017'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 186, of inquiry directing the Secretary of the Treasury to provide to the House of Representatives the tax returns and other specified financial information of President Donald J. Trump, 4 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 28 through March 31, 2017

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, at approximately 10 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of T.D. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, post-cloture.

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: March 29, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine a review of the defense health program and military medicine funding, 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

March 29, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine civil society perspectives on Russia, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: March 28, to receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense worldwide policy and strategy and the Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Supplemental Budget Request, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

March 29, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine Russian influence and unconventional warfare operations in the ''Grey Zone'', focusing on lessons from Ukraine, 10 a.m., SR–222.

March 29, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine on the health of the Department of Defense industrial base, and its role in providing readiness to the warfighter, 2:15 p.m., SR–232A.

March 29, Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine Air Force modernization, 3:30 p.m., SR–222.

March 30, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Heather Wilson, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 28, to hold hearings to examine fostering economic growth, focusing on the role of financial companies, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: March 29, to hold hearings to examine closing the skills gap and boosting United States competitiveness, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

March 29, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, 2:30 p.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 28, to hold hearings to examine the United States' increasing dependence on foreign sources of minerals and opportunities to rebuild and improve the supply chain in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–366.

March 28, Subcommittee on Energy, to hold hearings to examine the cybersecurity threats to the United States electric grid and technology advancements to minimize such threats, including S. 79, to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to identify security vulnerabilities of certain entities in the energy sector, 2:15 p.m., SD–366.

March 30, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business and subcommittee assignments, 10 a.m., SD–366.

March 30, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the potential for infrastructure improvements to create jobs and reduce the cost of living through all-of-the-above energy and mineral production in Alaska, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 28, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife, to hold hearings to examine S. 518, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for technical assistance for small treatment works, S. 692, to provide for integrated plan permits, to establish an Office of the Municipal Ombudsman, to promote green infrastructure, and to require the revision of financial capability guidance, and S. 675, to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship, 2:15 p.m., SD–406.

March 29, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine cleaning up our nation's Cold War legacy sites, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 28, to hold hearings to examine the view from Congress, focusing on United States policy on Iran, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

March 29, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine United State-Mexico relationship, focusing on advancing security and prosperity on both sides of the border, 10:15 a.m., SD–419.

March 29, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine American leadership in the Asia-Pacific, focusing on security issues, 2:15 p.m., SD–419.

March 30, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine United States interests, values, and the American people, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: March 30, business meeting to consider the nomination of R. Alexander Acosta, of Florida, to be Secretary of Labor, Time to be announced, SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: March 29, Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, to hold hearings to examine the effect of borrowing on Federal spending, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: March 29, business meeting to consider S. 304, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow the Indian Health Service to cover the cost of a copayment of an Indian or Alaska Native veteran receiving medical care or services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 343, to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians, S. 381, to repeal the Act entitled "An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation", S. 607, to establish a business incubators program within the Department of the Interior to promote economic development in Indian reservation communities, and S. 669, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine native youth, focusing on promoting diabetes prevention through healthy living, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 28, to hold hearings to examine protecting young athletes from sexual abuse, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: March 29, to hold hearings to examine how small businesses confront and shape regulations, 3 p.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: March 28, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:15 p.m., SH–219.

March 28, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed business meeting to consider the Biennial Report, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

March 29, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 12 noon, SH–219.

March 30, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine disinformation, focusing on a primer in Russian active measures and influence campaigns, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Special Committee on Aging: March 29, to hold hearings to examine the arc of Alzheimer's, focusing on preventing cognitive decline in Americans to assuring quality care for those living with the disease, 2:30 p.m., SD–106.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, March 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Review of the Farm Credit System'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, March 29, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on U.S. European Command, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This hearing will be closed.

March 29, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing for public witnesses, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, March 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Military Assessment of the Security Challenges in the Greater Middle East'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces; and Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications of the Committee on Homeland Security, joint hearing entitled ''Threats to Space Assets and Implications for Homeland Security'', 2 p.m., HVC–210.

