

We should not be surprised—this “standard” was concocted by and for the executive branch to maximize the President’s ability to use military force without congressional authorization. It does not reflect a neutral analysis of the separation of power, it has not been tested in the courts, and it has not been approved by Congress.

Just a few weeks ago, in this very Chamber, we listened as the President’s defense lawyers argued during the impeachment trial that steps taken in support of the President’s reelection are inherently in the national interest. That was a shocking and frightening claim in the impeachment context. But now consider it in the context of sending the men and women of our Armed Forces into harm’s way.

Surely the Constitution does not authorize the President to use force in support of his or her reelection. Surely, it does not. Then again, this administration has been unable or unwilling to identify any limits on its purported article II authority, any instance in which it would concede that it needs Congress to authorize the use of force.

Finally, I refer you to Secretary Pompeo’s January 17, 2020, appearance on the Hugh Hewitt radio show. While on air, Secretary Pompeo insinuated that the designation of the IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization, FTO, served as a legal basis to target IRGC members, presumably including Soleimani.

FTO designations are administrative actions taken pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act; they are clearly not congressional authorizations for the use of military force.

Now, I was hoping that Secretary Pompeo himself or a State Department official on his behalf would issue a simple clarification and acknowledge what we all know: An FTO designation has no bearing on whether this or any administration can use military force, period.

I have written the Secretary on this question, and I have posed the same question to the State Department’s Acting Legal Adviser. We continue to await a response, and I must say that the delay does not leave me with much confidence that we will receive the right answer.

As so clearly demonstrated by the flimsy legal rationale advanced in relation to the Soleimani strike, we cannot rely on this administration or any administration to guard Congress’ prerogatives over war powers.

I am hopeful that the Soleimani strike and the Senate debate over S.J. Res. 68 will serve as a wake-up call. I am hopeful that all of our colleagues in this Chamber and in the House will work to reassert Congress’ role over the use of force.

We owe it to the Constitution, we owe it to the American people, and we owe it to the men and women who fight and die on our behalf.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was absent for vote No. 300 on the Nomination: Confirmation: Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior. Had I been present, I would have voted no on the nomination.

Mr. President, I was absent for vote No. 339 on the Amendment S. Amdt. 1209; Lee Amdt. No. 2109; To prohibit the expenditure of certain amounts from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for land acquisition. Had I been present, I would have voted no on the amendment.

RECOGNIZING 175 YEARS OF HOSPITALITY IN FRENCH LICK

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise to recognize 175 years of tourism, history, and hospitality that the French Lick Resort has brought to my home State of Indiana.

In 1832, two Hoosier brothers, Thomas and Dr. William Bowles, purchased 1,500 acres of property near French Lick, IN. Part of the property’s allure was the abundant mineral springs loaded with Epsom salt and sulfur. As a physician, Dr. Bowles became intrigued by the medicinal benefits that the mineral springs possessed, which famously turned into the Hoosier tonic Pluto Water. In 1845, the brothers welcomed their first guests after building a unique, three-story, wood-framed hotel.

In 1901, a small group of investors, including former Indianapolis mayor Tom Taggart, bought the property from the Bowles brothers. Mayor Taggart’s vision and political expertise aided in the development of the hotel and the expansion of the Monon Railroad from Chicago to the front entrance, encouraging more tourists to “take to the waters.” By 1905, the French Lick Springs Hotel had become a grand destination, and its services were greatly sought after by all of Indiana society. Soon enough, it had gained worldwide recognition. With the hotel’s stunning success, Donald James Ross, “the Michelangelo of golf course design” and a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, was hired to build the French Lick Springs Golf Course. In 1924, the course hosted a PGA championship, attracting more national attention and further success. By 1931, the hotel became the unofficial headquarters of the national Democratic Party and became the site for the 1931 Democratic Governor’s Conference. As a socialite destination, numerous notable guests visited the springs, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Ronald Reagan, John Barrymore, and Howard Hughes.

Because of its heritage of tourism and hospitality, in 2003 the French Lick Springs Hotel was added to the National Register of Historic Places—a distinction of notable merit. In 2005, the French Lick Springs Hotel and its

former competitor, the West Baden Springs Hotel, were purchased by the Cook Group, Inc., a family-owned company headquartered in Bloomington, IN. After a complete 1-year renovation, the French Lick Resort was born, continuing its legacy of attracting visitors from the around the world to Southern Indiana with a variety of events.

The French Lick Resort and its world-class amenities have served millions of guests and has greatly added to the cultural history of the United States. On behalf of the State of Indiana, I wish the resort continued success for another 175 years and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY COLBERT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Ms. Betty Colbert on the occasion of her retirement from her position as program assistant for the U.S. Senate Youth Program, USSYP, after 57 years of remarkable service.

Ms. Colbert started working for the USSYP during its first program in 1963 and has continued her impressive tenure ever since. With her guidance, the program has provided unparalleled educational opportunities and experiences for countless high school students.

Her involvement with the program started thanks to her late husband, Mr. George Colbert, a Tuskegee airman who served as Mr. Randy Hearst’s driver while Mr. Hearst was helping to develop the USSYP. Despite working full time with the National Institutes of Health, Ms. Colbert took leave each year in order to devote herself to the USSYP’s administration. A thoughtful, giving woman, she took a hands-on approach, doing everything from taking calls from Senate offices and the White House to making sure each participating student got an individual flag flown over the Capitol to recognize their accomplishment.

The success of USSYP alumni is in part thanks to Ms. Colbert’s tireless efforts. I participate in the program every year, including serving as co-chair in 2019, and I can attest firsthand to her unfailing work ethic and the level of care she puts in to every aspect of the USSYP.

