

has passed authorizations for use of military force, AUMFs, that the President is using to fight the war on terror and conduct counterterrorism operations against our enemies. This includes the Islamic State, which the State Department recently reaffirmed is guilty of genocide, and other terrorist groups that continue to pose grave and persistent threats to the United States and our allies.

Paul amendment No. 871 would repeal these critical congressionally passed AUMFs, so I therefore oppose this amendment.●

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 195, the motion to table Paul amendment No. 871 to H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.●

HUMAN PERFORMANCE OPTIMIZATION

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am honored to represent over half of all U.S. Special Forces. I would like to address the topic of working to close a growing gap in understanding, assessment, and prediction between traditional and nontraditional strategies for human performance optimization as it relates to our military servicemembers and overall readiness.

I support Department of Defense efforts designed to simultaneously improve the overall health and wellness of uniformed personnel and sustain the operational readiness levels of the respective military services. I am encouraged by efforts initiated at both Special Operations Command, SOCOM, and the respective Socom component commands and am requesting that these commands consider additional steps to incorporate new ideas for the troops.

I would like to see the Department of Defense examine the impact of recent trends in the health and performance industry to emphasize greater reliance on natural movement, full-range body motion, nontraditional gravity-aided suspension exercises, and nontraditional resistance training for optimizing an individual's state of fitness, long-term durability, resilience, and overall wellness. It is important to note that such approaches can produce significant and measurable improvements in muscular strength, endurance, motor control, and the maximum cognitive and workload performance of individual military operators.

The potential for an improvement in comprehensive readiness and lethality of Special Forces is significant. Efforts to improve muscular strength, endurance, and the workload performance for individuals under more natural and

realistic training scenarios coupled with the establishment and documentation of optimum and minimum physical thresholds can improve overall unit readiness and sustainability among and throughout the ranks of special operations forces.

Therefore, I would encourage the Department of Defense, and especially Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, MARSOC, to identify and describe common denominators with respect to key performance indicators, KPI, among MARSOC operators, develop algorithmic tools for predicting appropriate individual physical and cognitive loads, and examine the efficacy of potential intervention programs to minimize discriminatory KPI gaps among MARSOC personnel. Let's close the gap in understanding between traditional and emerging strategies for human performance optimization. I strongly believe it could have a positive impact on the readiness of our honorable men and women in uniform to win conflicts.

REMEMBERING PETE DOMENICI

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of my friend and former colleague, Senator Pete Domenici, a great American who dedicated his life and career to public service. I had the great privilege of serving alongside Pete for many years and knew him as a gentleman who always behaved in the highest traditions of the Senate. Pete was a knowledgeable and pragmatic leader who knew how to reach across the aisle to advance bipartisan solutions to the Nation's biggest problems. Perhaps the best example of his skill for compromise was when he negotiated the Nation's last balanced budget in 1997. Pete represented the very best ideals of the U.S. Senate and left an indelible mark on this Chamber. Cindy and I extend our deepest condolences to Nancy and the entire Domenici family as they mourn the loss of a great man.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELGIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Elgin Fire Department's 150th anniversary and congratulate the brave men and women who protect the 100,000 residents living in Elgin, IL.

For more than 100 years, the Elgin Fire Department has worked to preserve the safety and well-being of Illinoisans. Firefighters are the first responders who often put themselves in danger to rescue citizens from emergency situations involving extensive smoke and fire. The medical treatment responders save numerous lives, which may have been lost without prehospital care.

The Elgin Fire Department continues to serve its community by providing

fire safety education, fire inspection, and domestic preparedness planning, among other community outreach efforts, to increase community readiness. The department's stellar service ensures that the families and friends of Elgin are prepared for any emergency.

I extend my best wishes for a remarkable and memorable anniversary. Thank you for your selfless work to Elgin, IL.●

RECOGNIZING THE GUADALUPE CENTERS

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in recognizing the work of the Guadalupe Centers in Kansas City, MO. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals in the Latino communities of greater Kansas City, and they excel at their mission. Many Kansas City families view Guadalupe Centers as a pillar in their lives. I am here today to honor the Guadalupe Centers as the standard all community organizations should strive to become.

Founded in 1919, the Guadalupe Centers originally served as a safe haven for Mexican immigrants who experienced discrimination, poverty, and lack of social services following the Mexican revolution. During the subsequent decades, the centers expanded its services to include English classes, boys' and girls' clubs, adult education classes, and home economics. Much of this expansion came under the leadership of Dorothy Gallagher, known as the Godmother of Guadalupe.

While the Guadalupe Centers continue to assist members of the Latino community balance life in the United States while maintaining their cultural heritage to this day, it has also expanded significantly. As Kansas City's Latino population grew and prospered, the centers added employment assistance programs, a credit union, a health center, counseling, youth programs, a preschool program, and the Alta Vista Charter High School. In 2013, the Missouri Public Charter School Association recognized Alta Vista High School as the "Missouri Charter of the Year."

To kick off Hispanic Heritage Month each year, the Guadalupe Centers host the Blanco y Negro Awards gala in Kansas City. While honoring individuals and institutions critical to the growth and development of the organization, the gala also assists with funding the nonprofit. Last year alone, the Guadalupe Centers served over 9,268 individuals and families through its variety of programs and services. It will be my honor to attend the Blanco y Negro Awards gala on September 15 to support the Guadalupe Centers and honor the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Since 1988, we have celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. Each year, we take these 30 days to commemorate the significant contributions of Hispanic and