March 29, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled ''Military Pilot Shortage'', 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 30, Subcommittee on Readiness; and Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, joint hearing entitled ''The Current State of U.S. Transportation Command'', 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 30, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces; and Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, joint hearing entitled ''Consequences and Context for Russia's Violations of the INF Treaty'', 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, March 29, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing on H.R. 986, the ''Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2017'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, March 29, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled ''Realizing Nationwide Next-Generation 911'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''Federal Energy Related Tax Policy and its Effects on Markets, Prices, and Consumers'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, March 29, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment, hearing entitled ''Examining the Impact of the Volcker Rule on the Markets, Businesses, Investors, and Job Creators'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, March 29, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 54, reaffirming the United States-Argentina partnership and recognizing Argentina's economic reforms; H. Res. 92, condemning North Korea's development of multiple intercontinental ballistic missiles, and for other purposes; H. Res. 137, ''Honoring the life of Shimon Peres''; H. Res. 145, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the fight against corruption in Central America; H.R. 390, the ''Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2017''; H.R. 479, the ''North Korea State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation Act of 2017''; H.R. 672, the ''Combating European Anti-Semitism Act of 2017''; and H.R. 1644, the ''Korean Interdiction and Modernization of Sanctions Act'', 10:45 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''Testing the Limits: Iran's Ballistic Missile Program, Sanctions, and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, March 29, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, hearing entitled ''Terrorism in North Africa: An Examination of the Threat'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on the Judiciary, March 29, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1667, the ''Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act of 2017''; H.R. 1695, the ''Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act of 2017''; H. Res. 184, a resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Attorney General to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to communications with the government of Russia; and H. Res. 203, a resolution of inquiry requesting the President, and directing the Attorney General, to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to certain communications by the President of the United States, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 30, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, hearing on H.R. 1689, the ''Private Property Rights Protection Act'', 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, March 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Federally Funded Cancer Research: Coordination and Innovation'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 29, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled ''WMATA After SafeTrack'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, March 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Climate Science: Assumptions, Policy Implications, and the Scientific Method'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, March 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Evaluating the Paperwork Reduction Act: Are Burdens Being Reduced?'', 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

March 30, Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, hearing entitled ''SBA's Entrepreneurial Development Programs: Resources to Assist Small Businesses'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 29, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1346, to repeal the rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration and

the Federal Transit Administration entitled ''Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform''; H.R. 1726, the ''Coast Guard Improvement and Reform Act of 2017''; H.R. 1093, to require the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Transit Authority to provide appropriate Congressional notice of safety audits conducted with respect to railroads and rail transit agencies; H.R. 1665, to ensure that Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency considers severe local impact in making a recommendation to the President for a major disaster declaration; H.R. 1678, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act concerning the statute of limitations for actions to recover disaster or emergency assistance payments, and for other purposes; H.R. 1679, the ''FEMA Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017''; H. Con. Res. 35, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; H. Con. Res. 36, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby; H.R. 455, to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the ''R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse''; and possible other matters cleared for consideration, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, March 29, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on draft of the ''Veterans Affairs Medical Scribe Pilot Act of 2017''; H.R. 91, the ''Building Supportive Networks for Women Veterans Act''; H.R. 95, the ''Veterans' Access to Child Care Act''; H.R. 467, the ''VA Scheduling Accountability Act''; H.R. 907, the ''Newborn Care Improvement Act''; H.R. 918, the ''Veterans Urgent Access to Mental Health Care Act''; H.R. 1005, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans; H.R. 1162, the ''No Hero Left Untreated Act''; H.R. 1545, to clarify VA's authority to disclose certain patient information to State controlled substance monitoring programs; and H.R. 1662, to prohibit smoking in any facility of the Veterans Health Administration, 8 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 28

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of T.D. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, post-cloture.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 28

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of S.J. Res. 34—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Babin, Brian, Tex., E390
Beyer, Donald S., Jr., Va., E389
Blumenauer, Earl, Ore., E391
Buchanan, Vern, Fla., E389
Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E391
DelBene, Suzan K., Wash., E392
Denham, Jeff, Calif., E391
Diaz-Balart, Mario, Fla., E389
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E392, E393
Higgins, Brian, N.Y., E389
Lieu, Ted, Calif., E393
Messer, Luke, Ind., E389
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E391
Pelosi, Nancy, Calif., E393
Rokita, Todd, Ind., E392
Rooney, Francis, Fla., E390
Vela, Filemon, Tex., E392
Walorski, Jackie, Ind., E392

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