Students, Senators, and staff members have all bore witness to Ms. Colbert’s extraordinary commitment to her role. Not only does she ensure everything runs smoothly for all involved, but she also focuses on the small details. Her driven, considerate nature plays a significant part in giving students the most enjoyable and transformative experience possible. Ms. Colbert leaves behind a legacy that will continue to positively shape the USSYP for years to come.

I applaud her over half a century of service and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Ms. Betty Colbert on her well-earned retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TROY WAYMAN

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the CEO and president of One Acadiana, 1A, Troy Wayman, and the entire 1A organization for the distinguished honor of becoming an accredited economic development organization, AEDO. 1A has joined the ranks of only 66 economic groups in the world to earn the AEDO standing.

In 2015, the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce's board of directors ventured out to create an organization that would embody its longstanding mission—to be the leading force in the improvement of the business environment as well as the economic health and development of the region. Over the last 5 years, 1A has grown to more than 800 investors, members, and partners while serving the 9-parish Acadiana region. After a yearlong process, 1A was recognized and was awarded as an AEDO, cementing its place among the best of the best in the industry.

Being honored and recognized by the International Economic Development Council, IEDC, as an AEDO speaks volumes to who they are as an organization. The dedication and passion that drives these members is a testament to their organization and speaks volumes to all of Louisiana. Congratulations, One Acadiana, on becoming an AEDO. I look forward to witnessing what the future holds for 1A and the entire Acadiana region.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM GASTON
CAPERTON III

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, it is a great privilege of mine to rise and honor the legacy of one of the most influential, generous, and inspiring West Virginians I have ever had the pleasure of calling a dear friend: William Gaston Caperton III. My friend Gaston turns 80 years young on February 21, 2020, and it is an honor to celebrate his legacy with my fellow West Virginians.

It would be difficult to find anyone as knowledgeable or dedicated to our home State as Gaston. The son of Eliza and William Gaston Caperton, Jr., Gaston was born and raised with his sister, Cary, in our home State's capital, Charleston. I have always said there is no greater accomplishment in the world than to be in a position to give back to the community you love, that made you who you are. That is what made Gaston the wonderful, inspiring, and generous person he was. After attending Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gaston returned home to join the family business. Under his leadership, the McDonough-Caperton Insurance Group became the 10th largest privately owned insurance brokerage firm in the United States. Along the way, he

owned and operated a bank and a mortgage company.

The people of the home State that Gaston and I share have an exceptional can-do spirit, a neighborly love that is unrelenting, and are grounded by the same core principle: to help others be the best they can be. That is Gaston's legacy as a public servant and as a leader. After a successful business career in finance and insurance, Gaston was elected as West Virginia's 31st Governor in 1988 and quickly revolutionized West Virginia's education system. During the 8 years of his administration, the average teacher salary went from 49th in the Nation to 31st. He launched one of the country's earliest and most comprehensive basic skills computer initiatives, as well as invested more than \$800 million into building, modernizing, and improving school facilities throughout the State. He also conducted an aggressive program of international trade missions to promote the export of West Virginia products. Gaston's focus on investing in the future paid off, adding almost 90,000 jobs between 1989 and 1997, lowering the unemployment rate to its lowest level in 17 years, and increasing total investment by new and expanded businesses by more than \$3.9 billion.

Throughout the years, we bonded over our passion for public service, for inspiring the next generation of leaders, and we share the common goal of helping the rest of the country discover all that West Virginia has to offer. Gaston left office in 1997 and spent 2 years teaching at Harvard and Columbia Universities before becoming the eighth president of the College Board in 1999. As president, he helped transform the century-old institution into a mission-driven, student-first operation promoting college success and opportunity for all Americans. During his 13 years of leadership, the College Board touched the lives of students in nearly 27,000 high schools and colleges, promoted the importance of writing by adding a writing section to the SAT, and doubled the number of students succeeding in Advanced Placement. Gaston's leadership also renewed the organization's focus on education in a globalized marketplace by initiating a new series of AP world language and culture course, as well as embarking on a historic education exchange program with China.

During his more than 20 years in government and education, Gaston chaired the Democratic Governor's Association and the Southern Regional Education Board, participated in the executive committee of the National Governors Association, received 10 honorary doctoral degrees, and has been presented with numerous awards, including the 1996 Computerworld Smithsonian Award for his tireless efforts to introduce technology into the classroom, the 2007 James Bryant Conant Award for his significant contributions to the quality of education in the United States and the 2012 Policy Maker of the

Year by the National Association of School Boards of Education.

After retiring from the College Board in 2012, Gaston moved back to his hometown and served on the board of directors of a variety of U.S. corporations. He has two sons, Gat and John, and is the proud grandfather of Eliza, Katie, Evie, Ella, and Genavieve.

I can't speak enough to what a good-hearted, wonderful person he truly is. I always think of Gaston as true renaissance man; no matter the circumstances, he kept a cool head and a warm demeanor, always able to discern the most honorable path forward. He has always been one of West Virginia's most proud representatives, no matter where life has taken him. Again, it is a privilege to join the people of the Mountain State in celebrating Gaston Caperton's life and legacy and to wish him a very happy 80th birthday.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENTENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 14, 2020, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolutions:

S. 375. An act to improve efforts to identify and reduce Governmentwide improper payments, and for other purposes.

S. 394. An act to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions.

S. 2107. An act to increase the number of CBP Agriculture Specialists and support staff in the Office of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 65. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of John Fahey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S.J. Res. 67. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Risa Lavizzo-Mourey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

H.R. 504. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes.