

Direct Senate Legal Counsel: Senate agreed to S. Res. 333, to direct the Senate Legal Counsel to appear as amicus curiae in the name of the Senate in *Bank Markazi, The Central Bank of Iran v. Deborah D. Peterson, et al.* (S. Ct.). **Page S8619**

NOMINATIONS—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 5 p.m., on Monday, December 14, 2015, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, John Conger, of Maryland, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Stephen P. Welby, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, and Franklin R. Parker, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy; that there be 30 minutes for debate on the nomination of Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nominations, in order listed; and that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations. **Page S8613**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Richard Capel Howorth, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2020.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration.)

Eric Drake Eberhard, of Washington, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2018.

Darryl L. DePriest, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

Cherry Ann Murray, of Kansas, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.

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119 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

8 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Foreign Service, and Navy. **Pages S8619–21**

Messages from the House: **Page S8601**

Measures Referred: **Page S8601**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S8601–02**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S8602**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8602–04**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8604–10**

Additional Statements: **Pages S8598–S8601**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S8610–11**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S8611**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:32 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8619.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS OF MILITARY OPERATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine increasing effectiveness of military operations, after receiving testimony from General Norton A. Schwartz, USAF (Ret.), former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Business Executives for National Security, McLean, Virginia; Admiral James G. Stavridis, USN (Ret.), former Commander of European Command and Southern Command, Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, Massachusetts; and Christopher J. Lamb, National Defense University Institute for National Strategic Studies.

TERRORISM AND GLOBAL OIL MARKETS OVERSIGHT

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine terrorism and global oil markets, after receiving testimony from Keith Crane, RAND Corporation, Arlington, Virginia; and Peter E. Harrell, Center for a New American Security, Sara Vakhshouri, Atlantic Council, and Jamie Webster, IHS, all of Washington, D.C.

INDEPENDENT SOUTH SUDAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine independent South Sudan, focusing on a failure of leadership, after receiving testimony from Donald Booth, Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, Department of State; Bob Leavitt, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, Agency for International Development; and Princeton N. Lyman, United States Institute of Peace, Adotei Akwei, Amnesty International USA, and John Prendergast, Enough Project, all of Washington, D.C.

GAO AND OIG RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management concluded a hearing to examine the importance of following through on GAO and OIG recommendations, including how implementing recommendations can achieve financial benefits and strengthen government performance, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; Michael E. Horowitz, Chair, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and Inspector General, Department of Justice; and Jim H. Crumpacker, Director, Departmental GAO–OIG Liaison Office, Department of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S.1318, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of maritime navigation and prevention of nuclear terrorism, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Dana J. Boente, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of four years, Robert Lloyd Capers, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York for the term of four years, John P. Fishwick, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia for the term of four years, and Emily Gray Rice, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of four years, all of the Department of Justice.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 29 public bills, H.R. 4208–4236; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 561–563 were introduced. **Pages H9269–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H9271–72**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2406, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–377, Part 1); and

H. Res. 560, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 644) to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–378). **Page H9269**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Jenkins (WV) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H9209**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:22 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H9212**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:39 p.m. and reconvened at 2:48 p.m. **Page H9217**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Securing Fairness in Regulatory Timing Act of 2015: H.R. 3831, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the annual comment period for payment rates under Medicare Advantage; **Pages H9217–18**

Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015: S. 808, to establish the Surface Transportation Board as an independent establishment; **Pages H9218–23**

Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015: H.R. 4188, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017; **Pages H9223–42**

Department of Homeland Security CBRNE Defense Act of 2015: H.R. 3875, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish within the Department of Homeland Security a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Office; **Pages H9242–48**

DHS Science and Technology Reform and Improvement Act of 2015: H.R. 3578, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to strengthen and make improvements to the Directorate of Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 416 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 687; **Pages H9248–55, H9262–63**